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# A PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL

# RECORD

OF

# MERCER AND VAN WERT

# COUNTIES, OHIO,

CONTAINING BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF MANY

Prominent and Representative Citizens,

TOGETHER WITH BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS OF ALL THE

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND BIOGRAPHIES OF THE

GOVERNORS OF OHIO.

---

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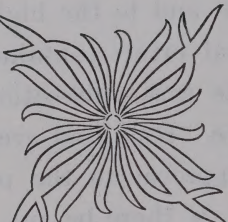
# PREFACE.

IN placing this Portrait and Biographical Record before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out in full every promise made in their Prospectus. They point with pride to the elegance of the binding of the volume, and to the beauty of its typography; to the superiority of the paper on which the work is printed, and to the truthfulness depicted by its portraits, and to the high class of art in which they are finished. The few typographical errors contained within its covers are such as will occur in any volume on its first publication, and they are so trivial as to hardly merit even a passing notice. Each and every biographical sketch has been submitted for correction and approval to the person for whom it was written, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Differences in the spelling of surnames of members of the same family are due to the mutations of time, or residence in different locations, and in some instances these discrepancies have been explained—in others, no explanation has been made. The publishers would here avail themselves of the opportunity to thank the citizens of the two counties for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for the many services rendered in assisting in the gaining of necessary information.

Confident that our efforts to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are, Respectfully,

A. W. BOWEN & CO., *Publishers.*

JUNE, 1896.



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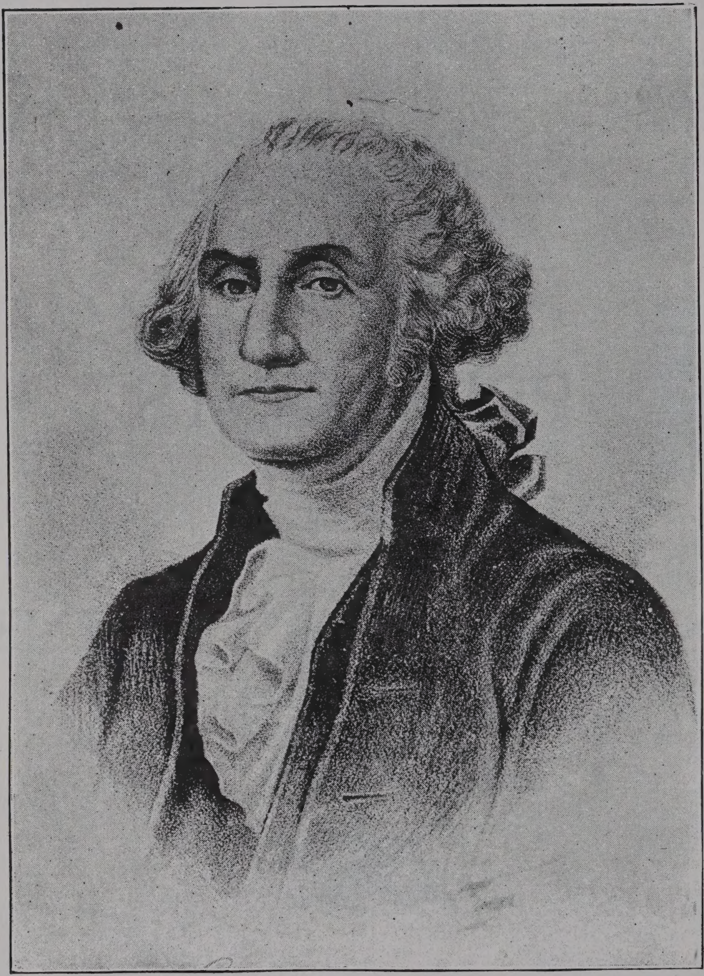
# PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.



GEORGE WASHINGTON.

# PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born in Westmoreland county, Va., February 22, 1732. His parents were Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington. His great-grandfather, John Washington, came from England to Virginia about 1657, and became a prosperous planter. He had two sons, Lawrence and John. The former married Mildred Warner and had three children, John, Augustine and Mildred. Augustine, the father of George, first married Jane Butler, who bore him four children, two of whom, Lawrence and Augustine, reached maturity. Of six children by his second marriage, George was the eldest, the others being Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles and Mildred.

Augustine Washington, the father of George, died in 1743, leaving a large landed property. To his eldest son, Lawrence, he bequeathed an estate on the Potomac, afterward known as Mount Vernon, and to George he left the parental residence. George received only such education as the neighborhood schools afforded, save for a short time after he left school, when he received private instructions in mathematics.

He was an acknowledged leader among his companions, and was early noted for that nobleness of character, fairness and veracity which characterized his whole life.

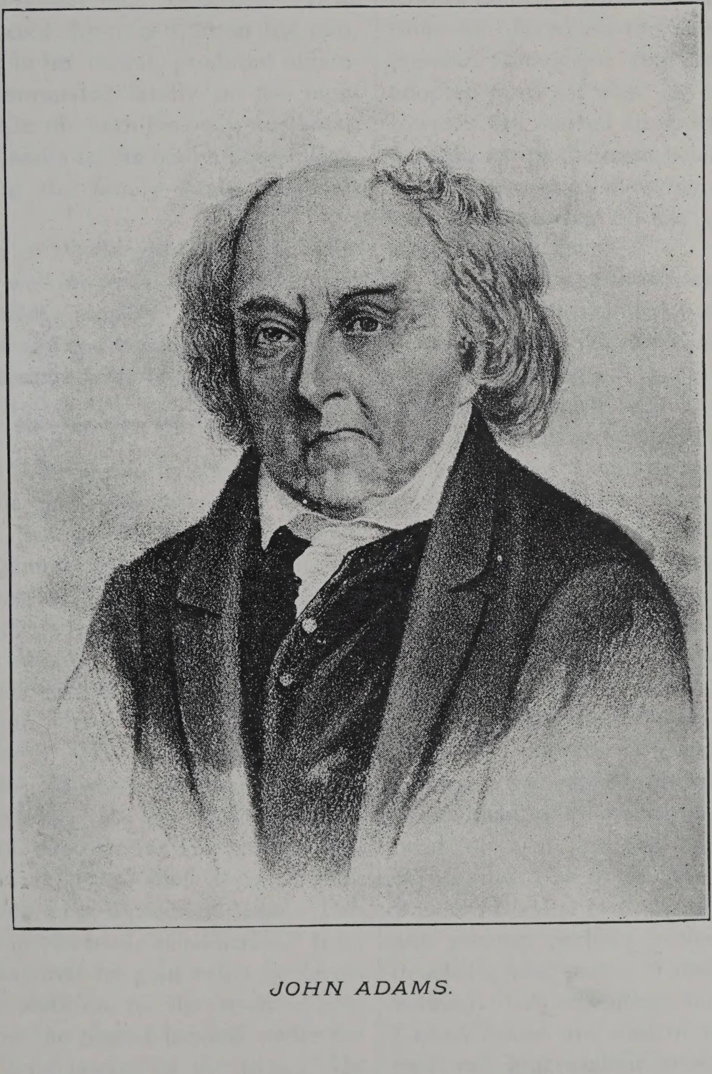
When George was fourteen years old he had a desire to go to sea, and a midshipman's warrant was secured for him, but through the opposition of his mother the idea was abandoned. Two years later he was appointed surveyor to the estate of Lord Fairfax. In this business he spent three years. In 1751, though only nineteen years of age, he was appointed adjutant with the rank of major in the Virginia militia, then being trained for active service against the French and Indians. Soon after this he sailed to the West Indies with his brother Lawrence, who went there to restore his health. They soon returned, and in the summer of 1752 Lawrence died, leaving a large fortune to an infant daughter, who did not long survive him. On her demise the estate of Mount Vernon was given to George.

Upon the arrival of Robert Dinwiddie, as lieutenant-governor of Virginia, in 1752, the militia was reorganized, and the province divided into four military districts, of which the northern was assigned to Washington as adjutant-general. Shortly after this a very perilous mission was assigned him. This was to proceed to the French post near Lake Erie in northwestern Pennsylvania. The distance to be traversed was between 500 and 600 miles. Winter was at hand, and the journey was to be made without military escort, through a territory occupied by Indians. The trip was a perilous one, and several times he came near losing his life, yet he returned in safety and furnished a full and useful report of his expedition. A regiment of 300 men was raised in Virginia and put in command of Col. Joshua Fry, and Major Washington was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. Active war was then begun against the French and Indians, in which Washington took a most important part. In the memorable event of July 9, 1755, known as Braddock's defeat, Washington was almost the only officer of distinction who escaped from the calamities of the day with life and honor. The other aids of Braddock were disabled early in the action, and Washington alone was left in that capacity on the field. In a letter to his brother he says: "I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet I escaped unhurt, though death was leveling my companions on every side." An Indian sharpshooter said he was not born to be killed by a bullet, for he had taken direct aim at him several times, and failed to hit him. After having been five years in the military service, he took advantage of the fall of Fort Duquesne and the expulsion of the French from the valley of the Ohio, to resign his commission. Soon after he entered the legislature, where, although not a leader, he took an active and important part. January 17, 1759, he married Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, the wealthy widow of John Parke Custis.

When the British parliament had closed the port of Boston, the cry went up throughout the provinces that "The cause of Boston is the cause of us all." It was then, at the suggestion of Virginia, that a congress of all the colonies was called to meet at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, to secure their common liberties, peaceably if possible. To this congress Col. Washington was sent as a delegate. On May 10, 1775, the congress re-assembled, when the hostile intentions of England were plainly apparent. The battles of Concord and Lexington had been fought. Among the first acts of this congress was the election of a commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. This high and responsible office was conferred upon Washington, who was still a member of the congress. He accepted it on June 19, but upon the express condition that he receive no salary. He would keep an exact account of expenses and expect congress to pay them and nothing more. The war was conducted by him under every possible disadvantage, and while his forces often met with reverses, yet he overcame every obstacle, and after seven years of heroic devotion and matchless skill, he gained liberty for the greatest nation of earth. On December 23, 1783, Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the army to the continental congress sitting at Annapolis, and retired immediately to Mount Vernon.

In February, 1789, Washington was unanimously elected president. In his presidential career he was subject to the peculiar trials incidental to a new government; trials from lack of confidence on the part of other governments; trials for the want of harmony between the different sections of our own country; trials from the impoverished condition of the country, owing to the war and want of credit; trials from the beginnings of party strife.

At the expiration of his first term he was unanimously re-elected. At the end of this term many were anxious that he be re-elected, but he absolutely refused a third nomination. On the fourth of March, 1797, he returned to his home, hoping to pass there his few remaining years free from the annoyance of public life. Later in the year, however, his repose seemed likely to be interrupted by war with France. At the prospect of such a war he was again urged to take command of the armies. He chose his subordinate officers and left to



JOHN ADAMS.

them the charge of matters in the field, which he superintended from his home. In accepting the command he made the reservation that he was not to be in the field until it was necessary. In the midst of these preparations his life was suddenly cut off. December 12, he took a severe cold from a ride in the rain, which, settling in his throat, produced inflammation, and terminated fatally on the night of the 14th. On the 18th his body was borne with military honors to its final resting place, and interred in the family vault at Mount Vernon.

The person of Washington was unusually tall, erect and well proportioned. His features were of a beautiful symmetry. He commanded respect without any appearance of haughtiness, and was ever serious without being dull.

JOHN ADAMS, the second president and the first vice-president of the United States, was born in Braintree, now Quincy, Mass., and about ten miles from Boston, October 19, 1735. His great-grandfather, Henry Adams, emigrated from England about 1640, with a family of eight sons, and settled at Braintree. The parents of John were John and Susannah (Boylston) Adams. His father was a farmer of limited means, to which he added the business of shoemaking. He gave his eldest son, John, a classical education at Harvard college. John graduated in 1755, and at once took charge of the school in Worcester, Mass. This he found but a "school of affliction," from which he endeavored to gain relief by devoting himself, in addition, to the study of law. For this purpose he placed himself under the tuition of the only lawyer in the town. He was well fitted for the legal profession, possessing a clear, sonorous voice, being ready and fluent of speech, and having quick perceptive powers. In 1764 he married Abigail Smith, a daughter of a minister, and a lady of superior intelligence. Shortly after his marriage (1765) the attempt of parliamentary taxation turned him from law to politics. He took initial steps toward holding a town meeting, and the resolutions he offered on the subject became very popular throughout the province, and were adopted word for word by over forty different towns. He moved to Boston in 1768, and became one of the most courageous and prominent advocates of the popular cause, and was chosen a member of the general court (the legislature) in 1770.

Mr. Adams was chosen one of the first delegates from Massachusetts to the first continental congress, which met in 1774. Here he distinguished himself by his capacity for business and for debate, and advocated the movement for independence against the majority of the members. In May, 1776, he moved and carried a resolution in congress that the colonies should assume the duties of self-government. He was a prominent member of the committee of five appointed June 11, to prepare a declaration of independence. This article was drawn by Jefferson, but on Adams devolved the task of battling it through congress in a three days' debate.

On the day after the Declaration of Independence was passed, he wrote a letter to his wife which, as we read it now, seems to have been dictated by the spirit of prophecy. "Yesterday," he says, "the greatest question was decided that ever was debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, 'that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.' The 4th of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward for ever. You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states; yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; and that posterity will triumph, although you and I may rue, which I hope we shall not."

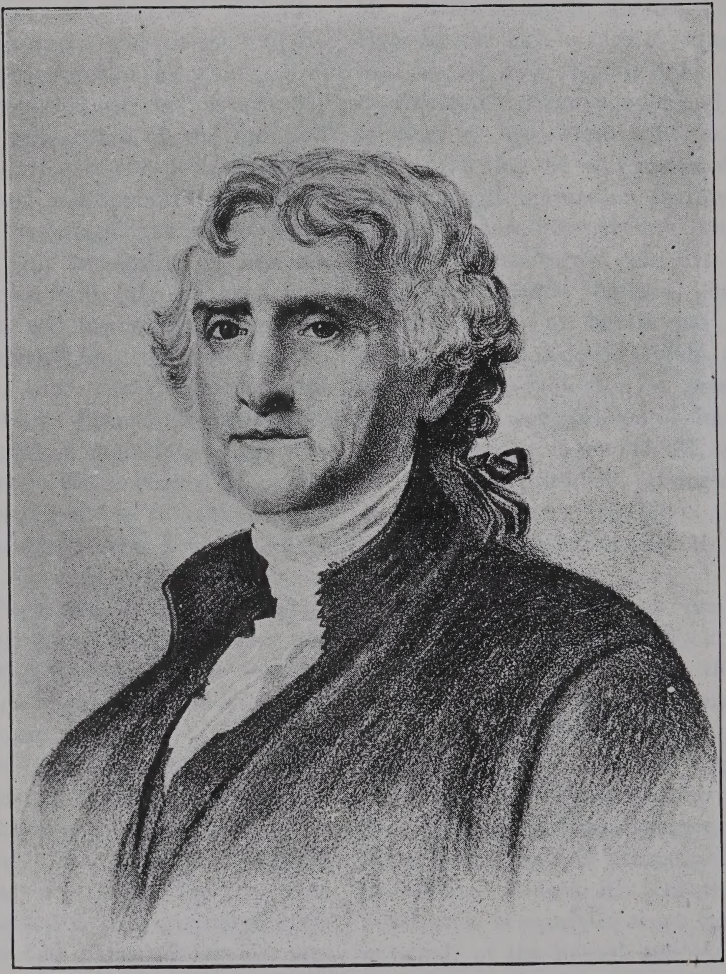
In November, 1777, Mr. Adams was appointed a delegate to France to co-operate with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, who were then in Paris, in the endeavor to obtain assistance in arms and money from the French government. He left France June 17, 1779. In September of the same year he was again chosen to go to Paris, and there hold himself in readiness to negotiate a treaty of peace and of commerce with Great Britain, as soon as the British cabinet might be found willing to listen to such proposals. He sailed for France in November, from there he went to Holland, where he negotiated important loans and formed important commercial treaties.

Finally a treaty of peace with England was signed January 21, 1783. The re-action from the excitement, toil and anxiety through which Mr. Adams had passed threw him into a fever. After suffering from a continued fever and becoming feeble and emaciated he was advised to go to England to drink the waters of Bath. While in England, still drooping and desponding, he received dispatches from his own government urging the necessity of his going to Amsterdam to negotiate another loan. It was winter, his health was delicate, yet he immediately set out, and through storm, on sea, on horseback and foot, he made the trip.

February 24, 1785, congress appointed Mr. Adams envoy to the court of St. James. Here he met face to face the king of England, who had so long regarded him as a traitor. As England did not condescend to appoint a minister to the United States, and as Mr. Adams felt that he was accomplishing but little, he sought permission to return to his own country, where he arrived in June 1788.

When Washington was first chosen president, John Adams, rendered illustrious by his signal services at home and abroad, was chosen vice president. Again at the second election of Washington as president, Adams was chosen vice president. In 1796, Washington retired from public life, and Mr Adams was elected president, though not without much opposition. Serving in this office four years, he was succeeded by Mr. Jefferson, his opponent in politics.

While Mr. Adams was vice president the great French revolution shook the continent of Europe, and it was upon this point which he was at issue with the majority of his countrymen led by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Adams felt no sympathy with the French people in their struggle, for he had no confidence in their power of self-government, and he utterly abhorred the class of atheist philosophers who he claimed caused it. On the other hand Jefferson's sympathies were strongly enlisted in behalf of the French people. Hence originated the alieniation between these distinguished men, and two powerful parties were thus soon organized, Adams at the head of the one whose sympathies were with England, and Jefferson led the other in sympathy with France. In 1824, his cup of happiness was filled to the brim, by seeing his son elevated to the highest station in the gift of the people.



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The 4th of July, 1826, which completed the half century since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, arrived, and there were but three of the signers of that immortal instrument left upon the earth to hail its morning light. And, as it is well known, on that day two of these finished their earthly pilgrimage, a coincidence so remarkable as to seem miraculous. For a few days before Mr. Adams had been rapidly failing, and, on the 4th, he found himself too weak to rise from his bed. On being requested to name a toast for the customary celebration of the day, he exclaimed "INDEPENDENCE FOREVER." When the day was ushered in, by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannons, he was asked by one of his attendants if he knew what day it was? He replied, "Oh, yes; it is the glorious Fourth of July—God bless it—God bless you all." In the course of the day he said, "It is a great and glorious day." The last words he uttered were "Jefferson survives." But he had, at one o'clock, resigned his spirit into the hands of his God. The personal appearance and manners of Mr. Adams were not particularly prepossessing. His face, as his portrait manifests, was intellectual and expressive, but his figure was low and ungraceful, and his manners were frequently abrupt and uncourteous.

* * *

THOMAS JEFFERSON, third president of the United States, was born April 2, 1743, at Shadwell, Albemarle county, Va. His parents were Peter and Jane (Randolph) Jefferson, the former a native of Wales, and the latter born in London. To them were born six daughters and two sons, of whom Thomas was the eldest. When fourteen years of age his father died. He received a most liberal education, having been kept diligently at school from the time he was five years of age. In 1760 he entered William and Mary college. Williamsburg was then the seat of the colonial court, and it was the abode of fashion and splendor. Young Jefferson, who was then seventeen years old, lived somewhat expensively, keeping fine horses, and was much caressed by gay society, yet he was earnestly devoted to his studies, and irreproachable in his morals. In the second year of his college course, moved by some unexplained inward impulse, he discarded his horses, society, and even his favorite violin, to which he had previously given much time. He often devoted fifteen hours a day to hard study, allowing himself for exercise only a run in the evening twilight of a mile out of the city and back again. He thus attained very high intellectual culture, and excellence in philosophy and the languages. The most difficult Latin and Greek authors he read with facility.

Immediately upon leaving college he began the study of law. For the short time he continued in the practice of his profession he rose rapidly and distinguished himself by his energy and acuteness as a lawyer. But the times called for greater action. The policy of England had awakened the spirit of resistance of the American colonies, and the enlarged views which Jefferson had ever entertained soon led him into active political life. In 1769 he was chosen a member of the Virginia house of burgesses. In 1772 he married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a very beautiful, wealthy and highly accomplished young widow.

Upon Mr. Jefferson's large estate at Shadwell, there was a majestic swell of land, called Monticello, which commanded a prospect of wonderful extent and beauty. This spot Mr. Jefferson selected for his new home; and here he reared a mansion of modest yet elegant architecture, which, next to Mount Vernon, became the most distinguished resort in our land.

In 1775 he was sent to the colonial congress, where, though a silent member, his abilities as a writer and a reasoner soon became known, and he was placed upon a number of important committees, and was chairman of the one appointed for the drawing up of a declaration of independence. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, as chairman, was appointed to draw up the paper. Franklin and Adams suggested a few verbal changes before it was submitted to congress. On June 28, a few slight changes were made in it by congress, and it was passed and signed July 4, 1776. What must have been the feelings of that man—what the emotions that swelled his breast—who was charged with the preparation of that declaration, which, while it made known the wrongs of America, was also to publish her to the world, free, sovereign and independent!

In 1779 Mr. Jefferson was elected successor to Patrick Henry, as governor of Virginia. At one time the British officer, Tarleton, sent a secret expedition to Monticello, to capture the governor. Scarcely five minutes elapsed after the hurried escape of Mr. Jefferson and his family ere his mansion was in possession of the British troops. His wife's health, never very good, was much injured by this excitement and in the summer of 1782 she died.

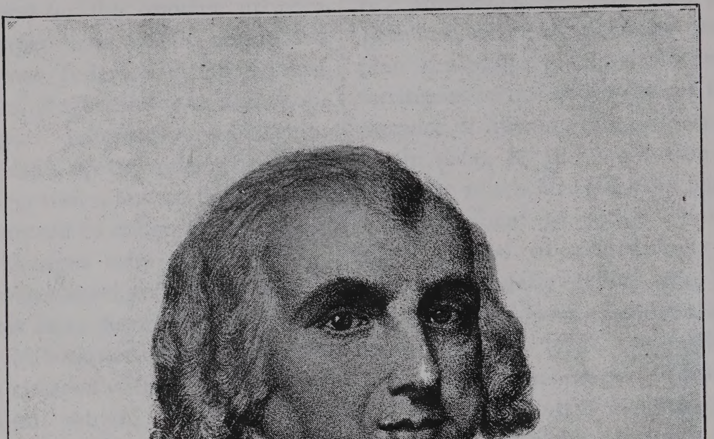
Mr. Jefferson was elected to congress in 1783. Two years later he was appointed minister plenipotentiary to France. Returning to the United States in September, 1789, he became secretary of state in Washington's cabinet. This position he resigned January 1, 1794. In 1797, he was chosen vice president and four years later was elected president over Mr. Adams, with Aaron Burr as vice president. In 1804 he was re-elected with wonderful unanimity, and George Clinton, vice president.

The early part of Mr. Jefferson's second administration was disturbed by an event which threatened the tranquility and peace of the Union; this was the conspiracy of Aaron Burr. Defeated in the late election to the vice presidency, and led on by an unprincipled ambition, this extraordinary man formed the plan of a military expedition into the Spanish territories on our southwestern frontier, for the purpose of forming there a new republic.

In 1809, at the expiration of the second term for which Mr. Jefferson had been elected, he determined to retire from political life. For a period of nearly forty years, he had been continually before the public, and all that time had been employed in offices of the greatest trust and responsibility. Having thus devoted the best part of his life to the service of his country, he now felt desirous of that rest which his declining years required, and upon the organization of the new administration, in March, 1809, he bade farewell forever to public life, and retired to Monticello.

The 4th of July, 1826, being the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, great preparations were made in every part of the Union for its celebration, as the nation's jubilee, and the citizens of Washington, to add to the solemnity of the occasion, invited Mr. Jefferson, as the framer, and one of the few surviving signers of the Declaration, to participate in their festivities. But an illness, which had been of several week's duration, and had been continually increasing, compelled him to decline the invitation.

On the 2d of July, the disease under which he was laboring left him, but in such a reduced state that his medical attendants entertained no hope of his recovery. From this time he was perfectly sensible that his last hour was at hand. On the next day, which was Monday, he asked, of those around him, the day of the month, and on being told that



JAMES MADISON.

it was the 3d of July, he expressed the earnest wish that he might be permitted to breathe the air of the fiftieth anniversary. His prayer was heard—that day, whose dawn was hailed with such rapture through our land, burst upon his eyes, and then they were closed forever. And what a noble consummation of a noble life! To die on that day,—the birth of a nation—the day which his own name and own act had rendered glorious; to die amidst the rejoicings and festivities of a whole nation, who looked up to him, as the author, under God, of their greatest blessings, was all that was wanting to fill up the record of his life. Almost at the same hour of his death, the kindred spirit of the venerable Adams, as if to bear him company, left the scene of his earthly honors.

In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and thin, rather above six feet in height, but well formed; his eyes were light, his hair, originally red, in after life became white and silvery; his complexion was fair, his forehead broad, and his whole countenance intelligent and thoughtful. He possessed great fortitude of mind as well as personal courage; and his command of temper was such that his oldest and most intimate friends never recollected to have seen him in a passion. His manners, though dignified, were simple and unaffected, and his hospitality was so unbounded that all found at his house a ready welcome. In conversation he was fluent, eloquent and enthusiastic; and his language was remarkably pure and correct. He was a finished classical scholar, and in his writings is discernable the care with which he formed his style upon the best models of antiquity.

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JAMES MADISON, fourth president of the United States, was born March 16, 1751, and died at his home in Virginia, June 28, 1836. He was the last of the founders of the Constitution of the United States to be called to his eternal reward. The Madison family were among the early emigrants to the New World, landing upon the shores of the Chesapeake but fifteen years after the settlement of Jamestown. The father of James Madison was an opulent planter, residing upon a very fine estate called "Montpelier," Orange county, Va. The mansion was situated in the midst of scenery highly picturesque and romantic, on the west side of Southwest Mountain, at the foot of Blue Ridge. It was but twenty-five miles from the home of Jefferson at Monticello. The closest personal and political attachment existed between these illustrious men from their early youth until death.

The early education of Mr. Madison was conducted mostly at home under a private tutor. At the age of eighteen he was sent to Princeton college, in New Jersey. Here he applied himself to study with the most imprudent zeal, allowing himself for months but three hours' sleep out of the twenty-four. His health thus became so seriously impaired that he never recovered any vigor of constitution. He graduated in 1771, when a feeble boy, but with a character of utmost purity, and with a mind highly disciplined and richly stored with learning.

Returning to Virginia, he commenced the study of law and a course of extensive and systematic reading. This educational course, the spirit of the times in which he lived, all combined to inspire him with a strong love of liberty, and to train him for his life-work of a statesman.

In the spring of 1776, when twenty-five years of age, he was elected a member of the Virginia convention, to frame the constitution of the state. The next year (1777) he was a candidate for the general assembly. He refused to treat the whisky-loving voters, and consequently lost his election; but those who had witnessed the talent, energy and public spirit of the modest young man, enlisted themselves in his behalf and he was appointed to the executive council.

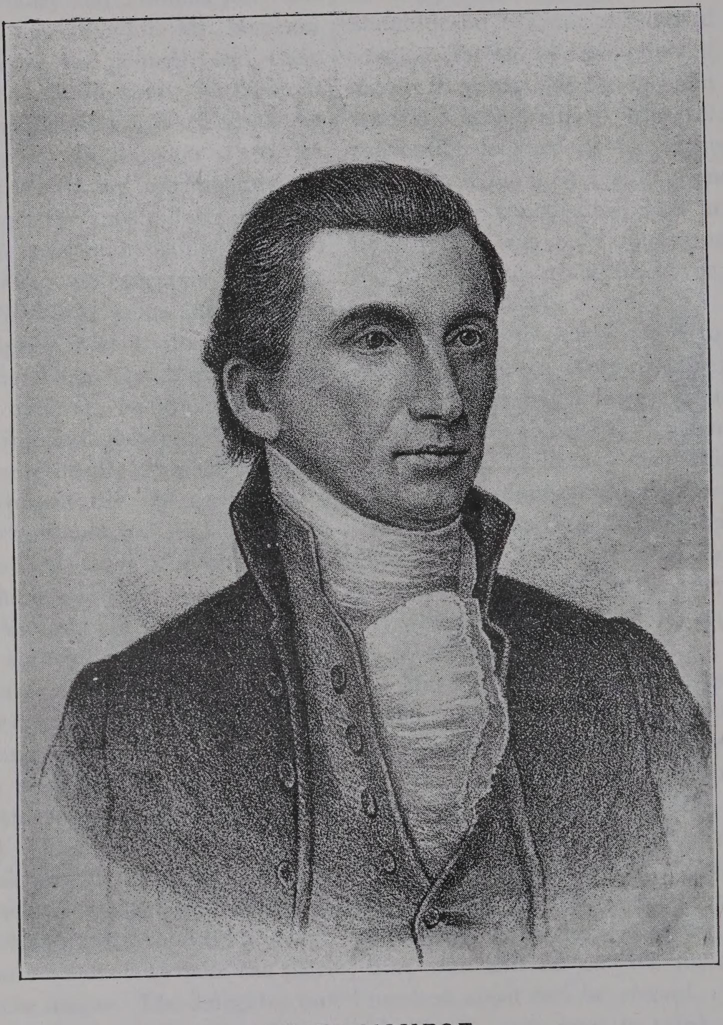
Both Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson were governors of Virginia while Mr. Madison remained member of the council; and their appreciation of his intellectual, social and moral worth, contributed not a little to his subsequent eminence. In the year 1780, he was elected a member of the continental congress. Here he met the most illustrious men in our land, and he was immediately assigned to one of the most conspicuous positions among them. For three years Mr. Madison continued in congress, one of its most active and influential members. In the year 1784, his term having expired, he was elected a member of the Virginia legislature.

No man felt more deeply than Mr. Madison the utter inefficiency of the old confederacy, with no national government, with no power to form treaties which would be binding, or to enforce law. There was not any state more prominent than Virginia in the declaration, that an efficient national government must be formed. In January, 1786, Mr. Madison carried a resolution through the general assembly of Virginia, inviting the other states to appoint commissioners to meet in convention at Annapolis to discuss the subject. Five states only were represented. The convention, however, issued another call, drawn up by Mr. Madison, urging all the states to send their delegates to Philadelphia, in May, 1787, to draft a constitution for the United States, to take the place of that confederate league. The delegates met at the time appointed. Every state but Rhode Island was represented. George Washington was chosen president of the convention; and the present constitution of the United States was then and there formed. There was, perhaps, no mind and no pen more active in framing this immortal document than the mind and pen of James Madison.

The constitution, adopted by a vote of 81 to 79, was to be presented to the several states for acceptance. But grave solicitude was felt. Should it be rejected we should be left but a conglomeration of independent states, with but little power at home and little respect abroad. Mr. Madison was selected by the convention to draw up an address to the people of the United States, expounding the principles of the constitution, and urging its adoption. There was great opposition to it at first, but it at length triumphed over all, and went into effect in 1789.

Mr. Madison was elected to the house of representatives in the first congress, and soon became the avowed leader of the republican party. While in New York attending congress, he met Mrs. Todd, a young widow of remarkable power of fascination, whom he married. She was in person and character queenly, and probably no lady has thus far occupied so prominent a position in the very peculiar society which has constituted our republican court, as Mrs. Madison.

Mr. Madison served as secretary of state under Jefferson, and at the close of his administration was chosen president. At this time the encroachments of England had brought us to the verge of war. British orders in council destroyed our commerce, and our flag was exposed to constant insult. Mr. Madison was a man of peace. Scholarly in his taste, retiring in his disposition, war had no charms for him. But the meekest spirit can be roused. It makes one's blood boil, even now, to think of an American ship brought to upon the ocean by the guns of an English cruiser. A young lieutenant steps on board and orders the crew to be paraded before him. With great nonchalance he selects any number whom he may please to designate



JAMES MONROE.

as British subjects; orders them down the ship's side into the boat; and places them on the gun-deck of the man-of-war to fight, by compulsion, the battles of England. This right of search and impressment, no efforts of our government could induce the British cabinet to relinquish.

On the 18th of June, 1812, President Madison gave his approval to an act of congress declaring war against Great Britain. Notwithstanding the bitter hostility of the federal party to the war, the country in general approved; and Mr. Madison, on the 4th of March, 1813, was re-elected by a large majority, and entered upon his second term of office. The contest commenced in earnest by the appearance of a British fleet early in February, 1813, in Chesapeake bay, declaring nearly the whole coast of the United States under blockade. The emperor of Russia offered his services as mediator. America accepted; England refused. A British force of five thousand men landed on the banks of the Patuxant river, near its entrance into Chesapeake bay, and marched rapidly, by way of Bladensburg, upon Washington.

The straggling little city of Washington was thrown into consternation. The cannon of the brief conflict at Bladensburg echoed through the streets of the metropolis. The whole population fled from the city. The president, leaving Mrs. Madison in the White House, with her carriage drawn up at the door to await his speedy return, hurried to meet the officers in a council of war. He met our troops utterly routed, and he could not go back without danger of being captured. But few hours elapsed ere the presidential mansion, the capitol, and all the public buildings in Washington were in flames.

The war closed after two years of fighting, and on February 13, 1815, the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent.

March 4, 1817, James Madison's second term of office expired, and he resigned the presidential chair to his friend, James Monroe. He retired to his beautiful home at Montpelier and there passed the remainder of his days. On June 28, 1836, then at the age of eighty-five years, he fell asleep in death. Mrs. Madison died July 12, 1849.

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JAMES MONROE, the fifth president of the United States, was born in Westmoreland county, Va., April 28, 1758. He joined the colonial army when everything looked hopeless and gloomy. The number of deserters increased from day to day. The invading armies came pouring in, and the tories not only favored the cause of the mother country, but disheartened the new recruits, who were sufficiently terrified at the prospect of contending with an enemy whom they had been taught to deem invincible. To such brave spirits as James Monroe, who went right onward undismayed through difficulty and danger, the United States owe their political emancipation. The young cadet joined the ranks and espoused the cause of his injured country, with a firm determination to live or die with her strife for liberty. Firmly, yet sadly, he shared in the melancholy retreat from Harlaem Heights and White Plains, and accompanied the dispirited army as it fled before its foes through New Jersey. In four months after the Declaration of Independence, the patriots had been beaten in seven battles. At the battle of Trenton he led the vanguard, and, in the act of charging upon the enemy he received a wound in the left shoulder. As a reward for his bravery, Mr. Monroe was promoted a captain of infantry; and, having recovered from his wound, he rejoined the army. He, however, receded from the line of promotion by becoming an officer on the staff of Lord Stirling. During the campaigns of 1777 and 1778, in the actions of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, he continued aid-de-camp; but becoming desirous to regain his position in the army, he exerted himself to collect a regiment for the Virginia line. This scheme failed owing to the exhausted condition of the state. Upon this failure he entered the office of Mr. Jefferson, at that period governor, and pursued with considerable ardor the study of common law. He did not, however, entirely lay aside the knapsack for the green bag; but on the invasions of the enemy, served as a volunteer during the two years of his legal pursuits.

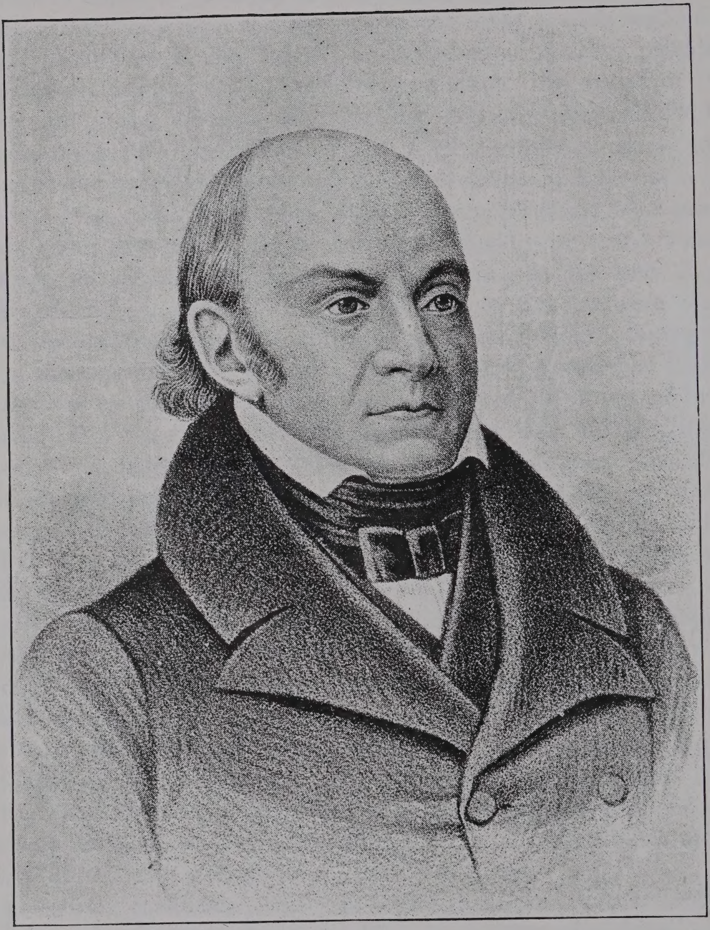
In 1782, he was elected from King George county a member of the legislature of Virginia, and by that body he was elevated to a seat in the executive council. He was thus honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens at twenty-three years of age; and at this early period displayed some of that ability and aptitude for legislation, which were afterward employed with unremitting energy for the public good; he was in the succeeding year chosen a member of the congress of the United States.

Deeply as Mr. Monroe felt the imperfections of the old confederacy, he was opposed to the new constitution, thinking, with many others of the republican party, that it gave too much power to the central government, and not enough to the individual states. In 1789 he became a member of the United States senate, which office he held for four years. Every month the line of distinction between the two great parties which divided the nation, the federal and the republican, was growing more distinct. The two prominent ideas which now separated them were, that the republican party was in sympathy with France, and also in favor of such a strict construction of the constitution as to give the central government as little power, and the state governments as much power, as the constitution would warrant. The federalists sympathized with England, and were in favor of a liberal construction of the constitution, which would give as much power to the central government as that document could possibly authorize.

Washington was then president. England had espoused the cause of the Bourbons against the principles of the French revolution. All Europe was drawn into the conflict. We were feeble and far away. Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality between these contending powers. France had helped us in the struggle for our liberties. All the despotisms of Europe were combined to prevent the French from escaping from a tyranny a thousand-fold worse than that which we had endured. Col. Monroe, more magnanimous than prudent, was anxious that, at whatever hazard, we should help our old allies in their extremity. It was the impulse of a generous and noble nature. He violently opposed the president's proclamation as ungrateful and wanting in magnanimity.

Washington, who could appreciate such a character, developed his clam, serene, almost divine greatness, by appointing that very James Monroe, who was denouncing the policy of the government, as the minister of that government to the republic of France. Mr. Monroe was welcomed by the national convention in France with the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

Shortly after his return to this country, Mr. Monroe was elected governor of Virginia, and held the office for three years. He was again sent to France to co-operate with Chancellor Livingston in obtaining the vast territory then known as the province of Louisiana, which France had but shortly before obtained from Spain. Their united efforts were successful. For the comparatively small sum of fifteen millions of dollars, the entire territory



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

of Orleans and district of Louisiana were added to the United States. This was probably the largest transfer of real estate which was ever made in all the history of the world.

From France Mr. Monroe went to England to obtain from that country some recognition of our rights as neutrals, and to remonstrate against those odious impressments of our seamen. But England was unrelenting. He again returned to England on the same mission, but could receive no redress. He returned to his home and was again chosen governor of Virginia. This he soon resigned to accept the position of secretary of state under Madison. While in this office war with England was declared, the secretary of war resigned, and during those trying times the duties of the war department were also put upon him. He was truly the armor-bearer of President Madison, and the most efficient business man in his cabinet. Upon the return of peace he resigned the department of war, but continued in the office of secretary of state until the expiration of Mr. Madison's administration. At the election held the previous autumn Mr. Monroe had been chosen president with but little opposition, and upon March 4, 1817, was inaugurated. Four years later he was elected for a second term.

Among the important measures of his presidency were the cession of Florida to the United States; the Missouri compromise, and the "Monroe doctrine." This famous "Monroe doctrine" was enunciated by him in 1823. At that time the United States had recognized the independence of the South American states, and did not wish to have European powers longer attempt to subdue portions of the American continent. The doctrine is as follows: "That we should consider any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety," and "that we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing or controlling American governments or provinces in any other light than as a manifestation by European powers of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." This doctrine immediately affected the course of foreign governments, and has become the approved sentiment of the United States.

At the end of his second term Mr. Monroe retired to his home in Virginia, where he lived until 1830, when he went to New York to live with his son-in-law. In that city he died on the 4th of July, 1831.

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JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Quincy, Mass., on the 11th of July, 1767. His mother, a woman of exalted worth, watched over his childhood during the almost constant absence of his father.

When but eleven years old he took a tearful adieu of his mother, to sail with his father for Europe, through a fleet of hostile British cruisers. The bright, animated boy spent a year and a half in Paris, where his father was associated with Franklin and Lee as minister plenipotentiary. His intelligence attracted the notice of these distinguished men, and he received from them flattering marks of attention.

Mr. John Adams had scarcely returned to this country, in 1779, ere he was again sent abroad. Again John Quincy accompanied his father. At Paris he applied himself with great diligence, for six months, to study; then accompanied his father to Holland, where he entered first a school in Amsterdam, then the university at Leyden. About a year from this time, in 1781, when the manly boy was but fourteen years of age, he was selected by Mr. Dana, our minister to the Russian court, as his private secretary.

In this school of incessant labor and of ennobling culture he spent fourteen months, and then returned to Holland through Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg and Bremen. This long journey he took alone, in the winter, when in his sixteenth year. Again he resumed his studies, under a private tutor, at Hague. Thence, in the spring of 1782, he accompanied his father to Paris, traveling leisurely, and examining architectural remains, galleries of paintings and all renowned works of art. At Paris he again became associated with the most illustrious men of all lands in the contemplations of the loftiest temporal themes which can engross the human mind. After a short visit to England he returned to Paris, and consecrated all his energies to study until May, 1785, when he returned to America.

After leaving Harvard college at the age of twenty, he studied law for three years. In June, 1794, being then but twenty-seven years of age, he was appointed, by Washington, resident minister at the Netherlands. Sailing from Boston in July, he reached London in October, where he was immediately admitted to the deliberations of Messrs. Jay and Pinckney, assisting them in negotiating a commercial treaty with Great Britain. After thus spending a fortnight in London, he proceeded to the Hague.

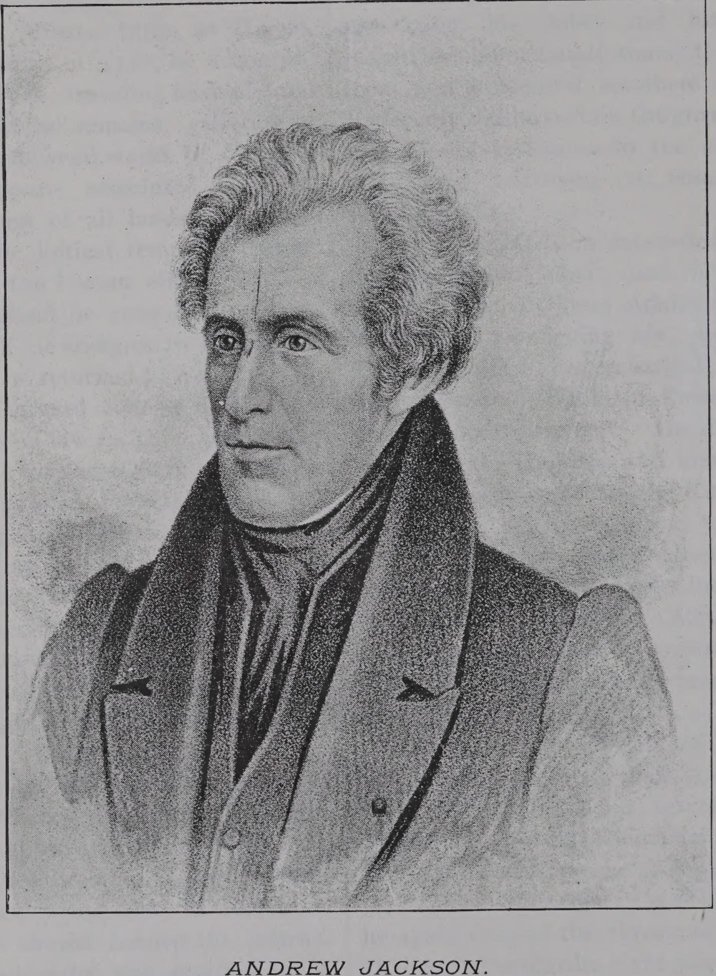
In July, 1797, he left the Hague to go to Portugal as minister plenipotentiary, On his way to Portugal, upon arriving in London, he met with despatches directing him to the court of Berlin, but requesting him to remain in London until he should receive his instructions. While waiting he was married to an American lady to whom he had been previously engaged—Miss Louisa Catherine Johnson, daughter of Mr. Joshua Johnson, American consul in London.

He reached Berlin with his wife in November, 1797, where he remained until July, 1799, when, having fulfilled all the purposes of his mission, he solicited his recall. Soon after his return, in 1802, he was chosen to the senate of Massachusetts from Boston, and then was elected senator of the United States for six years, from the 4th of March, 1804. His reputation, his ability and his experience, placed him immediately among the most prominent and influential members of that body. Especially did he sustain the government in its measures of resistance to the encroachments of England, destroying our commerce and insulting our flag.

In 1809, Madison succeeded Jefferson in the presidential chair, and he immediately nominated John Quincy Adams minister to St. Petersburg. Resigning his professorship in Harvard college, he embarked at Boston, in August, 1809. While in Russia, Mr. Adams was an intense student. He devoted his attention to the language and history of Russia; to the Chinese trade; to the European system of weights, measures, and coins; to the climate and astronomical observations; while he kept up a familiar acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics. All through life the Bible constituted an important part of his studies. It was his rule to read five chapters every day.

On the 4th of March, 1817, Mr. Monroe took the presidential chair, and immediately appointed Mr. Adams secretary of state. Taking leave of his friends in public and private life in Europe, he sailed in June, 1819, for the United States. On the 18th of August, he again crossed the threshold of his home in Quincy. During the eight years of Mr. Monroe's administration, Mr. Adams continued secretary of state.

Some time before the close of Mr. Monroe's second term of office, new candidates began to be presented for the presidency. The friends of Mr. Adams brought forward



ANDREW JACKSON.

his name. It was an exciting campaign. Party spirit was never more bitter. Two hundred and sixty electoral votes were cast. Andrew Jackson received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, eighty-four; William H. Crawford, forty-one; Henry Clay, thirty-seven. As there was no choice by the people, the question went to the house of representatives. Mr. Clay gave the vote of Kentucky to Mr. Adams, and he was elected.

Mr, Adams was, to a very remarkable degree, abstemious and temperate in his habits; always rising early, and taking much exercise. When at his home in Quincy, he has been known to walk, before breakfast, seven miles to Boston. In Washington, it was said that he was the first man up in the city, lighting his own fire and applying himself to work in his library often long before dawn.

On the 4th of March, 1829, Mr. Adams retired from the presidency, and was suceeded by Andrew Jackson. John C. Calhoun was elected vice president. The slavery question now began to assume portentous magnitude. Mr. Adams returned to Quincy, and to his studies, which he pursued with unabated zeal. But he was not long permitted to remain in retirement. In November, 1830, he was elected representative to congress. For seventeen years, until his death, he occupied the post as representative, ever ready to do brave battle for freedom, and winning the title of "the old man eloquent." Upon taking his seat in the house, he announced that he should hold himself bound to no party. He was usually the first in his place in the morning, and the last to leave his seat in the evening. Not a measure could be brought forward and escape his scrutiny. The battle which Mr. Adams fought almost singly, against the proslavery party in the government, was sublime in its moral daring and heroism. For persisting in presenting petitions for the abolition of slavery, he was threatened with indictment by the grand jury, with expulsion from the house, and also with assassination, but no threats could intimidate him and his final triumph was complete.

On the 21st of February, 1848, he rose on the floor of congress, with a paper in his hand, to address the speaker. Suddenly he fell, again stricken by paralysis, and was caught in the arms of those around him. For a time he was senseless, as he was conveyed to the sofa in the rotunda. With reviving consciousness, he opened his eyes, looked calmly around and said: "This is the end of earth;" then, after a moment's pause, he added, "I am content." These were the last words of the sixth president.

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ANDREW JACKSON, the seventh president of the United States, was born in Waxhaw settlement, N. C., March 15, 1767, a few days after his father's death. His parents were from Ireland, and took up their abode in Waxhaw settlement, where they lived in deepest poverty.

Andrew, or Andy, as he was universally called, grew up a very rough, rude, turbulent boy. His features were coarse, his form ungainly; and there was but very little in his character, made visible, which was attractive.

When only thirteen years old he joined the volunteers of Carolina against the British invasion. In 1781, he and his brother Robert were captured and imprisoned for a time at Camden. A British officer ordered him to brush his mud-spattered boots. "I am a prisoner of war, not your servant," was the reply of the dauntless boy. The brute drew his sword, and aimed a desperate blow at the head of the helpless young prisoner. Andrew raised his hand, and thus recived two fearful gashes—one on the hand and the other upon the head. The officer then turned to his brother Robert with the same demand. He also refused, and received a blow from the keen-edged saber, which quite disabled him, and which probably soon after caused his death. They suffered much other ill-treatment, and were finally stricken with the small-pox. Their mother was successful in obtaining their exchange, and took her sick boys home. After a long illness Andrew recovered, and the death of his mother soon left him entirely friendless.

Andrew supported himself in various ways, such as working at the saddler's trade, teaching school and clerking in a general store, until 1784, when he entered a law office at Salisbury, N. C. In 1788, he was appointed solicitor for the western district of North Carolina, of which Tennessee was then a part. This involved many long and tedious journeys amid dangers of every kind, but Andrew Jackson never knew fear.

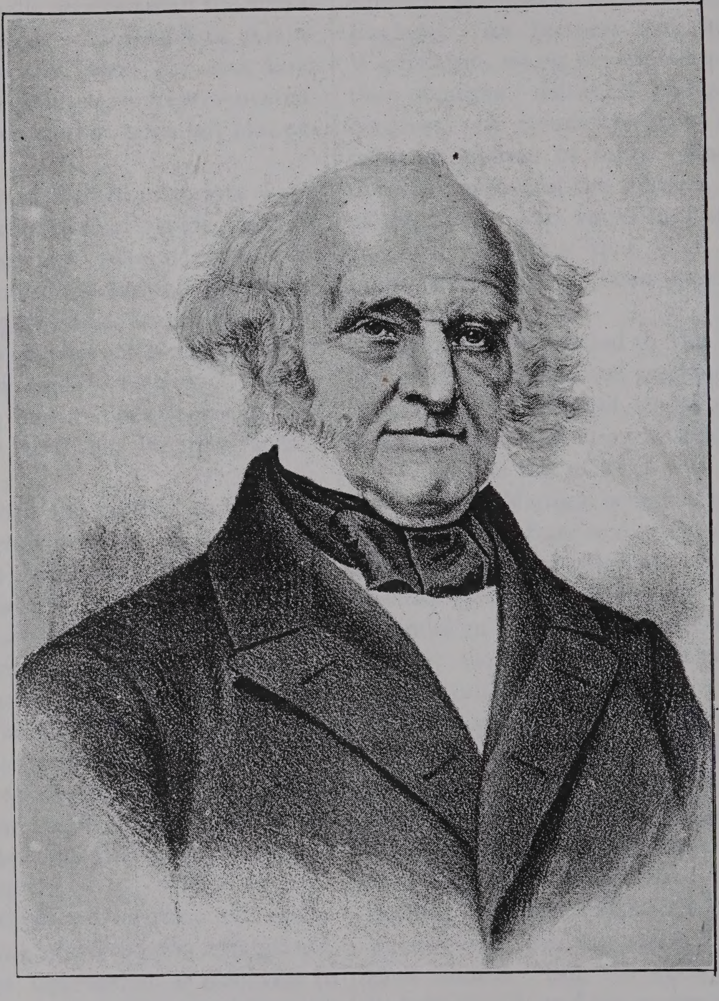
In 1791, Jackson was married to a woman who supposed herself divorced from her former husband. Great was the surprise of both parties, two years later, to find that the conditions of the divorce had just been definitely settled by the first husband. The marriage ceremony was performed a second time, but the occurrence was often used by his enemies to bring Mr. Jackson into disfavor. During these years he worked hard at his profession, and frequently had one or more duels on hand, one of which, when he killed Dickinson, was especially disgraceful.

In January, 1796, the territory of Tennessee then containing nearly 80,000 inhabitants, the people met in convention at Knoxville to frame a constitution. Five were sent from each of the eleven counties. Andrew Jackson was one of the delegates. The new state was entitled to but one member in the national house of representatives. Andrew Jackson was chosen that member. Mounting his horse he rode to Philadelphia, where congress then held its sessions—a distance of about 800 miles.

Jackson was an earnest advocate of the democratic party. Jefferson was his idol. He admired Bonaparte, loved France and hated England. As Jackson took his seat, Gen. Washington, whose second term of office was then expiring, delivered his last speech to congress. A committee drew up a complimentary address in reply. Andrew Jackson did not approve of the address, and was one of the twelve who voted against it. He was not willing to say that Gen. Washington's administration had been "wise, firm and patriotic."

Jackson was elected to the United States senate in 1797, but soon resigned. Soon after he was chosen judge of the supreme court of his state, which position he held for six years.

When the war of 1812 with Great Britain commenced, Madison occupied the presidential chair. Aaron Burr sent word to the president that there was an unknown man in the west, Andrew Jackson, who would do credit to a commission if one were conferred upon him. Just at that time Gen. Jackson offered his services and those of 2,500 volunteers. His offer was accepted, and the troops were assembled at Nashville. As the British were hourly expected to make an attack upon New Orleans, where Gen. Wilkinson was in command, he was ordered to descend the river with 1,500 troops to aid Wilkinson. The expedition reached Natchez, and after a delay of several weeks there, the men were ordered back to their homes. But the energy Gen. Jackson had displayed, and his entire devotion to the comfort of his soldiers, won him golden opinions; and he became the most popular man in the state. It was in this expedition that his toughness gave him the nickname of "Old Hickory."



MARTIN VAN BUREN.

Soon after this, while attempting to horsewhip Col. Thomas H. Benton, for a remark that gentleman made about his taking a part as second in a duel, in which a younger brother of Benton's was engaged, he received two severe pistol wounds. While he was lingering upon a bed of suffering news came that the Indians, who had combined under Tecumseh from Florida to the lakes, to exterminate the white settlers, were committing the most awful ravages. Decisive action became necessary. Gen. Jackson, with his fractured bone just beginning to heal, his arm in a sling, and unable to mount his horse without assistance, gave his amazing energies to the raising of an army to rendevous at Fayettesville, Ala.

The Creek Indians had established a strong fort on one of the bends of the Tallapoosa river, near the center of Alabama, about fifty miles below Fort Strother. With an army of 2,000 men, Gen. Jackson traversed the pathless wilderness in a march of eleven days. He reached their fort, called Tohopeka or Horseshoe, on the 27th of March, 1814. The bend of the river inclosed 100 acres of tangled forest and wild ravine. Across the narrow neck the Indians had constructed a formidable breastwork of logs and brush. Here 900 warriors, with an ample supply of arms, were assembled. The fort was stormed. The fight was utterly desperate. Not an Indian would accept of quarter. When bleeding and dying, they would fight those who endeavored to spare their lives. From ten in the morning until dark, the battle raged. The carnage was awful and revolting. Some threw themselves into the river; but the unerring bullet struck their heads as they swam. Nearly every one of the 900 warriors was killed. This closing of the Creek war enabled us to concentrate all our militia upon the British, who were the allies of the Indians. No man of less resolute will than Gen. Jackson could have conducted this Indian campaign to so successful an issue. Immediately he was appointed major-general.

Late in August, with an army of 2,000 men, on a rushing march, Gen. Jackson went to Mobile. A British fleet came from Pensacola, landed a force upon the beach, anchored near the little fort, and from both ship and shore commenced a furious assault. The battle was long and doubtful. At length one of the ships was blown up and the rest retired.

Garrisoning Mobile, Jackson moved his troops to New Orleans, and the battle of New Orleans, which soon ensued, was in reality a very arduous campaign. Here his troops, which numbered about 4,000 men, won a signal victory over the British army of about 9,000. His loss was but thirteen, while the loss of the British was 2,600.

The name of Gen. Jackson soon began to be mentioned in connection with the presidency, but, in 1824, he was defeated by Mr. Adams. He was, however, successful in the election of 1828, and was re-elected for a second term in 1832. In 1829, he met with the most terrible affliction of his life in the death of his wife. At the expiration of his two terms of office he retired to the Hermitage, where he died June 8, 1845. The last years of Jackson's life were that of a devoted christian man.

* * *

MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth president of the United States, was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., December 5, 1782. He died at the same place, July 24, 1862, and his body rests in the cemetery at Kinderhook. Above it is a plain granite shaft fifteen feet high, bearing a simple inscription about half way up on the face. The lot is unfenced, unbordered or unbounded by shrub or flower. His ancestors, as his name indicates, were of Dutch origin, and were among the earliest emigrants from Holland to the banks of the Hudson. His father was a farmer, residing in the old town of Kinderhook. His mother, also of Dutch lineage, was a woman of superior intelligence and exemplary piety. At the age of fourteen, he had finished his academic studies in his native village, and commenced the study of law. As he had not a collegiate education, seven years of study in a law office were required of him before he could be admitted to the bar. Inspired with a lofty ambition, and conscious of his powers, he pursued his studies with indefatigable industry, After spending six years in an office in his native village, he went to the city of New York, and prosecuted his studies for the seventh year.

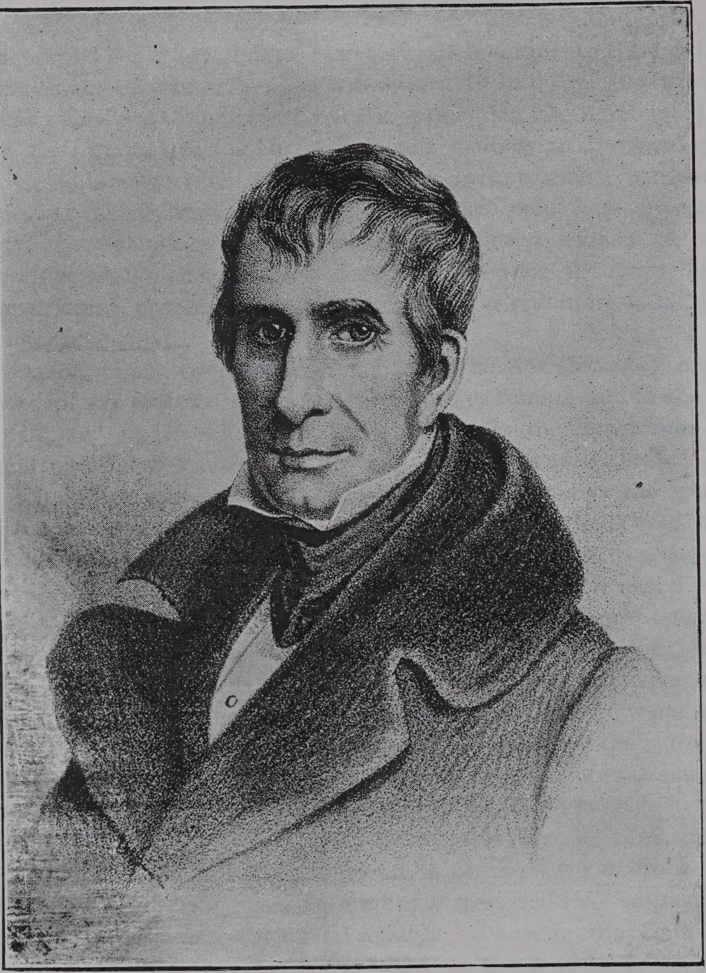
In 1803, Van Buren, then twenty-one years of age, commenced the practice of law in his native village. The great conflict between the federal and republican parties was then at its height. Van Buren was in cordial sympathy with Jefferson, and earnestly and eloquently espoused the cause of state rights; though at that time the federal party held the supremacy both in his town and state. His success and increasing reputation led him, after six years of practice, to remove to Hudson, the county seat of his county. Here he spent seven years, constantly gaining strength by contending in the courts with some of the ablest men who have adorned the bar of his state.

Just before leaving Kinderhook for Hudson, Mr. VanBuren married a lady alike distinguished for beauty and accomplishments. After twelve short years she sank into the grave, the victim of consumption, leaving her husband and four sons to weep over her loss. In 1812, when thirty years of age, he was chosen to the state senate, and gave his strenuous support to Mr. Madison's administration. In 1815, he was appointed attorney-general, and the next year moved to Albany, the capital of the state.

While he was acknowledged as one of the most prominent leaders of the democratic party, he had the moral courage to avow that true democracy did not require that "universal suffrage" which admits the vile, the degraded, the ignorant, to the right of governing the state. In true consistency with his democratic principles, he contended that, while the path leading to the privilege of voting should be open to every man without distinction, no one should be invested with that sacred prerogative, unless he were in some degree qualified for it by intelligence, virtue and some property interests in the welfare of the state.

In 1821 he was elected a member of the United States senate, and in the same year he took a seat in the convention to revise the constitution of his native state. His course in this convention secured the approval of men of all parties. In the senate of the United States, he rose at once to a conspicuous position as an active and useful legislator. In 1827, John Quincy Adams being then in the presidential chair, Mr. Van Buren was reelected to the senate. He had been, from the beginning, a determined opposer to the administration, adopting the state rights view in opposition to what was deemed the federal proclivities of Mr. Adams.

Soon after this, in 1828, he was chosen governor of the state of New York, and accordingly resigned his seat in the senate. Probably no one in the United States contributed so much towards ejecting John Q. Adams from the presidential chair, and placing in it Andrew Jackson, as did Martin Van Buren. Whether entitled to the reputation or not, he certainly was regarded throughout the United States as one of the most skillful, sagacious and cunning politicians. It was sup-



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

posed that no one knew so well as he how to touch the secret springs of action; how to pull all the wires to put his machinery in motion; and how to organize a political army which would, secretly and stealthily, accomplish the most gigantic results. By these powers it is said that he outwitted Mr. Adams, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and secured results which few thought then could be accomplished.

When Andrew Jackson was elected president, he appointed Mr. Van Buren secretary of state. This position he resigned in 1831, and was immediately appointed minister to England, where he went the same autumn. The senate, however, when it met, refused to ratify the nomination, and he returned home, apparently untroubled; was nominated vice president in the place of Calhoun, at the re-election of President Jackson; and with smiles for all and frowns for none, he took his place at the head of that senate which had refused to confirm his nomination as ambassador. His rejection by the senate aroused all the zeal of President Jackson in behalf of his repudiated favorite; and this, probably more than any other cause, secured his elevation to the chair of the chief executive. On the 20th of May, 1836, Van Buren received the democratic nomination to succeed Gen. Jackson as president of the United States. He was elected by a handsome majority, to the delight of the retiring president.

His administration was filled with exciting events. The insurrection in Canada, which threatened to involve this country in war with England, the agitation of the slavery question, and finally the great commercial panic which spread over the country, all were trials to his wisdom. The financial distress was attributed to the management of the democratic party, and brought the president into such disfavor that he failed of re-election. With the exception of being nominated for the presidency by the free soil democrats, in 1848, Mr. Van Buren lived quietly upon his estate until his death.

He had ever been a prudent man, of frugal habits, and, living within his income, had now fortunately a competency for his declining years. It was on the 4th of March, 1841, that Mr. Van Buren retired from the presidency. From his fine estate at Lindenwald, he still exerted a powerful influence upon the politics of the country. From this time until his death, on the 24th of July, 1862, at the age of eighty years, he resided at Lindenwald, a gentleman of leisure, of culture and of wealth; enjoying in a healthy old age, probably far more happiness than he had before experienced amid the stormy scenes of his active life.

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WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth president of the United States; was born at Berkeley, Va., Feb. 9, 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was in comparatively opulent circumstances, and was one of the most distinguished men of his day. He was an intimate friend of George Washington, was early elected a member of the continental congress, and was conspicuous among the patriots of Virginia in resisting the encroachments of the British crown. In the celebrated congress of 1775, Benjamin Harrison and John Hancock were both candidates for the office of speaker.

Mr. Harrison was subsequently chosen governor of Virginia, and was twice re-elected.

Having received a thorough common-school education, William Henry Harrison entered Hampden Sidney college, where he graduated with honor soon after the death of his father. He then repaired to Philadelphia to study medicine under the instructions of Dr. Rush and the guardianship of Robert

Morris, both of whom were, with his father, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Upon the outbreak of the Indian troubles, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends, he abandoned his medical studies and entered the army, having obtained a commission of ensign from President Washington. He was then but nineteen years old. From that time he passed gradually upward in rank until he became aid to Gen. Wayne, after whose death he resigned his commission. He was then appointed secretary of the Northwestern territory. This territory was then entitled to but one member in congress, and Capt. Harrison was chosen to fill that position.

In the spring of 1800 the Northwestern territory was divided by congress into two portions. The eastern portion, comprising the region now embraced in the state of Ohio, was called "The Territory northwest of the Ohio." The western portion, which included what is now called Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, was called the "Indiana territory." William Henry Harrison, then twenty-seven years of age, was appointed, by John Adams, governor of the Indiana territory, and immediately after, also governor of upper Louisiana. He was thus ruler over almost as extensive a realm as any sovereign upon the globe. He was superintendent of Indian affairs, and was invested with powers nearly dictatorial over the now rapidly increasing white population. The ability and fidelity with which he discharged these responsible duties may be inferred from the fact that he was four times appointed to this office—first by John Adams, twice by Thomas Jefferson and afterward by President Madison.

When he began his administration there were but three white settlements in that almost boundless region, now crowded with cities and resounding with all the tumult of wealth and traffic. One of these settlements was on the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville; one at Vincennes, on the Wabash, and the third a French settlement.

The vast wilderness over which Gov. Harrison reigned was filled with many tribes of Indians. About the year 1806, two extraordinary men, twin brothers, of the Shawnee tribe, rose among them. One of these was called Tecumseh, or "The Crouching Panther;" the other, Olliwacheca, or "The Prophet." Tecumseh was not only an Indian warrior, but a man of great sagacity, far-reaching foresight and indomitable perseverance in any enterprise in which he might engage. He was inspired with the highest enthusiasm, and had long regarded with dread and with hatred the encroachments of the whites upon the hunting grounds of his fathers. His brother, the Prophet, was an orator, who could sway the feelings of the untutored Indian as the gale tossed the tree-tops beneath which they dwelt.

Gov. Harrison made many attempts to conciliate the Indians, but at last the war came, and at Tippecanoe the Indians were routed with great slaughter. October 28, 1812, his army began its march. When near the Prophet's town three Indians of rank made their appearance and inquired why Gov. Harrison was approaching them in so hostile an attitude. After a short conference, arrangements were made for a meeting the next day, to agree upon terms of peace. But Gov. Harrison was too well acquainted with the Indian character to be deceived by such protestations. Selecting a favorable spot for his night's encampment, he took every precaution against surprise. His troops were posted in a hollow square, and slept upon their arms. The troops threw themselves upon the ground for rest; but every man had his accoutrements on, his loaded musket by his side, and his bayonet fixed. The wakeful governor, between three and four o'clock in the morning, had risen and was sitting in conversation with his aids by the embers of a waning fire. It was a chill, cloudy morning with a drizzling rain. In the darkness, the Indians had crept as near as possible, and just then, with a savage yell, rushed with all the desperation which superstition and passion most highly inflamed could give, upon the left flank of the little army. The savages had been amply provided with guns and ammunition by the English. Their war-whoop was accompanied by a shower of bullets. The camp-fires were instantly extinguished, as the light aided the Indians in their aim. With hideous yells, the Indian bands rushed on, not doubting a speedy and entire victory. But Gen. Harrison's troops stood as immovable as the rocks around them until day dawned; they then made a simultaneous charge with the bayonet, and swept everything before them, and completely routed the foe. Gov. Harrison now had all his energies tasked to the utmost. The British, descending from the Canadas, were of themselves a very formidable force; but with their savage allies, rushing like wolves from the forest, searching out every remote farm house, burning, plundering, scalping, torturing, the wide frontier was plunged into a state of consternation which even the most vivid imagination can but faintly conceive. Gen. Hull had made the ignominious surrender of his forces at Detroit. Under these despairing circumstances, Gov. Harrison was appointed by President Madison commander-in-chief of the Northwestern army, with orders to retake Detroit, and to protect the frontiers.

Harrison won the love of his soldiers by always sharing with them their fatigue. His whole baggage, while pursuing the foe up the Thames, was carried in a valise; and his bedding consisted of a single blanket lashed over his saddle. Thirty-five British officers, his prisoners of war, supped with him after the battle. The only fare he could give them was beef roasted before the fire, without bread or salt.

In 1816, Gen. Harrison was chosen a member of the national house of representatives to represent the district of Ohio. In congress he proved an active member, and, whenever he spoke, it was with force of reason and power of eloquence, which arrested the attention of all the members.

In 1819, Harrison was elected to the senate of Ohio; and in 1824, as one of the presidential electors of that state, he gave his vote for Henry Clay. The same year he was chosen to the United States senate.

In 1836, the friends of Gen. Harrison brought him forward as a candidate for the presidency against Van Buren, but he was defeated. At the close of Mr. Van Buren's term, he was re-nominated by his party, and Harrison was unanimously nominated by the whigs, with John Tyler for the vice presidency. The contest was very animated. Gen. Jackson gave all his influence to prevent Harrison's election; but his triumph was signal.

The cabinet which he formed, with Daniel Webster at its head as secretary of state, was one of the most brilliant with which any president had ever been surrounded. In the midst of these bright and joyous prospects, Gen. Harrison was seized by a pleurisy-fever, and, after a few days of violent sickness, died on the 4th of April; just one month after his inauguration as president of the United States.

With the exception, perhaps, of the death of George Washington, the demise of no president of the United States, down to this time, had created a deeper thrill of sympathy throughout the country than that of President Harrison. North and south, his obsequies were observed with unaffected sorrow, and men of all parties seemed to forget differences of opinion in doing honor to the memory of the dead.

JOHN TYLER, the tenth president of the United States, was born in Charles City county, Va., March 29, 1790. At the early age of twelve, John entered William and Mary college and graduated with much honor when but seventeen years old. He devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of law, partly with his father and partly with Edmund Randolph, one of the most distinguished lawyers of Virginia.

At nineteen years of age, he commenced the practice of law. His success was rapid and astonishing. It is said that three months had not elapsed ere there was scarcely a case on the docket of the court in which he was not retained. When but twenty-one years of age, he was almost unanimously elected to a seat in the state legislature. He connected himself with the democratic party, and warmly advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five successive years he was elected to the legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

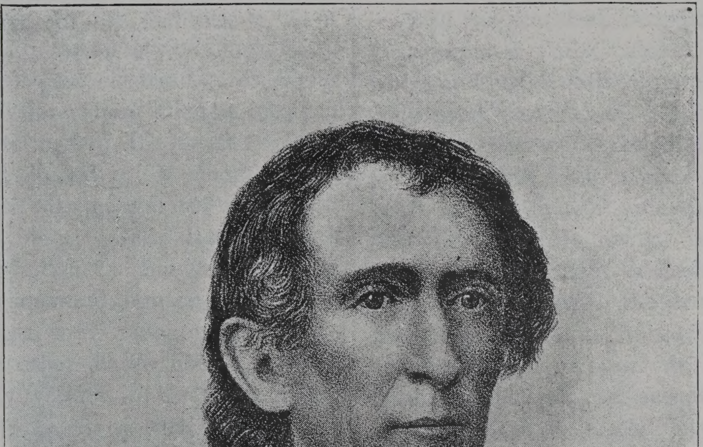
When but twenty-six years of age, he was elected a member of congress. Here he acted earnestly and ably with the democratic party, opposing a national bank, internal improvements by the general government, a protective tariff, and advocating a strict construction of the constitution, and the most careful vigilance over state rights. His labors in congress were so arduous that before the close of his second term he found it necessary to resign and retire to his estate in Charles City county, to recruit his health. He, however, soon after consented to take his seat in the state legislature, where his influence was powerful in promoting public works of great utility. He was then chosen by a very large majority of votes, governor of his native state. His administration was signally a successful one, and his popularity secured his re-election.

John Randolph, a brilliant, erratic, half-crazed man, then represented Virginia in the senate of the United States. A portion of the democratic party was displeased with Mr. Randolph's wayward course, and brought forward John Tyler as his opponent, and Tyler was the victor. In accordance with his professions, upon taking his seat in the senate, he joined the ranks of the opposition. He opposed the tariff; he spoke against and voted against the bank as unconstitutional; he strenuously opposed all restrictions upon slavery, resisting all projects of internal improvements by the general government, and avowed his sympathy with Mr. Calhoun's view of nullification; he declared that Gen. Jackson, by his opposition to the nullifiers, had abandoned the principles of the democratic party. Such was Mr. Tyler's record in congress — a record in perfect accordance with the principles which he had always avowed.

Returning to Virginia, he resumed the practice of his profession. There was a split in the democratic party. His friends still regarded him as a true Jeffersonian, gave him a dinner, and showered compliments upon him. He had now attained the age of forty-six. Soon after this he removed to Williamsburg, for the better education of his children; and he again took his seat in the legislature of Virginia.

By the southern whigs, he was sent to the national convention at Harrisburg to nominate a president in 1839. The majority of votes were given to Gen. Harrison, a genuine whig, much to the disappointment of the south, who wished for Henry Clay. To conciliate the southern whigs and to secure their vote, the convention then nominated John Tyler for vice president. Thus it happened that a whig president and, in reality, a democratic vice president were chosen.

In 1841, Mr. Tyler was inaugurated vice president of the United States. In one short



JOHN TYLER.

month from that time Pres. Harrison died, and Mr. Tyler thus found himself, to his own surprise and that of the whole nation, an occupant of the presidential chair. This was a new test of the stability of our institutions, as it was the first time in the history of our country that such an event had occurred. Mr. Tyler was at home in Williamsburg when he received the unexpected tidings of the death of Pres. Harrison. He hastened to Washington, and on the 6th of April was inaugurated to the high and responsible office. Gen. Harrison had selected a whig cabinet. Should he retain them, and thus surround himself with counselors whose views were antagonistic to his own? or, on the other hand, should he turn against the party which had elected him and select a cabinet in harmony with himself, and which would oppose all those views which the whigs deemed essential to the public welfare? This was his fearful dilemma, and so he invited the cabinet which Pres. Harrison had selected to retain their seats.

The whigs carried through congress a bill for the incorporation of a fiscal bank of the United States. The president, after ten days' delay, returned it with his veto. He suggested, however, that he would approve of a bill drawn up upon such a plan as he proposed. Such a bill was accordingly prepared, and privately submitted to him. He gave it his approval. It was passed without alteration, and he sent it back with his veto. Here commenced the open rupture. It is said that Mr. Tyler was provoked to this measure by a published letter from the Hon. John M. Botts, a distinguished Virginia whig, who severely touched the pride of the president.

The opposition now exultingly received the president into their arms. The party which elected him denounced him bitterly. All the members of his cabinet, excepting Mr. Webster, resigned. The whigs of congress, both the senate and the house, held a meeting and issued an address to the people of the United States, proclaiming that all political alliances between the whigs and Pres. Tyler were at an end.

Still the president attempted to conciliate. He appointed a new cabinet of distinguished whigs and conservatives, carefully leaving out all strong party men. Mr. Webster soon found it necessary to resign, forced out by the pressure of his whig friends. Thus the four years of Mr. Tylor's unfortunate administration passed sadly away. More and more, however, he brought himself into sympathy with his old friends, the democrats, until, at the close of his term, he gave his whole influence to the support of Mr. Polk, the democratic candidate for his successor.

On the 4th of March, 1845, he retired from office, to the regret of neither party, and probably to his own unspeakable relief. His first wife, Miss Letitia Christian, died in Washington, in 1842; and in June, 1844, Pres. Tyler was again married, at New York, to Miss Julia Gardiner, a young lady of many personal and intellectual accomplishments.

The remainder of his days Mr. Tyler passed mainly in retirement at his beautiful home—Sherwood Forest, Charles City county, Va. A polished gentleman in his manners, richly furnished with information from books and experience in the world, and possessing brilliant powers of conversation, his family circle was the scene of unusual attractions. With sufficient means for the exercise of a generous hospitality, he might have enjoyed a serene old age with the few friends who gathered around him, were it not for the storms of civil war which his own principles and policy had helped to introduce.

When the great rebellion rose, which the state rights and nullifying doctrines of John C. Calhoun had inaugurated, Pres. Tyler renounced his allegiance to the United States, and joined the confederates. He was chosen a member of their congress; and while engaged in active measures to destroy, by force of arms, the government over which he had once presided, he was taken sick and soon died.

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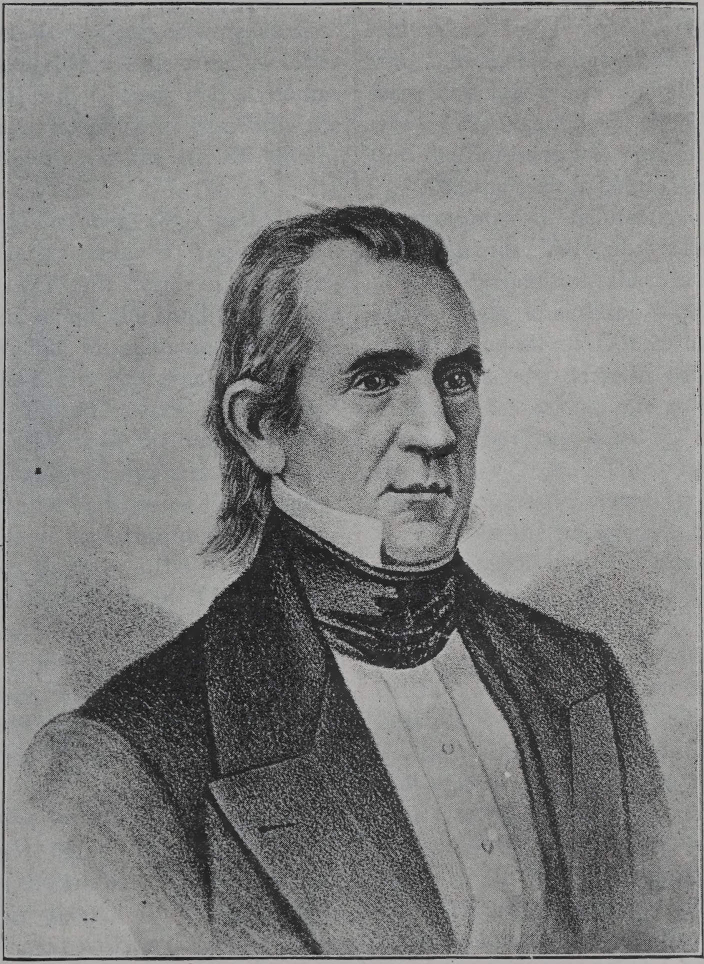
JAMES KNOX POLK, the eleventh president of the United States, was born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., November 2, 1795. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Knox) Polk, the former a son of Col. Thomas Polk, who located at the above place, as one of the first pioneers, in 1735.

In the year 1806, with his wife and children, and soon after followed by most of the members of the Polk family, Samuel Polk emigrated some two or three hundred miles further west, to the rich valley of the Duck river, Tenn. Here, in the midst of the wilderness, in a region which was subsequently called Maury county, they reared their log huts, and established their homes. In the hard toil of a new farm in the wilderness, James K. Polk spent the early years of his childhood and youth. His father, adding the pursuit of a surveyor to that of a farmer, gradually increased in wealth until he became one of the leading men of the region.

Very early in life, James developed a taste for reading and expressed the strongest desire to obtain a liberal education. His mother's training had made him methodical in his habits, had taught him punctuality and industry, and had inspired him with lofty principles of morality. His health was frail; and his father, fearing that he might not be able to endure a sedentary life, got a situation for him behind the counter, hoping to fit him for commercial pursuits. He remained in this uncongenial occupation but a few weeks, when at his earnest solicitation his father removed him, and made arrangements for him to prosecute his studies. Soon after he sent him to Murfreesboro academy. In the autumn of 1815 he entered the sophomore class in the university of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. He graduated in 1818, with the highest honors, being deemed the best scholar of his class, both in mathematics and classics. He was then twenty-three years of age. Mr. Polk's health was at this time much impaired by the assiduity with which he had prosecuted his studies. After a short season of relaxation he went to Nashville, Tenn., and entered the office of Felix Grundy, to study law. Here Mr. Polk renewed his acquaintance with Andrew Jackson, who resided on his plantation, the Hermitage, but a few miles from Nashville.

James K. Polk was a popular public speaker, and was constantly called upon to address the meetings of his party friends. His skill as a speaker was such that he was popularly called the Napoleon of the stump. He was a man of unblemished morals, genial and courteous in his bearing, and with that sympathetic nature in the joys and griefs of others which ever gave him troops of friends. In 1823, Mr. Polk was elected to the legislature of Tennessee. Here he gave his strong influence toward the election of his friend, Mr. Jackson, to the presidency of the United States.

In January, 1824, Mr. Polk married Miss Sarah Childress, of Rutherford county, Tenn. His bride was altogether worthy of him—a lady of beauty and culture. In the fall of 1825, Mr. Polk was chosen a member of congress. The satisfaction which he gave to his constituents may be inferred from the fact, that for fourteen successive years, until 1839, he was continued in that office. He then voluntarily withdrew, only that he might accept the gubernatorial chair of Tennessee. In congress he was a laborious member, a frequent and popular speaker. He was always in his seat,



JAMES K. POLK.

always courteous; and whenever he spoke it was always to the point, and without any ambitious rhetorical display.

During five sessions of congress, Mr. Polk was speaker of the house. Strong passions were aroused, and stormy scenes were witnessed; but Mr. Polk performed his arduous duties to a very general satisfaction, and a unanimous vote of thanks to him was passed by the house as he withdrew on the 4th of March, 1839.

On the 14th of October, 1839, he took the oath of office as governor of Tennessee at Nashville. In 1841, his term of office expired, and he was again the candidate of the democratic party, but was defeated. On the 4th of March, 1845, Mr. Polk was inaugurated president of the United States. The verdict of the country in favor of the annexation of Texas exerted its influence upon congress; and the last act of the administration of President Tyler was to affix his signature to a joint resolution of congress, passed on the 3d of March, approving of the annexation of Texas to the American Union. As Mexico still claimed Texas as one of her provinces, the Mexican minister, Almonte, immediately demanded his passports and left the country, declaring the act of annexation to be an act hostile to Mexico.

In his message, President Polk urged that Texas should immediately, by act of congress, be received into the Union on the same footing with the other states. In the meantime, Gen. Taylor was sent with an army into Texas to hold the country. He was sent first to Nueces, which the Mexicans said was the western boundary of Texas. Then he was sent nearly two hundred miles further west, to the Rio Grande, where he erected batteries which commanded the Mexican city of Matamoras, which was situated on the western banks.

The anticipated collision soon took place, and war was declared against Mexico by President Polk. The war was pushed forward by Mr. Polk's administration with great vigor. Gen. Taylor, whose army was first called one of "observation," then of "occupation," then of "invasion," was sent forward to Monterey. The feeble Mexicans, in every encounter, were hopelessly and awfully slaughtered It was by the ingenuity of Mr. Polk's administration that the war was brought on.

"To the victors belong the spoils." Mexico was prostrate before us. Her capital was in our hands. We now consented to peace upon the condition that Mexico should surrender to us, in addition to Texas, all of New Mexico, and all of Upper and Lower California. This new demand embraced, exclusive of Texas, 800,000 square miles. This was an extent of territory equal to nine states of the size of New York. Thus slavery was securing eighteen majestic states to be added to the Union. In the prosecution of this war we expended 20,000 lives and more than $100,000,000. Of this more than $15,000,000 were paid to Mexico.

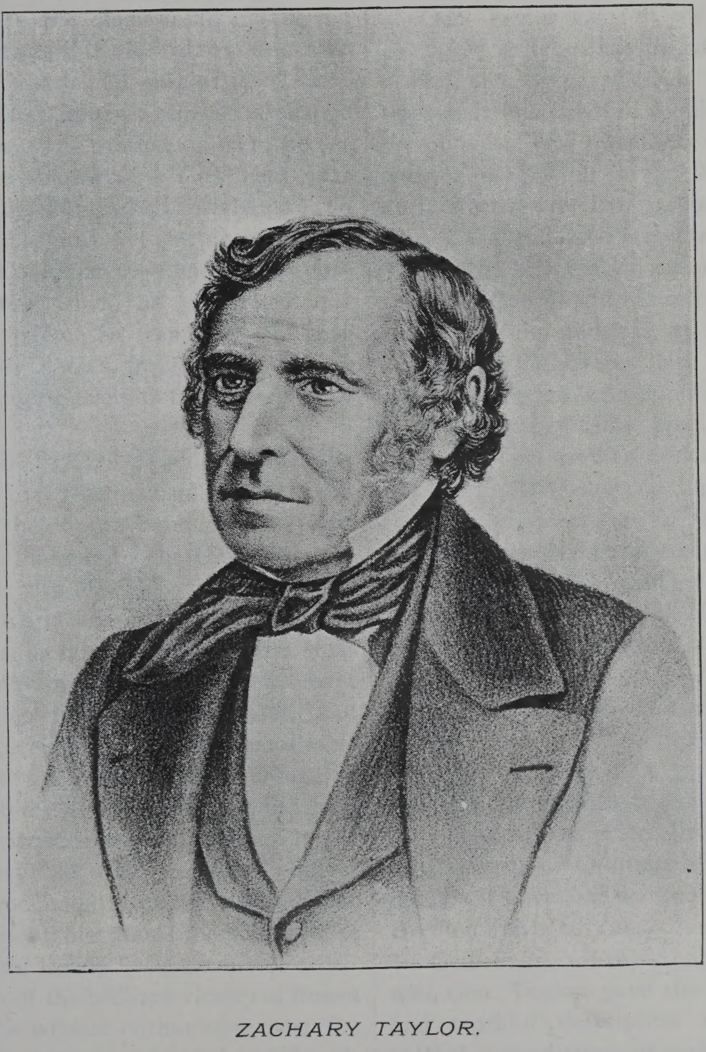
On the 3d of March, 1849, Mr. Polk retired from office, having served one term. The next day was Sunday. On the 5th, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated as his successor. Mr. Polk rode to the capitol in the same carrriage with Gen. Taylor; and the same evening, with Mrs. Polk, he commenced his return to Tennessee. He was then but fifty-four years of age. He had ever been strictly temperate in all his habits and his health was good. With an ample fortune, a choice library, a cultivated mind, and domestic ties of the dearest nature, it seemed as though long years of tranquility and happiness were before him. But the cholera—the awful scourge—was then sweeping up the valley of the Mississippi. This he contracted, and died on the 15th of June, 1849, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

ZACHARY TAYLOR, twelfth president of the United States, was born on the 24th of November, 1784, in Orange county, Va. His father, Colonel Taylor, was a Virginian of note, and a distinguished patriot and soldier of the Revolution. When Zachary was an infant, his father, with his wife and two children, emigrated to Kentucky, where he settled, a few miles from Louisville. In this frontier home young Zachary could enjoy but few social and educational advantages. When six years of age he attended a common school, and was then regarded as a bright, active boy, rather remarkable for bluntness and decision of character. He was strong, fearless and self-reliant, and manifested a strong desire to enter the army to fight the Indians who were ravaging the frontiers.

In 1808, his father succeeded in obtaining for him the commission of lietenant in the United States army; and he joined the troops which were stationed at New Orleans under Gen. Wilkinson. Soon after this he married Miss Margaret Smith, a young lady from one of the first families of Maryland.

Immediately after the declaration of war with England, in 1812, Capt. Taylor (for he had then been promoted to that rank) was put in command of Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about fifty miles above Vincennes. This fort had been built in the wilderness by Gen. Harrison, on his march to Tippecanoe. It was one of the first points of attack by the Indians, led by Tecumseh. Its garrison consisted of a broken company of infantry numbering fifty men, many of whom were sick. Early in the autumn of 1812, the Indians, stealthily, and in large numbers, moved upon the fort. Their approach was first indicated by the murder of two soldiers just outside of the stockade. Capt. Taylor made every possible preparation to meet the anticipated assault. On the 4th of September, a band of forty painted and plumed savages came to the fort, waving a white flag, and informed Capt. Taylor that in the morning their chief would come to have a talk with him. It was evident that their object was merely to ascertain the state of things at the fort, and Capt. Taylor, well versed in the wiles of the savages, kept them at a distance. The sun went down; the savages disappeared, the garrison slept upon their arms. One hour before midnight the war-whoop burst from a thousand lips in the forest around, followed by the discharge of musketry, and the rush of the foe. Every man, sick and well, sprang to his post. Every man knew that defeat was not merely death, but in case of capture, death by the most agonizing and prolonged torture. The savages succeeded in setting fire to one of the blockhouses. Until six o'clock in the morning, this awful conflict continued. The savages then, baffled at every point, and gnashing their teeth with rage, retired. Capt. Taylor, for this gallant defense, was promoted to the rank of major by brevet.

Until the close of the war, Major Taylor was placed in such situations that he saw but little more of active service. He was sent far away into the depths of the wilderness, to Fort Crawford, on Fox river, which empties into Green bay. Gradually he rose to the rank of colonel. In the Black Hawk war, which resulted in the capture of that renowned chieftain, Col. Taylor took a subordinate but a brave and efficient part. For twenty-four years Col. Taylor was engaged in the defense of the frontiers, in scenes so remote, and in employments so obscure, that his name was unknown beyond the limits of his own immediate acquaintance. In the year 1836, he was sent to Florida to compel the Seminole Indians to vacate that region and retire beyond the Mississippi, as their chiefs, by treaty, had



ZACHARY TAYLOR.

promised they should do. The services rendered here secured Col. Taylor the high appreciation of the government; and as a reward, he was elevated to the rank of brigadier-general by brevet; and soon after, in May, 1838, was appointed to the chief command of the United States troops in Florida. After two years of such wearisome employment, Gen. Taylor obtained, at his own request, a change of command, and was stationed over the department of the southwest. This field embraced Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Establishing his headquarters at Fort Jesup, in Louisiana, he removed his family to a plantation which he purchased near Baton Rouge. Here he remained for five years, buried, as it were, from the world, but faithfully discharging every duty imposed upon him.

In 1846 Gen. Taylor was sent to guard the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande, the latter river being the boundary of Texas, which was then claimed by the United States. Soon the war with Mexico was brought on, and at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Gen. Taylor won brilliant victories over the Mexicans. The rank of major-general by brevet was then conferred upon Gen. Taylor, and his name was received with enthusiasm almost everywhere in the nation. Then came the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, in which he won signal victories over forces much larger than he commanded. His careless habits of dress and his unaffected simplicity, secured for Gen. Taylor among his troops the sobriquet of "Old Rough and Ready."

The tidings of the brilliant victory of Buena Vista spread the wildest enthusiasm over the country. The whig party decided to take advantage of this wonderful popularity in bringing forward the unpolished, uncultured, honest soldier as their candidate for the presidency. Gen. Taylor was astonished at the announcement, and for a time would not listen to it; declaring that he was not at all qualified for such an office. So little interest had he taken in politics that, for forty years, he had not cast a vote.

Gen. Taylor was not an eloquent speaker nor a fine writer. His friends took possession of him, and prepared such few communications as it was needful should be presented to the public. The popularity of the successful warrior swept the land. He was triumphantly elected over two opposing candidates—Gen. Cass and ex-Pres. Martin Van Buren. Though he selected an excellent cabinet, the good old man found himself in a very uncongenial position, and was, at times, sorely perplexed and harassed. His mental sufferings were very severe, and probably tended to hasten his death. The proslavery party was pushing its claims with tireless energy; expeditions were fitting out to capture Cuba; California was pleading for admission to the Union, while slavery stood at the door to bar her out. Gen. Taylor found the political conflicts in Washington to be far more trying to the nerves than battles with Mexicans or Indians.

In the midst of all these troubles, Gen. Taylor, after he had occupied the presidential chair but little over a year, took cold, and after a brief sickness, of but litttle over five days, died on the 9th of July, 1850. His last words were; "I am not afraid to die. I am ready. I have endeavored to do my duty." He died universally respected and beloved.

Gen. Scott, who was thoroughly acquainted with Gen. Taylor, gave the following graphic and truthful description of his character: "With a good store of common sense, Gen. Taylor's mind had not been enlarged and refreshed by reading, or much converse with the world. Rigidity of ideas was the consequence. The frontiers and small military posts had been his home. Hence he was quite ignorant for his rank, and quite bigoted in his ignorance. His simplicity was child-like and with innumerable prejudices, amusing and incorrigible, well suited to the tender age. Thus, if a man, however, respectable, chanced to wear a coat of an unusual color, or his hat a little on one side of his head; or an officer to leave a corner of his handkerchief dangling from an outside pocket—in any such case, this critic held the offender to be a coxcomb (perhaps something worse), whom he would not, to use his oft repeated phase, "touch with a pair of tongs."

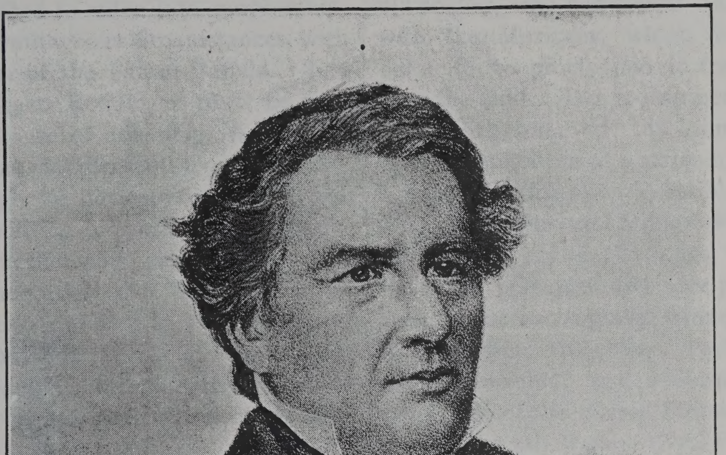
* * *

MILLARD FILLMORE, thirteenth president of the United States, was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga county, N. Y., on the 7th of January, 1800. His father was a farmer, and, owing to misfortune, in humble circumstances. Of his mother, the daughter of Dr. Abiathar Millard, of Pittsfield, Mass., it has been said that she possessed an intellect of very high order, united with much personal loveliness, sweetness of disposition, graceful manners and exquisite sensibilities. She died in 1831; having lived to see her son a young man of distinguished promise, though she was not permitted to witness the high dignity which he finally attained.

In consequence of the secluded home and limited means of his father, Millard enjoyed but slender advantages for education in his early years. The sacred influences of home had taught him to revere the Bible, and had laid the foundations of an upright character. When fourteen years of age his father sent him some hundred miles from home, to the then wilds of Livingston county, to learn the trade of a clothier. Near the mill there was a small village, where some enterprising man had commenced the collection of a village library. This proved an inestimable blessing to young Fillmore. His evenings were spent in reading. Soon every leisure moment was occupied with books. His thirst for knowledge became insatiate, and the selections which he made were continually more elevating and instructive. He read history, biography, oratory, and thus gradually there was enkindled in his heart a desire to be something more than a mere worker with his hands; and he was becoming, almost unknown to himself, a well informed, educated man.

The young clothier had now attained the age of nineteen years, and was of fine personal appearance and of gentlemanly demeanor. It so happened that there was a gentleman in the neighborhood of ample pecuniary means and of benevolence—Judge Walter Wood—who was struck with the prepossessing appearance of young Fillmore. He made his acquaintance, and was so much impressed with his ability and attainments that he advised him to abandon his trade and devote himself to the study of law. The young man replied that he had no means of his own, no friends to help him, and that his previous education had been very imperfect. But Judge Wood had so much confidence in him that he kindly offered to take him into his own office, and to loan him such money as he needed. Most gratefully the generous offer was accepted.

In 1823, when twenty-three years of age, he was admitted to the court of common pleas. He then went to the village of Aurora, and commenced the practice of law. In this secluded, peaceful region, his practice, of course, was limited, and there was no opportunity for a sudden rise in fortune or in fame. Here, in the year 1826, he married a lady of great moral worth, and one capable of adorn-



MILLARD FILLMORE.

ing any station she might be called to fill—Miss Abigail Powers.

His elevation of character, his untiring industry, his legal acquirements, and his skill as an advocate, gradually attracted attention; and he was invited to enter into partnership, under highly advantageous circumstances, with an elder member of the bar in Buffalo. Just before removing to Buffalo, in 1829, he took his seat in the house of assembly, of the state of New York, as a representative from Erie county. Though he had never taken a very active part in politics, his vote and his sympathies were with the whig party. The state was then democratic, and he found himself in a helpless minority in the legislature, still the testimony comes from all parties, that his courtesy, ability, and integrity, won, to a very unusual degree, the respect of his associates.

In the autumn of 1832, he was elected to a seat in the United States congress. He entered that troubled arena in some of the most tumultuous hours of our national history. The great conflict respecting the national bank and the removal of the deposits was then raging.

His term of two years closed, and he returned to his profession, which he pursued with increasing reputation and success. After a lapse of two years he again became a candidate for congress; was re-elected, and took his seat in 1837. His past experience as a representative gave him strength and confidence. The first term of service in congress to any man can be but little more than an introduction. He was now prepared for active duty. Fillmore was now a man of wide repute, and his popularity filled the state, and in the year 1847 he was elected comptroller of the state.

Fillmore had attained the age of forty-seven years. His labors at the bar, in the legislature, in congress, and as comptroller, had given him very considerable fame. The whigs were casting about to find suitable candidates for president and vice president at the approaching election. Far away, on the waters of the Rio Grande, there was a rough old soldier, who had fought successful battles with the Mexicans, which had caused his name to be proclaimed in trumpet-tones all over the land. But it was necessary to associate with him, on the same ticket, some man of reputation as a statesman. Under the influence of these considerations, the names of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore became the rallying cry of the whigs, as their candidates for president and vice president. The whig ticket was signally triumphant. On the 4th of March, 1849, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated president, and Millard Fillmore vice president, of the United States.

On the 9th of July, 1850, Pres. Taylor, but one year and four months after his inauguration, was suddenly taken sick and died. By the constitution, Vice Pres. Fillmore thus became president. He appointed a very able cabinet, of which the illustrious Daniel Webster was secretary of state.

Fillmore had very serious difficulties to contend with, since the opposition had a majorty in both house. He did everything in his power to conciliate the south; but the proslavery party in the south felt the inadequacy of all measures of transient conciliation. The population of the free states was so rapidly increasing over that of the slave states that it was inevitable that the power of the government should soon pass into the hands of the free states. The famous compromise measures were adopted under Fillmore's administration, and the Japan expedition was sent out. On the 4th of March, 1853, Fillmore, having served one term, retired.

In 1856, Fillmore was nominated for the presidency by the "know nothing" party, but was beaten by Mr. Buchanan. After that Fillmore lived in retirement. During the terrible conflict of civil war he was mostly silent. It was generally supposed that his sympathies were rather with those who were endeavoring to overthrow our institutions. He lived to a ripe old age, and died in Buffalo, N. Y., March 8, 1874.

* * *

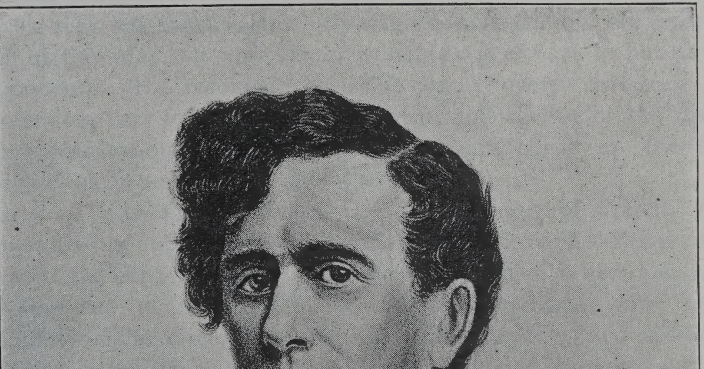
FRANKLIN PIERCE, the fourteenth president of the United States, was born in Hillsborough, N. H., November 23, 1804. Franklin was a very bright and handsome boy, generous, warm-hearted and brave. He won alike the love of old and young. The boys on the play ground loved him. His teachers loved him. The neighbors looked upon him with pride and affection. He was by instinct a gentleman; always speaking kind words, doing kind deeds, with a peculiar unstudied tact which taught him what was agreeable. Without developing any precocity of genius, or any unnatural devotion to books, he was a good scholar; in body, in mind, in affections, a finely developed boy.

When sixteen years of age, in the year 1820, he entered Bowdoin college at Brunswick, Maine. He was one of the most popular young men in the college. The purity of his moral character, the unvarying courtesy of his demeanor, his rank as a scholar, and genial nature, rendered him a universal favorite. There was something very peculiarly winning in his address, and it was evidently not in the slightest degree studied; it was the simple outgushing of his own magnanimous and loving nature.

Upon graduating, in the year 1824, Franklin Pierce commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Woodbury, one of the most distinguished lawyers of the state, and a man of great private worth. The eminent social qualities of the young lawyer, his father's promince as a public man, and the brilliant political career into which Judge Woodbury was entering, all tended to entice Mr. Pierce into the fascinating, yet perilous, path of political life. With all the ardor of his nature he espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson for the presidency. He commenced the practice of law in Hillsborough, and was soon elected to represent the town in the state legislature. Here he served for four years. The last two years he was chosen speaker of the house by a very large vote.

In 1833, at the age of twenty-nine, he was elected a member of congress. Without taking an active part in debates, he was faithful and laborious in duty, and ever rising in the estimation of those with whom he was associated. In 1837, being then but thirty-three years of age, he was elected to the senate of the United States, taking his seat just as Mr. Van Buren commenced his administration. He was the youngest member in the senate. In the year 1834 he married Miss Jane Means Appleton, a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments, and one admirably fitted to adorn every station with which her husband was honored. Of the three sons who were born to them, all now sleep with their parents in the grave.

In the year 1838, Mr. Pierce, with growing fame and increasing business as a lawyer, took up his residence in Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. President Polk, upon his accession to office, appointed Mr. Pierce attorney-general of the United States; but the offer was declined in consequence of numerous professional engagements at home and the precarious state of Mrs. Pierce's health. He also about the same time declined the nomination for governor by the democratic party. The war with Mexico called Mr. Pierce to the army. Receiving the appointment of briga-



FRANKLIN PIERCE.

dier-general, he embarked with a portion of his troops at Newport, R. I., on the 27th of May, 1847. He took an important part in this war, proving himself a brave and true soldier.

When Gen. Pierce reached his home in his native state he was received enthusiastically by the advocates of the Mexican war, and coldly by its opponents. He resumed the practice of his profession, very frequently taking an active part in political questions, giving his cordial support to the pro-slavery wing of the democratic party. The compromise measures met cordially with his approval; and he strenuously advocated the enforcement of the infamous fugitive-slave law, which so shocked the religious sensibilities of the north. He thus became distinguished as a "northern man with southern principles." The strong partisans of slavery in the south consequently regarded him as a man whom they could safely trust in office to carry out their plans.

On the 12th of June, 1852, the democratic convention met in Baltimore to nominate a candidate for the presidency. For four days they continued in session, and in thirty-five ballotings no one had obtained a two-thirds vote. Not a vote thus far had been thrown for Gen. Pierce. Then the Virginia delegation brought forward his name. There were fourteen more ballotings, during which Gen. Pierce constantly gained strength, until, at the forty-ninth ballot, he received 282 votes, and all other candidates eleven. Gen. Winfield Scott was the whig candidate. Gen. Pierce was chosen with great unanimity. Only four states—Vermont, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee—cast their electoral votes against him. Gen. Franklin Pierce was therefore inaugurated president of the United States on the 4th of March, 1853.

His administration proved one of the most stormy our country had ever experienced. The controversy between slavery and freedom was then approaching its culminating point. It became evident that there was an "irrepressible conflict" between them, and that the nation could not long exist "half slave and half free." President Pierce, during the whole of his administration, did everything he could to conciliate the south; but it was all in vain. The conflict every year grew more and more violent, and threats of the dissolution of the Union were borne to the north on every southern breeze.

On the 4th of March, 1857, President Pierce retired to his home in Concord. Of three children, two had died, and his only surviving child had been killed before his eyes by a railroad accident; and his wife, one of the most estimable and accomplished of ladies, was rapidly sinking in consumption. The hour of dreadful gloom soon came, and he was left alone in the world without wife or child.

Such was the condition of affairs when Pres. Pierce approached the close of his four years' term of office. The north had become thoroughly alienated from him. The anti-slavery sentiment, goaded by great outrages, had been rapidly increasing; all the intellectual ability and social worth of Pres. Pierce were forgotten in deep reprehension of his administrative acts. The slaveholders of the south, also, unmindful of the fidelity with which he had advocated those measures of government which they approved, and perhaps, also, feeling that he had rendered himself so unpopular as no longer to be able acceptably to serve them, ungratefully dropped him, and nominated James Buchanan to succeed him.

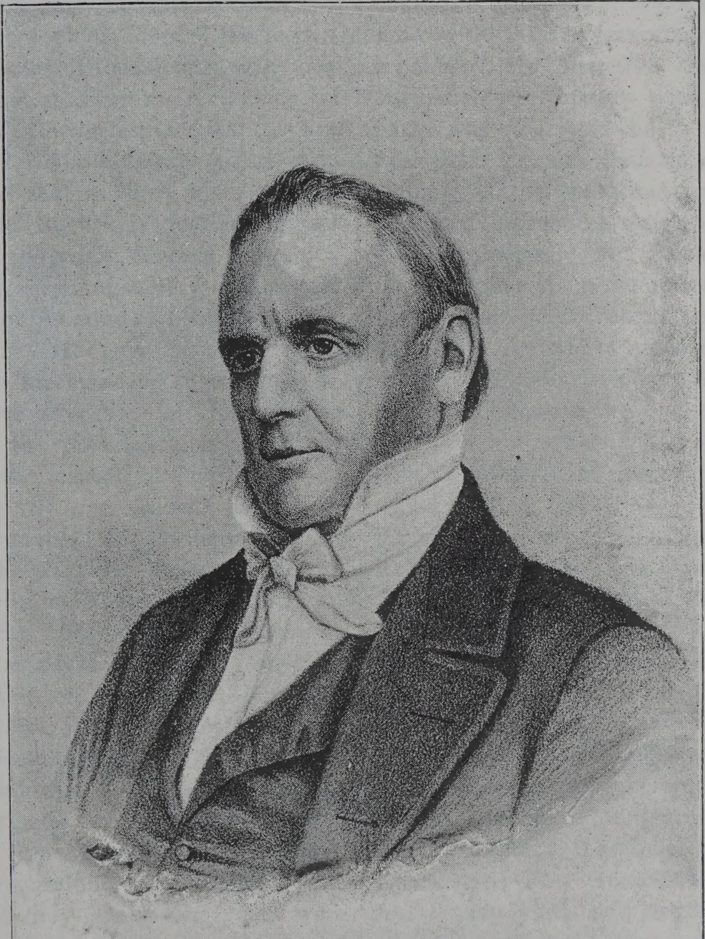
When the terrible rebellion broke forth, which divided our country into two parties, Mr. Pierce remained steadfast in the principles which he had always cherished and gave his sympathies to that pro-slavery party with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by voice or pen, to strengthen the hand of the national government. He continued to reside in Concord until the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1869. He was one of the most genial and social of men, an honored communicant of the Episcopal church, and one of the kindest of neighbors. Generous to a fault, he contributed liberally for the alleviation of suffering and want, and many of his townspeople were often gladdened by his material bounty.

* * *

JAMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth president of the United States, was born in Franklin county, Pa., on the 23d of April, 1791. His father was a native of the north of Ireland; a poor man, who had emigrated in 1783, with little property save his own strong arms. Five years afterward he married Elizabeth Spear, the daughter of a respectable farmer, and, with his young bride, plunged into the wilderness, staked his claim, reared his log hut, opened a clearing with his ax, and settled down to perform his obscure part in the drama of life. In this secluded home, where James was born, he remained for eight years, enjoying but few social or intellectual advantages. When James was eight years of age his father removed to the village of Mercersburg, where his son was placed at school, and commenced a course of study in English, Latin and Greek. His progress was rapid, and at the age of fourteen he entered Dickenson college at Carlisle. Here he developed remarkable talent, and took his stand among the first scholars of the institution. His application to study was intense, and yet his native powers enabled him to master the most abstruse subjects with facility. In the year 1809, he graduated with the highest honors of his class. He was then eighteen years of age; tall and graceful, vigorous in health, fond of athletic sport, an unerring shot, and enlivened with an exuberant flow of animal spirits. He immediately commenced the study of law in the city of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1812, when he was but twenty-one years of age. Very rapidly he rose in his profession, and at once took undisputed stand with the ablest lawyers of the state. When but twenty-six years of age, unaided by counsel, he successfully defended before the state senate one of the judges of the state, who was tried upon articles of impeachment. At the age of thirty it was generally admitted that he stood at the head of the bar.

In 1820 he reluctantly consented to run as a candidate for congress. He was elected, and for ten years he remained a member of the lower house. During the vacations of congress, he occasionally tried some important case. In 1831 he retired altogether from the toils of his profession, having acquired an ample fortune.

Gen. Jackson, upon his elevation to the presidency, appointed Mr. Buchanan minister to Russia. The duties of his mission he performed with ability which gave satisfaction to all parties. Upon his return, in 1833, he was elected to a seat in the United States senate. He there met, as his associates, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advocated the measures proposed by Pres. Jackson, of making reprisals against France, to enforce the payment of our claims against that country; and defended the course of the president in his unprecedented and wholesale removal from office of those who were not supporters of his administration. Upon this question he was brought into direct collision with Henry Clay. He also, with voice and vote, advocated expunging from the journal of the senate the vote of censure against Gen. Jackson for removing the deposits. Earnestly he opposed



JAMES BUCHANAN.

the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and urged the prohibition of the circulation of anti-slavery documents by the United States mail.

Upon Mr. Polk's accession to the presidency, Mr. Buchanan became secretary of state, and as such took his share of the responsibility in the conduct of the Mexican war. Mr. Polk assumed that crossing the Nueces by the American troops into the disputed territory was not wrong, but for the Mexicans to cross the Rio Grande into that territory was a declaration of war. Mr. Buchanan identified himself thoroughly with the party devoted to the perpetuation and extension of slavery, and brought all the energies of his mind to bear against the Wilmot Proviso. He gave his approval of the compromise measures of 1850, which included the fugitive slave law. Mr. Pierce, upon his election to the presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the mission to England.

In the year 1856, a national democratic convention nominated Mr. Buchanan for the presidency. The political conflict was one of the most severe in which our country has ever engaged. All the friends of slavery were on one side; all the advocates of its restriction and final abolition on the other. Mr. Fremont, the candidate of the enemies of slavery, received 114 electoral votes. Mr. Buchanan received 174, and was elected. The popular vote stood 1,341,264 for Fremont, 1,838,160 for Buchanan. On March 4, 1857, Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated. Mr. Buchanan was far advanced in life. Only four years were wanting to fill up his three score years and ten. His own friends—those with whom he had been allied in political principles and action for years—were seeking the destruction of the government, that they might rear upon the ruins of our free institutions a nation whose corner stone should be human slavery. In this emergency, Mr. Buchanan was hopelessly bewildered. He could not, with his long avowed principles, consistently oppose the state-rights party in their assumptions. As president of the United States, bound by his oath faithfully to administer the laws, he could not, without perjury of the grossest kind, unite with those endeavoring to overthrow the republic. He therefore did nothing. Mr. Buchanan's sympathy with the pro-slavery party was such, that he had been willing to offer them far more than they had ventured to claim. All the south had professed to ask of the north was non-interference with the subject of slavery. Mr. Buchanan had been ready to offer them the active co-operation of the government to defend and extend the institution. As the storm increased in violence, the slave holders claiming the right to secede, and Mr. Buchanan avowing that congress had no power to prevent it, one of the most pitiable exhibitions of governmental imbecility was exhibited the world has ever seen. He declared that congress had no power to enforce its laws in any state which had withdrawn, or which was attempting to withdraw from the Union. This was not the doctrine of Andrew Jackson, when, with his hand upon his sword hilt, he exclaimed: "The Union must and shall be preserved."

South Carolina seceded in December, 1860, nearly three months before the inauguration of Pres. Lincoln. Mr. Buchanan looked on in listless despair. The rebel flag was raised in Charleston; Fort Sumter was besieged; our forts, navy yards and arsenals were seized; our depots of military stores were plundered; and our custom houses and post offices were appropriated by the rebels. The energy of the rebels, and the imbecility of our executive, were alike marvelous. The nation looked on in agony, waiting for the slow weeks to glide away and close the administration, so terrible in its weakness. At length the long looked for hour of deliverance came, when Abraham Lincoln was to receive the scepter.

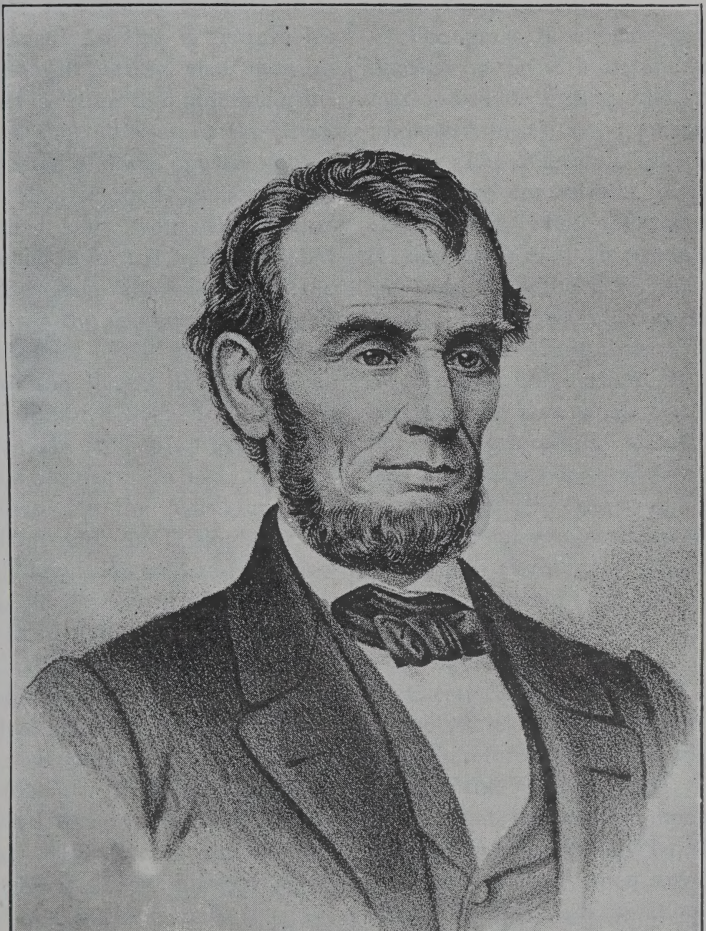
The administration of President Buchanan was certainly the most calamitous our country has experienced. His best friends cannot recall it with pleasure. And still more deplorable it is for his fame, that in that dreadful conflict which rolled its billows of flame and blood over our whole land, no word came from his lips to indicate his wish that our country's banner should triumph over the flag of the rebellion. He died at his Wheatland retreat, June 1, 1868.

* * *

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the sixteeeth president of the United States, was born in Hardin county, Ky., February 12, 1809. About the year 1780, a man by the name of Abraham Lincoln left Virginia with his family and moved into the then wilds of Kentucky. Only two years after this emigration, still a young man, while working one day in a field, he was stealthily approached by an Indian and shot dead. His widow was left in extreme poverty with five little children, three boys and two girls, Thomas, the youngest of the boys, was four years of age at his father's death. This Thomas was the father of Abraham Lincoln, the president of the United States, whose name must henceforth forever be enrolled with the most prominent in the annals of our world.

When twenty-eight years of age Thomas Lincoln built a log cabin of his own, and married Nancy Hanks, the daughter of another family of poor Kentucky emigrants, who had also come from Virginia. Their second child was Abraham Lincoln. The mother of Abraham was a noble woman, gentle, loving, pensive; created to adorn a palace, doomed to toil and pine, and die in a hovel. "All that I am, or hope to be," exclaims the grateful son, "I owe to my angel mother."

When Abraham was eight years of age, his father sold his cabin and farm, and moved to Harrison county, Ind, where two years later his mother died. Abraham soon became the scribe of the uneducated community around him. He could not have had a better school than this to teach him to put thoughts into words. He also became an eager reader. The books he could obtain were few; but these he read and re-read until they were almost committed to memory. As the years rolled on, the lot of this lowly family was the usual lot of humanity. There were joys and griefs, weddings and funerals. Abraham's sister, Sarah, to whom he was tenderly attached, was married when a child of but fourteen years of age, and soon died. The family was gradually scattered. Thomas Lincoln sold out his squatter's claim in 1830, and emigrated to Macon county, Ill. Abraham Lincoln was then twenty-one years of age. With vigorous hands he aided his father in rearing another log cabin. Abraham worked diligently at this until he saw the family comfortably settled, and their small lot of inclosed prairie planted with corn, when he announced to his father his intention to leave home, and to go out into the world and seek his fortune. Little did he or his friends imagine how brilliant that fortune was to be. He saw the value of education and was intensely earnest to improve his mind to the utmost of his power. He saw the ruin which ardent spirits were causing, and became strictly temperate; refusing to allow a drop of intoxicating liquor to pass his lips. And he had read in God's word, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;" and a profane expression he was never heard to utter. Religion he revered. His morals were pure, and he was uncontaminated by a single vice.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Young Abraham worked for a time as a hired laborer among the farmers. Then he went to Springfield, where he was employed in building a large flat-boat. In this he took a herd of swine, floated them down the Sangamon to the Illinois, and thence by the Mississippi to New Orleans. In this adventure his employers were so well pleased, that upon his return they placed a store and mill under his care. In 1832, at the outbreak of the Black Hawk war, he enlisted and was chosen captain of a company. He returned to Sangamon county, and although only twenty-three years of age, was a candidate for the legislature, but was defeated. He soon afterward received from Andrew Jackson the appointment of postmaster of New Salem. His only postoffice was his hat. All the letters he received he carried there ready to deliver to those he chanced to meet. He studied surveying and soon made this his business. In 1834 he again became a candidate for the legislature, and was elected. Mr. Stuart, of Springfield, advised him to study law. He walked from New Salem to Springfield, borrowed of Mr. Stuart a load of books, carried them back and began his legal studies. When the legislature assembled he trudged on foot with his pack on his back 100 miles to Vandalia, then the capital. In 1836 he was re-elected to the legislature. Here it was he first met Stephen A. Douglas. In 1839 he removed to Springfield and began the practice of law. His success with the jury was so great that he was soon engaged in almost every noted case in the circuit.

In 1854 the great discussion began between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas, on the slavery question. In the organization of the republican party in Illinois, in 1856, he took an active part, and at once became one of the leaders in that party. Mr. Lincoln's speeches in opposition to Senator Douglas in the contest in 1858 for a seat in the senate, form a most notable part of his history. The issue was on the slavery question, and he took the broad ground of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal. Mr. Lincoln was defeated in this contest, but won a far higher prize—the presidency.

The great republican convention met at Chicago on the 16th of June, 1860. The delegates and strangers who crowded the city amounted to 25,000. An immense building, called "The Wigwam," was reared to accommodate the convention. There were eleven candidates for whom votes were cast. William H. Seward, a man whose fame as a statesman had long filled the land, was the most prominent. It was generally supposed he would be the nominee. Abraham Lincoln, however, received the nomination on the third ballot. Little did he then dream of the weary years of toil and care, and the bloody death, to which that nomination doomed him; and as little did he dream that he was to render services to his country which would fix upon him the eyes of the whole civilized world, and which would give him a place in the affections of his countrymen, second only, if second, to that of Washington.

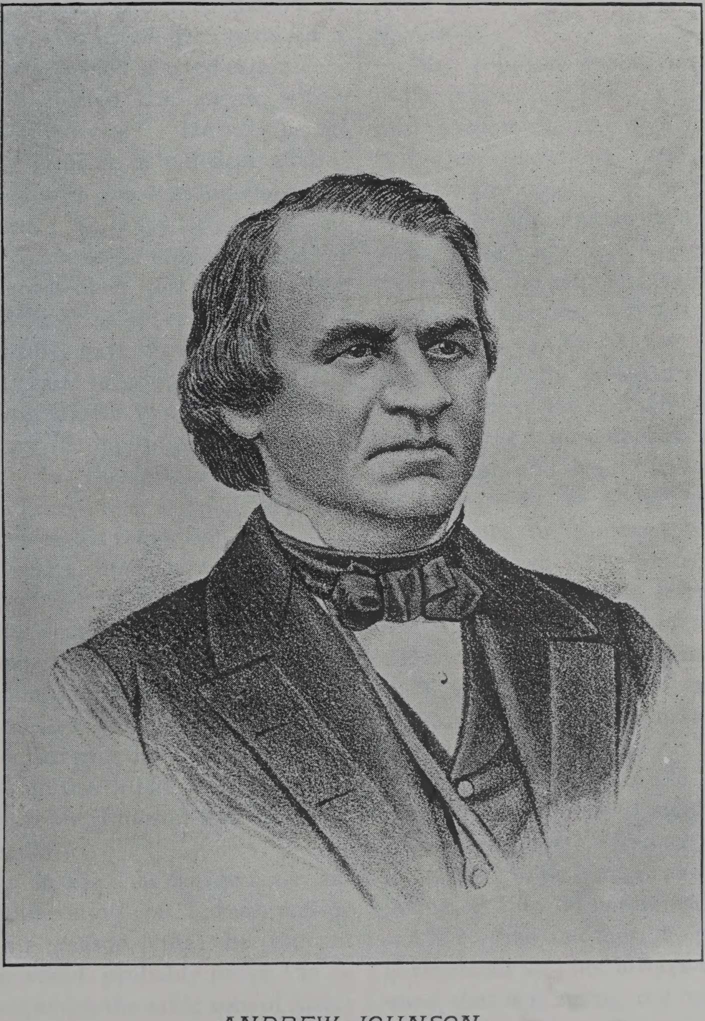
Election day came and Mr. Lincoln received 180 electoral votes out of 203 cast, and was, therefore constitutionally elected president of the United States. The tirade of abuse that was poured upon this good and merciful man, especially by the slaveholders, was greater than upon any other man ever elected to this high position. In February, 1861, Mr. Lincoln started for Washington, stopping in all the large cities on his way, making speeches. The whole journey was fraught with much danger. Many of the southern states had already seceded, and several attempts at assassination were afterward brought to light. A gang in Baltimore had arranged, upon his arrival, to "get up a row," and in the confusion to make sure of his death with revolvers and hand grenades. A detective unraveled the plot. A secret and special train was provided to take him from Harrisburg, through Baltimore, at an unexpected hour of the night. The train started at half-past ten; and to prevent any possible communication on the part of the secessionists with their confederate gang in Baltimore, as soon as the train had started the telegraph wires were cut. Mr. Lincoln reached Washington in safety and was inaugurated, although great anxiety was felt by all loyal people.

In the selection of his cabinet Mr. Lincoln gave to Mr. Seward the department of state, and to other prominent opponents before the convention he gave important positions.

During no other administration have the duties devolving upon the president been so manifold, and the responsibilities so great, as those which fell to the lot of President Lincoln. Knowing this, and feeling his own weakness and inability to meet, and in his own strength to cope with the difficulties, he early learned to seek Divine wisdom and guidance in determining his plans, and Divine comfort in all his trials, both personal and national. Contrary to his own estimate of himself, Mr. Lincoln was one of the most courageous of men. He went directly into the rebel capital just as the retreating foe was leaving, with no guard but a few sailors. From the time he had left Springfield, in 1861, however, plans had been made for his assassination, and he at last fell a victim to one of them. April 14, 1865, he, with General Grant, was urgently invited to attend Ford's theater. It was announced that they would be present. Gen. Grant, however, left the city. Pres. Lincoln, feeling, with his characteristic kindliness of heart, that it would be a disappointment if he should fail them, very reluctantly consented to go. While listening to the play an actor by the name of John Wilkes Booth entered the box where the president and family were seated, and fired a bullet into his brains. He died the next morning at seven o'clock, and now, if never before, the nation was plunged into the deepest mourning, and truly mourned the "country's loss."

* * *

ANDREW JOHNSON, the seventeenth president of the United States, was born December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, N. C. When Andrew was five years of age, his father accidentally lost his life while heroically endeavoring to save a friend from drowning. Until ten years of age, Andrew was a ragged boy about the streets, supported by the labor of his mother, who obtained her living with her own hands. He then, having never attended a school one day, and being unable either to read or write. was apprenticed to a tailor in his native town. A gentleman was in the habit of going to the tailor's shop occasionally and reading to the boys at work there. He often read from the speeches of distinguished British statesmen. Andrew, who was endowed with a mind of more than ordinary native ability, became much interested in these speeches; his ambition was roused, and he was inspired with a strong desire to learn to read. He accordingly applied himself to the alphabet, and, with the assistance of some of his fellow-workmen, learned his letters. He then called upon the gentleman to borrow the book of speeches. The owner, pleased with his zeal, not only gave him the book, but assisted him in learning to combine the letters into words. Under such difficulties he pressed onward laboriously, spending usually ten or twelve hours at work in the shop, and then robbing himself of rest and recreation to devote such time as he could to reading.



ANDREW JOHNSON.

He went to Tennessee in 1826 and located at Greenville, where he married a young lady who possessed some education. Under her instructions he learned to write and cipher. He became prominent in the village debating society, and a favorite with the students of Greenville college. In 1828 he organized a workingman's party, which elected him alderman, and in 1830 elected him mayor, which position he held three years. He now began to take a lively interest in political affairs, identifying himself with the working classes to which he belonged. In 1835 he was elected a member of the house of representatives of Tennessee. He was then just twenty-seven years of age. He became a very active member of the legislature, gave his adhesion to the democratic party, and in 1840 "stumped the state," advocating Martin Van Buren's claims to the presidency in opposition to those of Gen. Harrison. In this campaign he acquired much readiness as a speaker, and extended and increased his reputation.

In 1841 he was elected state senator; in 1843 he was elected a member of congress, and by successive elections held that important post for ten years. In 1853 he was elected governor of Tennessee, and was re-elected in 1855. In all these responsible positions he discharged his duties with distinguished ability and proved himself the friend of the working classes. In 1857 Mr. Johnson was elected a United States senator.

Years before, in 1845, he had warmly advocated the annexation of Texas, stating however, as his reason, that he thought this annexation would probably prove "to be the gateway out of which the sable sons of Africa are to pass from bondage to freedom, and become merged in a population congenial to themselves." In 1850 he also supported the compromise measures, the two essential features of which were, that the white people of the territories should be permitted to decide for themselves whether they would enslave the colored people or not, and that the free states of the north should return to the south persons who attempted to escape from slavery.

Mr. Johnson was never ashamed of his lowly origin; on the contrary he often took pride in avowing that he owed his distinction to his own exertions. "Sir," said he on the floor of the senate, "I do not forget that I am a mechanic; neither do I forget that Adam was a tailor and sewed fig leaves, and that our Savior was the son of a carpenter."

In the Charleston-Baltimore convention of 1860, he was the choice of the Tennessee democrats for the presidency. In 1861, when the purpose of the southern democracy became apparent, he took a decided stand in favor of the Union, and held "slavery must be held subordinate to the Union at whatever cost." He returned to Tennessee, and repeatedly imperiled his own life to protect the Unionists of Tennessee. Tennessee having seceded from the Union, President Lincoln, on March 4, 1862, appointed him military governor of the state, and he established the most stringent military rule. His numerous proclamations attracted wide attention. In 1864 he was elected vice president of the United States, and upon the death of Mr. Lincoln, April 15, 1865, became president. In a speech two days later he said: "The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime and must be punished; that the government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong not only to protect, but to punish. * * The people must understand that it (treason) is the blackest of crimes and will surely be punished." Yet his whole administration, the history of which is so well known, was in utter inconsistency with, and the most violent opposition to, the principles laid down in that speech.

In his loose policy of reconstruction and general amnesty he was opposed by congress; and he characterized congress as a new rebellion, and lawlessly defied it in everything possible to the utmost. In the beginning of 1868, on account of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the principal of which was the removal of Secretary Stanton, in violation of the Tenure of Office act, articles of impeachment were preferred against him, and the trial began March 23.

It was very tedious, continuing for nearly three months. A test article of the impeachment was at length submitted to the court for its action. It was certain that as the court voted upon that article, so would it vote upon all. Thirty-four voices pronounced the president guilty. As a two-thirds vote was necessary to his condemnation, he was pronounced acquitted, notwithstanding the great majority against him. The change of one vote from the not guilty side would have sustained the impeachment.

The president for the remainder of his term was but little regarded. He continued, though impotently, his conflict with congress. His own party did not think it expedient to renominate him for the presidency. The bullet of the assassin introduced him to the president's chair. Notwithstanding this, never was there presented to a man a better opportunity to immortalize his name and win the gratitude of a nation. He failed utterly. He retired to his home in Greenville, Tenn., taking no very active part in politics until 1875. On January 26, after an exciting struggle, he was chosed by the legislature of Tennessee United States senator in the forty-fourth congress; and took his seat in that body at the special session convened by President Grant on the 5th of March. On the 27th of July, 1875, the ex-president made a visit to his daughter's home, near Carter Station, Tenn. When he started on his journey he was apparently in his usual vigorous health, but on reaching the residence of his child the following day was stricken with paralysis, rendering him unconscious. He rallied occasionally, but finally passed away at 2 A. M., July 31, aged sixty-seven years. He was buried at Greenville, on the 3d of August, 1875.

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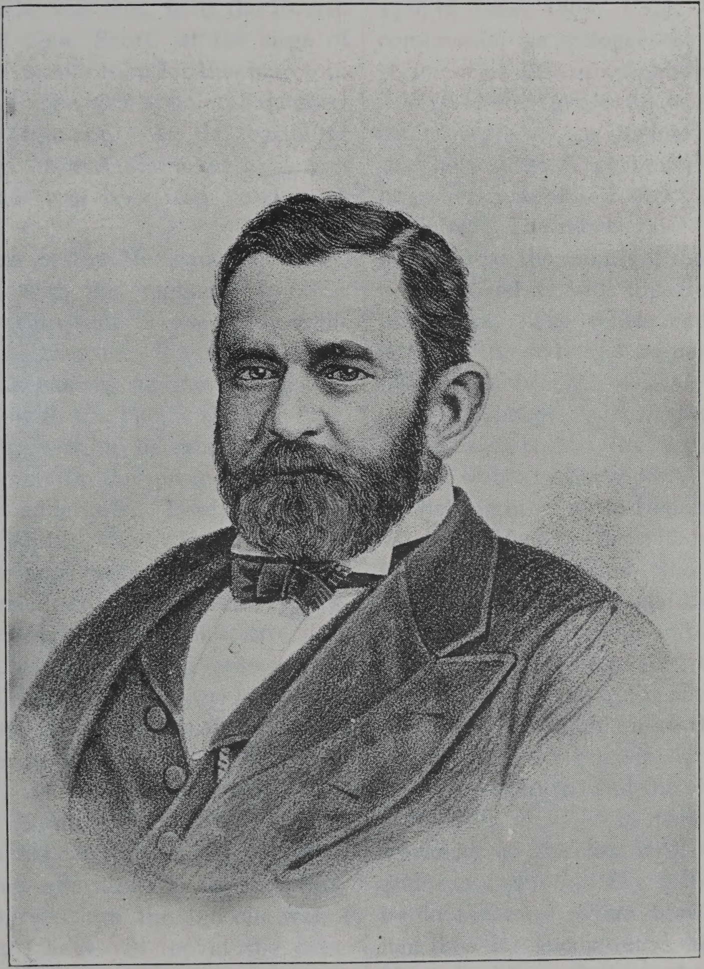
ULYSSES S. GRANT, the eighteenth president of the United States, was born on the 29th of April, 1822, of christian parents, in a humble home, at Point Pleasant, Va., on the banks of the Ohio. Shortly after his father moved to Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio. In this remote frontier hamlet, Ulysses received a common school education. At the age of seventeen, in the year 1839, he entered the Military academy at West Point. Here he was regarded as a solid, sensible young man of fair abillties, and of sturdy, honest character. He took respectable rank as a scholar. In June, 1843, he graduated, about the middle in his class, and was sent as lieutenant of infantry to one of the distant military posts in the Missouri territory. Two years he passed in these dreary solitudes, watching the vagabond and exasperating Indians.

The war with Mexico came. Lieut. Grant was sent with his regiment to Corpus Christi. His first battle was at Palo Alto. There was no chance here for the exhibition of either skill or heroism, nor at Resaca de la Palma, his second battle. At the battle of Monterey, his third engagement, it is said that he performed a signal service of daring and skillful horsemanship. His brigade had exhausted its ammunition. A messenger must be sent for



ULYSSES S. GRANT.

more, along a route exposed to the bullets of the foe. Lieut. Grant, adopting an expedient learned of the Indians, grasped the mane of his horse, and hanging upon one side of the animal, ran the gauntlet in entire safety. From Monterey he was sent, with the Fourth infantry, to aid Gen. Scott, at the siege of Vera Cruz. In preparation for the march to the city of Mexico, he was appointed quartermaster of his regiment. At the battle of Molino del Rey, he was promoted to a first lieutenancy, and was brevetted captain at Chapultepec.

At the close of the Mexican war, Capt. Grant returned with his regiment to New York, and was again sent to one of the military posts on the frontier. The discovery of gold in California causing an immense tide of emigration to flow to the Pacific shores, Capt. Grant was sent, with a battalion, to Fort Dallas, in Oregon, for the protection of the interests of the emigrants. Life was wearisome in those wilds. Capt. Grant resigned his commission and returned to the states; and having married, entered upon the cultivation of a small farm near St. Louis, Mo. He had but little skill as a farmer. Finding his toil not remunerative, he turned to mercantile life, entering into the leather business, with a younger brother at Galena, Ill. This was in the year 1860. As the tidings of the rebels firing on Fort Sumter reached the ears of Capt. Grant in his counting room, he said—"Uncle Sam has educated me for the army; though I have served him through one war, I do not feel that I have yet repaid the debt. I am still ready to discharge my obligations. I shall therefore buckle on my sword and see Uncle Sam through this war, too."

He went into the streets, raised a company of volunteers, and led them, as their captain, to Springfield, the capital of the state, where their services were offered to Gov. Yates. The governor, impressed by the zeal and straightforward executive ability of Capt. Grant, gave him a desk in his office, to assist in the volunteer organization that was being formed in the state in behalf of the government. On the 15th of June, 1861, Capt. Grant received a commission as colonel of the Twenty-first regiment of Illinois volunteers. His merits as a West Point graduate, who had served for fifteen years in the regular army, were such that he was soon promoted to the rank of brigadier general and was placed in command at Cairo. The rebels raised their flag at Paducah, near the mouth of the Tennessee river. Scarcely had its folds appeared ere Gen. Grant was there. The rebels fled. Their banner fell, and the stars and stripes were unfurled in its stead.

At Belmont, a few days later, he surprised and routed the rebels, then at Fort Henry won another victory. Then came the brilliant fight at Fort Donelson. The nation was electrified by the victory, and the brave leader of the boys in blue was immediately made a major general, and the military district of Tennessee was assigned to him.

Like all great captains, Gen. Grant knew well how to secure the results of a victory. He immediately pushed on to the enemy's lines. Then came the terrible battles of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and the siege of Vicksburg, where Gen. Pemberton made an unconditional surrender of the city with over 30,000 men and 172 cannon. The fall of Vicksburg was by far the most severe blow which the rebels had thus far encountered, and opened up the Mississippi from Cario to the gulf.

Gen. Grant was next ordered to co-operate with Gen. Banks in a movement upon Texas, and proceeded to New Orleans, where he was thrown from his horse and received severe injuries, from which he was laid up for months. He then rushed to the aid of Gens. Rosecrans and Thomas at Chattanooga, and by a wonderful series of strategic and technical measures put the Union army in fighting condition. Then followed the bloody battles of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, in which the rebels were routed with great loss. This won for him unbounded praise in the north. On the 4th of February, 1864, congress revived the grade of lieutenant general, and the rank was conferred on Gen. Grant. He repaired to Washington to receive his credentials and enter upon the duties of his new office.

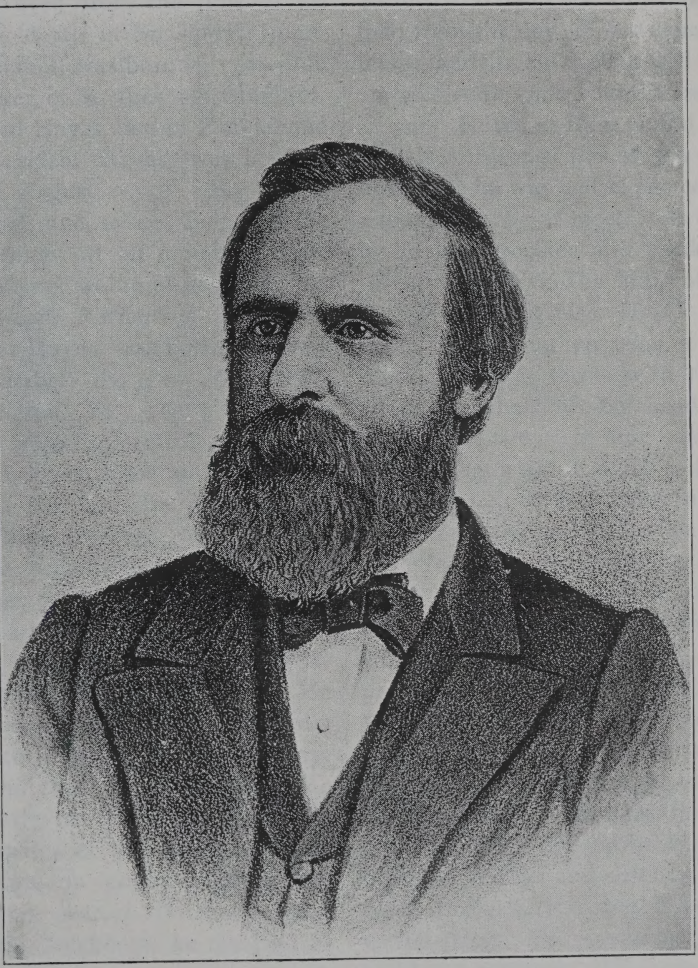
Gen. Grant decided as soon as he took charge of the army to concentrate the widely dispersed national troops for an attack on Richmond, the nominal capital of the rebellion, and endeavor there to destroy the rebel armies which would be promptly assembled from all quarters for its defense. The whole continent seemed to tremble under the tramp of these majestic armies, rushing to the decisive battle-field. Steamers were crowded with troops; railway trains were burdened with closely packed thousands. His plans were comprehensive and involved a series of campaigns, which were executed with remarkable energy and ability, and were consummated at the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865.

The war was ended. The Union was saved. The almost unanimous voice of the nation declared Gen. Grant to be the most prominent instrument in its salvation. The eminent services he had thus rendered the country brought him conspicuously forward as the republican candidate for the presidential chair. At the republican convention held at Chicago, May 21, 1868, he was unanimously nominated for the presidency, and at the autumn election received a majority of the popular vote, and 214 out of 294 electoral votes. The national convention of the republican party which met at Philadelphia on the 5th of June, 1872, placed Gen. Grant in nomination for a second term by a unanimous vote. The selection was emphatically endorsed by the people five months later, 292 electoral votes being cast for him.

Soon after the close of his second term, Gen. Grant started upon his famous trip around the world. He visited almost every country of the civilized world, and was everywhere received with such ovations and demonstrations of respect and honor, private, as well as public and official, as were never before bestowed upon any citizen of the United States.

He was the most prominent candidate before the republican national convention in 1880 for a renomination for president. But he went to New York and embarked in the brokerage business under the firm name of Grant & Ward. The latter proved a villain, wrecked Grant's fortune, and for larceny was sent to the penitentiary. The general was attacked with cancer in the throat, but suffered in his stoic-like manner, never complaining. He was re-instated general of the army and retired by congress. The cancer soon finished its deadly work, and July 23, 1885, the nation went in mourning over the death of the illustrious general.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, the nineteenth president of the United States, was born in Delaware, Ohio, October 4, 1852, almost three months after the death of his father, Rutherford Hayes. His ancestry, an both the paternal and maternal sides, was of the most honorable character. It can be traced, it is said, as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains, fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates, and had a large following.



RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

Misfortune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Conn. His son George was born in Windsor, and remained there during his life. Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived from the time of his marriage until his death in Simsbury, Conn. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Conn. Rutherford Hayes. son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a farmer, blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He emigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro, where he established a hotel. Here his son, Rutherford Hayes, the father of President Hayes, was born. He was married, in September, 1813, to Sophia Birchard, of Wilmington, Vt., whose ancestors emigrated thither from Connecticut, they having been among the wealthiest and best families of Norwich. Her ancestry on the male side are traced back to 1635, to John Birchard, one of the principal founders of Norwich. Both of her grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

The father of President Hayes was an industrious, frugal and open-hearted man. He was of a mechanical turn, and could mend a plow, knit a stocking, or do almost anything else that he chose to undertake. He was a member of the church, active in all the benevolent enterprises of the town, and conducted his business on christian principles. After the close of the war of 1812, for reasons inexplicable to his neighbors, he resolved to emigrate to Ohio.

The journey from Vermont to Ohio in that day, when there were no canals, steamers, nor railways, was a very serious affair. A tour of inspection was first made, occupying four months. Mr. Hayes determined to move to Delaware, where the family arrived in 1817. He died July 22, 1822, a victim of malarial fever, less than three months before the birth of the son, of whom we now write. Mrs. Hayes, in her sore bereavement, found the support she so much needed in her brother, Sardis, who had been a member of the household from the day of its departure from Vermont, and in an orphan girl whom she had adopted some time before as an act of charity.

Mrs. Hayes at this period was very weak, and the subject of this sketch was so feeble at birth that he was not expected to live beyond a month or two at most. As the months went by he grew weaker and weaker, so that the neighbors were in the habit of inquiring from time to time "if Mrs. Hayes' baby died last night." On one occasion a neighbor, who was on familiar terms with the family, after alluding to the boy's big head, and the mother's assiduous care of him, said in a bantering way, "That's right! Stick to him. You have got him along so far, and I shouldn't wonder if he would really come to something yet."

"You need not laugh," said Mrs. Hayes. "You wait and see. You can't tell but I shall make him president of the United States yet." The boy lived in spite of the universal predictions of his speedy death; and when, in 1825, his older brother was drowned, he became, if possible, still dearer to his mother.

The boy was seven years old before he went to school. His education, however, was not neglected. He probably learned as much from his mother and sister as he would have done at school. His sports were almost wholly within doors, his playmates being his sister and her associates. His uncle Sardis Birchard took the deepest interest in his education; and as the boy's health had improved, and he was making good progress in his studies, he proposed to send him to college. His preparation commenced with a tutor at home; but he was afterward sent for one year to a professor in the Wesleyan university, in Middletown, Conn. He entered Kenyon college in 1838, at the age of sixteen, and was graduated at the head of his class in 1842.

Immediately after his graduation he began the study of law in the office of Thomas Sparrow, Esq., in Columbus. Finding his opportunities for study in Columbus somewhat limited, he determined to enter the law school at Cambridge, Mass., where he remained two years. In 1845, after graduating at the law school, he was admitted to the bar at Marietta, Ohio, and shortly afterward went into practice as an attorney-at-law with Ralph P. Buckland, of Fremont. Here he remained three years, acquiring but a limited practice, and apparently unambitious of distinction in his profession.

In 1849 he moved to Cincinnati, where his ambition found a new stimulus. Two events, occurring at this period, had a powerful influence upon his subsequent life. One of these was his marriage with Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Chillicothe; the other was his introduction to the Cincinnati Literary club, a body embracing among its members such men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, Gen. John Pope, Gov. Edward F. Noyes, and many others hardly less distinguished in after life. The marriage was a fortunate one in every respect, as everybody knows. Not one of all the wives of our presidents was more universally admired, reverenced and beloved than was Mrs. Hayes, and no one did more than she to reflect honor upon American womanhood. The Literary club brought Mr. Hayes into constant association with young men of high character and noble aims, and lured him to display the qualities so long hidden by his bashfulness and extreme modesty.

In 1856 he was nominated to the office of judge of the court of common pleas; but he declined to accept the nomination. Two years later, the office of city solicitor becoming vacant, the city council elected him for the unexpired term.

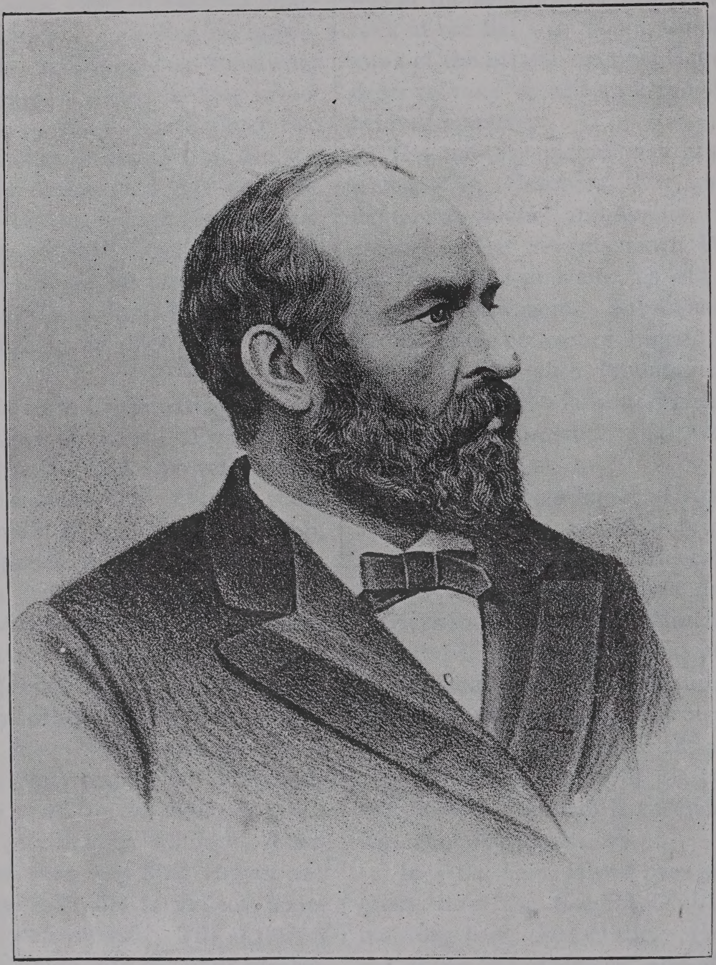
In 1861, when the rebellion broke out, he was at the zenith of his professional life. His rank at the bar was among the first. But the news of the attack on Fort Sumter found him eager to take up arms for the defense of his beloved country.

His military record was bright and illustrious. In October, 1861, he was made lieutenant-colonel, and August, 1862, promoted colonel of the Seventy-ninth Ohio regiment, but he refused to leave his old comrades and go among strangers. Subsequently, however, he was made colonel of his old regiment. At the battle of South Mountain he received a wound, and while faint and bleeding displayed courage and fortitude that won admiration from all.

Col. Hayes was detached from his regiment, after his recovery, to act as brigadier-general, and placed in command of the celebrated Kanawha division, and for gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, he was promoted brigadier-general. He was also brevetted major-general "for gallant and distinguished services during the campaigns of 1864 in West Virginia." In the course of his arduous services four horses were shot from under him, and he was wounded four times.

In 1864, Gen. Hayes was elected to congress, from the Second Ohio district, which had long been democratic. He was not present during the campaign, and after his election was importuned to resign his commission in the army; but he finally declared: "I shall never come to Washington until I can come by the way of Richmond." He was re-elected in 1866.

In 1867, Gen. Hayes was elected governor



JAMES A. GARFIELD.

of Ohio over Hon. Allen G. Thurman, a popular democrat. In 1869 was re-elected over George H. Pendleton. He was elected governor for the third term in 1875.

In 1876 he was the standard-bearer of the republican party in the presidential contest, and, after a hard, long contest, was chosen president, and was inaugurated Monday, March 5, 1875.

He served one full term of four years, then retired to his peaceful home, where he expired January 17, 1893.

* * *

JAMES A. GARFIELD, twentieth president of the United States, was born November 19, 1831, in the woods of Orange, Cuyahoga county, Ohio. His parents were Abram and Eliza (Ballou) Garfield, both of New England ancestry, and from families well known in the early history of that section of our country, but had moved to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, early in its settlement.

The house in which James A. was born was about 20x30 feet, built of logs, with the spaces between the logs filled with clay. His father was a hard-working farmer, and he soon had his fields cleared, an orchard planted, and a log barn built. The household comprised the father and mother and their four children—Mehetabel, Thomas, Mary and James. In May, 1823, the father, from a cold contracted in helping to put out a forest fire, died. At this time James was about eighteen months old, and Thomas about ten years old. He now lives in Michigan, and the two sisters live in Solon, Ohio, near their birth-place.

The early educational advantages young Garfield enjoyed were very limited, yet he made the most of them. He labored at farm work for others, did carpenter work, chopped wood, or did anything that would bring in a few dollars. Nor was Gen. Garfield ever ashamed of his origin, and he never forgot the friends of his struggling childhood, youth and manhood, neither did they ever forget him. When in the highest seats of honor, the humblest friend of his boyhood was as kindly greeted as ever.

The highest ambition of young Garfield until he was about sixteen years old was to be a captain of a vessel on Lake Erie. He was anxious to go aboard a vessel, which his mother strongly opposed. She finally consented to his going to Cleveland, with the understanding, however, that he should try to obtain some other kind of employment. He walked all the way to Cleveland. After making many applications for work, and trying to get aboard a lake vessel, and not meeting with success, he engaged as a driver for his cousin, Amos Letcher, on the Ohio & Pennsylvania canal. He remained at this work but a short time when he went home, and attended the seminary at Chester for about three years, when he entered Hiram and the Eclectic institute, teaching a few terms of school in the meantime, and doing other work. This school was started by the Disciples of Christ in 1850, of which church he was then a member. He became janitor and bell-ringer in order to help pay his way. He then became both teacher and pupil. In the fall of 1854, he entered Williams college, from which he graduated in 1856, taking one of the highest honors of his class. He afterward returned to Hiram college as its president. Dr. Noah Porter, president of Yale college, says of him in reference to his religion:

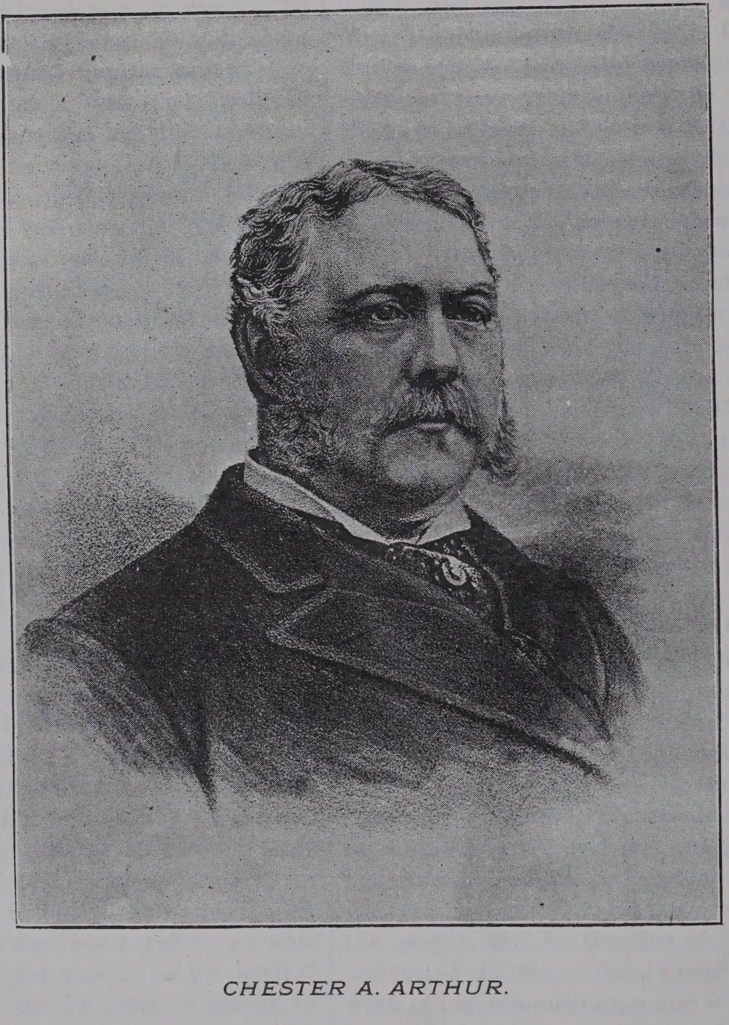
"President Garfield was more than a man of strong moral and religious convictions. His whole history, from boyhood to the last, shows that duty to man and to God, and devotion to Christ and life and faith and spiritual commission were controlling springs of his being, and to a more than usual degree."

Mr. Garfield was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia Rudolph, November 11, 1858, who proved herself worthy as the wife of one whom all the world loved and mourned. To them were born seven children, five of whom are still living, four boys and one girl.

Mr. Garfield made his first political speeches in 1856, in Hiram and the neighboring villages, and three years later he began to speak at county mass meetings, and became the favorite speaker wherever he was. During this year he was elected to the Ohio senate. He also began to study law at Cleveland, and in 1861 was admitted to the bar. The great rebellion broke out in the early part of this year, and Mr. Garfield at once resolved to fight as he had talked, and enlisted to defend the old flag. He received his commission as lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-second regiment of Ohio volunteer infantry, August 14, 1861. He was immediately put into active service, and before he had ever seen a gun fired in action, was placed in command of four regiments of infantry and eight companies of cavalry, charged with the work of driving out of his native state the officer (Humphrey Marshall) reputed to be the ablest of those, not educated to war, whom Kentucky had given to the rebellion. This work was bravely and speedily accomplished, although against great odds. President Lincoln, on his success, commissioned him brigadier general, January 10, 1862; and as "he had been the youngest man in the Ohio senate two years before, so now he was the youngest general in the army." He was with Gen. Buell's army at Shiloh, in its operations around Corinth and its march through Alabama. He was then detailed as a member of the general court-martial for the trial of Fitz-John Porter. He was then ordered to report to Gen. Rosecrans, and was assigned to the chief of staff. The military history of Gen. Garfield closed with his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of the major-general.

Without an effort on his part Gen. Garfield was elected to congress in the fall of 1862 from the Nineteenth district of Ohio. This section of Ohio had been represented in congress for sixty years mainly by two men—Elisha Whittlesey and Joshua R. Giddings. It was not without a struggle that he resigned his place in the army. At the time he entered congress he was the youngest member in that body. Here he remained by successive re-elections until he was elected president in 1880. Of his labors in congress Senator Hoar says: "Since the year 1864 you cannot think of a question which has been debated in congress, or discussed before a tribunal of the American people, in regard to which you will not find, if you wish instruction, the argument on one side stated, in almost every instance, better than by anybody else, in some speech made in the house of representatives or on the hustings by Mr. Garfield."

Upon January 14, 1880, Gen. Garfield was elected to the United States senate, and on the 8th of June, of the same year, was nominated as the candidate of his party for president at the great Chicago convention. He was elected in the following November, and on March 4, 1881, was inaugurated. Probably no administration ever opened its existence under brighter auspices than that of President Garfield, and every day it grew in favor with the people, and by the first of July he had completed all the initiatory and preliminary work of his administration and was preparing to leave the city to meet his friends at Williams college. While on his way and at the depot, in company with Secretary Blaine, a man stepped behind him, drew a revolver, and fired directly at his back. The president



CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

tottered and fell, and as he did so the assassin fired a second shot, the bullet cutting the left coat sleeve of his victim, but inflicting no further injury. For eighty days all during the hot months of July and August, he lingered and suffered. He, however, remained master of himself till the last, and by his magnificent bearing was teaching the country and the world the noblest of human lessons—how to live grandly in the very clutch of death. He passed serenely away September 19, 1881, at Elberon, N. J., on the seashore, where he had been taken shortly previous. The murderer was tried, found guilty and executed, in one year after he committed the foul deed.

* * *

CHESTER A. ARTHUR, twenty-first president of the United States, was born in Franklin county, Vermont, on the fifth of October, 1830, and is the eldest of a family of two sons and five daughters. His father was the Rev. Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, who emigrated to this country from the county Antrim, Ireland, in his eighteenth year, and died in 1875, in Newtonville, near Albany, N. Y., after a long and successful ministry.

Young Arthur was educated at Union college, Schenectady, N. Y., where he excelled in all his studies. After his graduation, he taught school in Vermont for two years, and at the expiration of that time went to New York, with $500 in his pocket, and entered the office of ex-Judge E. D. Culver, as student. After being admited to the bar he formed a partnership with his intimate friend and roommate, Henry D. Gardiner, with the intention of practicing in the west, and for three months they roamed about in the western states in search of an eligible site, but in the end returned to New York, where they entered upon a successful career almost from the start. Gen. Arthur soon afterward married the daughter of Lieut. Herndon, of the United States navy, who was lost at sea. Congress voted a gold medal to his widow in recognition of the bravery he displayed on that occasion. Mrs. Arthur died shortly before Mr. Arthur's nomination to the vice presidency, leaving two children.

Gen. Arthur obtained considerable legal celebrity in his first great case, the famous Lemmon suit, brought to recover possession of eight slaves who had been declared free by Judge Paine, of the superior court of New York city. It was in 1852 that Jonathan Lemmon, of Virginia, went to New York with his slaves, intending to ship them to Texas, when they were discovered and freed. The judge decided that they could not be held by the owner under the Fugitive Slave law. A howl of rage went up from the south, and the Virginia legislature authorized the attorney general of that state to assist in an appeal. William M. Evarts and Chester A. Arthur were employed to represent the people, and they won their case, which then went to the supreme court of the United States. Charles O'Conor here espoused the cause of the slaveholders, but he too, was beaten by Messrs. Evarts and Arthur, and a long step was taken toward the emanicipation of the black race.

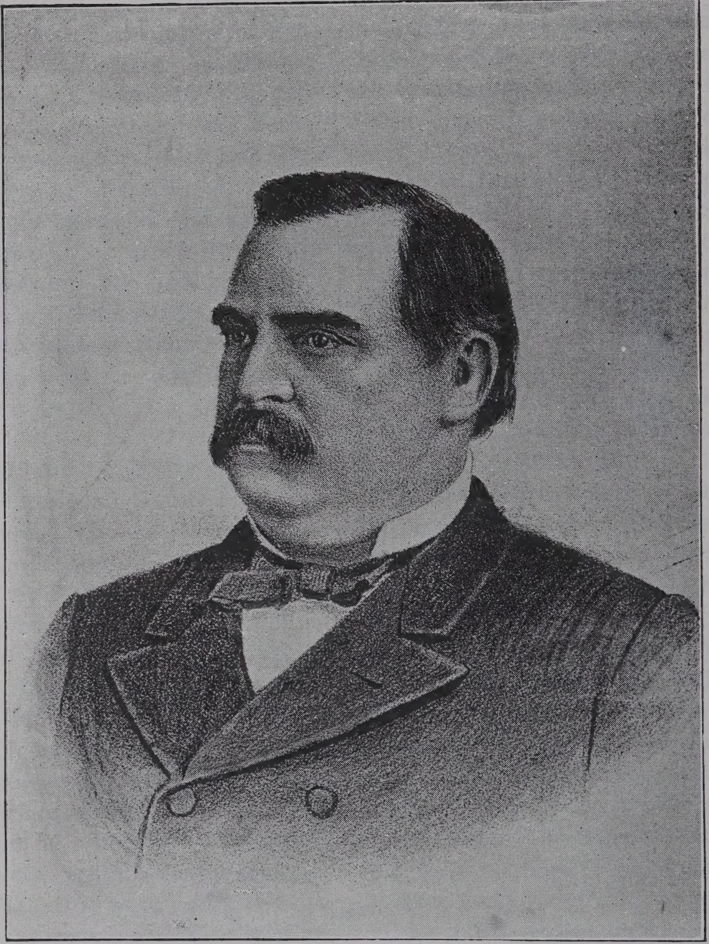
Another great service was rendered by Gen. Arthur in the same cause in 1856. Lizzie Jennings, a respectable colored woman, was put off a Fourth avenue car with violence after she had paid her fare. Gen. Arthur sued on her behalf, and secured a verdict of $500 damages. The next day the company issued an order to admit colored persons to ride on their cars, and the other car companies quickly followed their example. Before that the Sixth avenue company ran a few special cars for colored persons and the other lines refused to let them ride at all.

Gen. Arthur was a delegate to the convention at Saratoga that founded the republican party. Previous to the war he was judge-advocate of the Second brigade of the state of New York, and Governor Morgan, of that state, appointed him engineer-in-chief of his staff. In 1861, he was made inspector general, and soon afterward became quartermaster general. In each of these offices he rendered great service to the government during the war. At the end of Gov. Morgan's term he resumed the practice of the law, forming a partnership with Mr. Ransom, and then Mr. Phelps, the district attorney of New York, was added to the firm. The legal practice of this well known firm was very large and lucrative; each of the gentlemen composing it was an able lawyer, and possessed a splendid local reputation, if not indeed one of national extent.

Arthur was appointed collector of the port of New York by President Grant, November 21, 1872, to succeed Thomas Murphy, and held the office until July 20, 1878, when he was succeeded by Collector Merritt. Mr. Arthur was nominated on the presidential ticket, with Gen. James A. Garfield, at the famous national republican convention held at Chicago in June, 1880. This was perhaps the greatest political convention that ever assembled on the continent. It was composed of the leading politicians of the republican party, all able men, and all stood firm and fought vigorously and with signal tenacity for their respective candidates that were before the convention for the nomination. Finally Gen. Garfield received the nomination for president and Gen. Arthur for vice president. The campaign which followed was one of the most animated known in the history of our country. Gen. Hancock, the standard-bearer of the democratic party, was a popular man, and his party made a valiant fight for his election.

Finally the election came and the country's choice was Garfield and Arthur. They were inaugurated March 4, 1881, as president and vice-president. A few months only had passed ere the newly chosen president was the victim of the assassin's bullet. The remarkable patience that Garfield manifested during those hours and weeks, and even months, of the most terrible suffering man has often been called upon to endure, was seemingly more than human. It was certainly God-like. During all this period of deepest anxiety Mr. Arthur's every move was watched, and be it said to his credit, that his every action displayed only an earnest desire that the suffering Garfield might recover, to serve the remainder of the term he had so auspiciously begun. Not a selfish feeling was manifested in deed or look of this man, even though the most honored position in the world was at any moment likely to fall to him.

At last God in his mercy relieved President Garfield from further suffering. Then it became the duty of the vice president to assume the responsibilities of the high office, and he took the oath in New York, September 20, 1881. The position was an embarrassing one to him, made doubly so from the facts that all eyes were on him, anxious to know what he would do, what policy he would pursue, and whom he would select as advisers. The duties of the office had been greatly neglected during the president's long illness, and many important measures were to be immediately decided by him; and still farther to embarrass him he did not fail to realize under what circumstances he became president, and knew the feelings of many on this point. Under these trying circumstances President Arthur took the reins of the government in his own hands; and as embarrassing as was the condition of afiairs, he happily surprised the nation, actign so wisely that but few criticised his administration. He



STEPHEN GROVER CLEVELAND.

served until the close of his administration, March 4, 1885, and was a popular candidate before his party for a second term. His name was ably presented before the convention at Chicago, and was received with great favor, and doubtless but for the personal popularity of one of the opposing candidates, he would have been selected as the standard-bearer of his party for another campaign. He retired to private life carrying with him the best wishes of the American people, whom he had served in a manner satisfactory to them and with credit to himself. Although not a man of the transcendent ability possessed by the lamented Garfield, Mr. Arthur was able for the emergency he was so unexpectedly called to fill, and was a worthy successor to his chief.

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STEPHEN GROVER CLEVELAND, the twenty-second and twenty-fourth president of the United States, was born in 1837, in the town of Caldwell, Essex county, N. J., and in a little two-and-a-half story white house which is still standing, characteristically to mark the humble birth-place of one of America's great men in striking contrast with the old world, where all men high in office must be high in origin, and born in the cradle of wealth. When three years of age, his father, who was a Presbyterian minister with a large family, and a small salary, moved by the way of the Hudson river and Erie canal to Fayetteville in search of an increased income and a larger field of work. Fayetteville was then the most straggling of country villages, about five miles from Pompey Hill, where Gov. Seymour was born. At the last mentioned place young Grover commenced going to school in the "good old-fashioned way," and presumably distinguished himself after the manner of all village boys in doing the things he ought not to do. Such is the distinguishing trait of all village geniuses and independent thinkers. When he arrived at the age of fourteen years he had outgrown the capacity of the village school and expressed a most emphatic desire to be sent to an academy. To this his father decidedly objected. Academies in those days cost money; besides, his father wanted him to become self-supporting by the quickest possible means, and this at that time in Fayetteville seemed to be a position in a country store, where his father, with the large family on his hands, had considerable influence. Grover was to be paid $50 for his services the first year, and if he proved trustworthy he was to receive $100 the second year. Here the lad commenced his career as a salesman, and in two years he had earned so good a reputation for trustworthiness that his employers desired to retain him longer.

But instead of remaining with this firm in Fayetteville, he went with the family in their removal to Clinton, where he had an opportunity of attending a high school. Here he industriously pursued his studies until the family removed with him to a point on Black river known as the Holland Patent, a village of 500 or 600 people, fifteen miles north of Utica, N. Y. At this place his father died, after preaching but three Sundays. This event broke up the family, and Grover set out for New York city to accept, at a small salary, the position of "under-teacher" in an asylum for the blind. He taught faithfully for two years, and although he obtained a good reputation in this capacity, he concluded that teaching was not his calling for life, and, reversing the traditional order, he left the city to seek his fortune, instead of going to a city. He first thought of going to Cleveland, Ohio, as there was some charm in that name for him; but before proceeding to that place he went to

Buffalo to ask advice of his uncle, Lewis F. Allan, a noted stock breeder of that place. After a long consultation, his uncle offered him a place temporarily as assistant herdkeeper at $50 a year, while he could "look around." One day afterward he boldly walked into the office of Rogers, Bowers & Rogers, of Buffalo, and told them what he wanted. A number of young men were already engaged in the office, but Grover's persistency won, and he was finally permitted to come as an office boy and have the use of the law library for the nominal sum of $3 or $4 a week. Out of this he had to pay for his board and washing. The walk to and from his uncle's was a long and rugged one; and, although the first winter was a memorably severe one, yet he was nevertheless prompt and regular. On the first day of his service there, his senior employer threw down a copy of Blackstone before him with a bang that made the dust fly, saying, "That's where they all begin." A titter ran around the little circle of clerks and students, as they thought that was enough to scare young Grover out of his plans; but in due time he mastered that cumbersome volume. Then, as ever afterward, however, Mr. Cleveland exhibited a talent for executiveness rather than for chasing principles through all their metaphysical possibilities. "Let us quit talking and go and do it," was practically his motto.

The first public office to which Mr. Cleveland was elected was that of sheriff of Erie county, N. Y., in which Buffalo is situated; and in such capacity it fell to his duty to inflict capital punishment upon two criminals. In 1881 he was elected mayor of the city of Buffalo on the democratic ticket, with especial reference to the bringing about certain reforms in the administration of the municipal affairs of that city. In this office, as well as that of sheriff, his performance of duty has generally been considered fair, with possibly a few exceptions, which were ferreted out and magnified during his last presidential campaign. The editorial manager or the New York Sun afterward very highly commended Mr. Cleveland's administration as mayor of Buffalo, and thereupon recommended him for governor of the Empire state. To the latter office he was elected in 1882, and his administration of the affairs of state was generally satisfactory. The mistakes he made, if any, were made very public throughout the nation after he was nominated for president of the United States. For this high office he was nominated July 11, 1884, by the national democratic convention at Chicago, when other competitors were Thomas F. Bayard, Roswell P. Flower, Thomas A. Hendricks, Benjamin F. Butler, Allen G. Thurman, etc.; and he was elected by the people by a majority of about a thousand over the brilliant and long-tried James G. Blaine. President Cleveland resigned his office as governer of New York in January, 1885, in order to prepare for his duties as the chief executive of the United States, in which capacity his term commenced at noon on the 4th of March, 1885.

In November, 1892, Mr. Cleveland was reelected to the presidency by the democratic party, the candidate of the republican party being their ex-chief, Benjamin Harrison, a sketch of whom follows this. The popular vote on this occasion stood: Cleveland, 5,556-562; Harrison, 5,162,874; the electoral vote was 277 for Cleveland, and 145 for Harrison. During the early part of his first administration, Mr. Cleveland was married to Miss Frances Folsom, of Buffalo, N. Y., and in October, 1891, a daughter, Ruth, came to bless the union, and a second daughter, Esther, was born in July, 1893. The first act of Mr. Cleveland, on taking his seat for his second term, was to convene congress in extra session for the purpose of repealing the Sherman silver bill, and accordingly that body met Sep-

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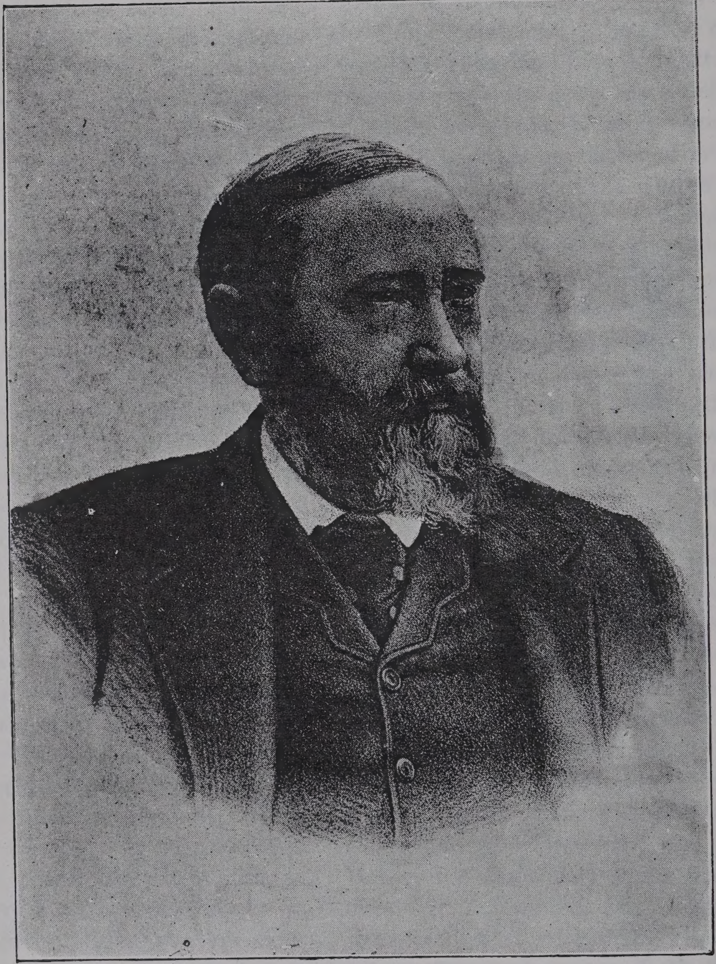
[NOTE.—During the second administration of Mr. Cleveland, a third daughter, Frances Marian, was born.]



BENJAMIN HARRISON.

tember 4, 1893, and both houses being democratic, the bill, in accordance with the recommendation of the president, was unconditionally repealed. The special feature, however, of the second administration of Grover Cleveland was the repeal of the McKinley tariff bill by congress and the substitution of the bill reported by William L. Wilson, of West Virginia, as chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, which bill, being concurred in, with sundry amendments, by the senate, was finally passed and went into effect in the latter part of 1894, materially reducing the duties on imports.

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BENJAMIN HARRISON, the twenty-third president, is the descendant of one of the historical families of this country. The head of the family was a Major General Harrison, one of Oliver Cromwell's trusted followers and fighters. In the zenith of Cromwell's power it became the duty of this Harrison to participate in the trial of Charles I, and afterward to sign the death warrant of the king. He subsequently paid for this with his life, being hung October 13, 1660. His descendants came to America, and the next of the family that appears in history is Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and after whom he was named. Benjamin Harrison was a member of the continental congress during the years 1774-5-6, and was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was three times elected governor of Virginia.

Gen. William Henry Harrison, the son of the distinguished patriot of the Revolution, after a successsul career as a soldier during the war of 1812, and with a clean record as governor of the Northwestern territory, was elected president of the United States in 1840. His career was cut short by death in one month after his inauguration.

President Benjamin Harrison was born at North Bend, Hamilton county, Ohio, August 20, 1833. His life up to the time of his graduation by the Miami university, at Oxford, Ohio, was the uneventful one of a country lad of a family of small means. His father was able to give him a good education, and nothing more. He became engaged while at college to the daughter of Dr. Scott, principal of a female school at Oxford. After graduating, he determined to enter upon the study of the law. He went to Cincinnati and there read law for two years. At the expiration of that time young Harrison received the only inheritance of his life; his aunt, dying, left him a lot valued at $800. He regarded this legacy as a fortune, and decided to get married at once, take this money and go to some eastern town and begin the practice of law. He sold his lot, and with the money in his pocket, he started out with his young wife to fight for a place in the world. He decided to go to Indianapolis, which was even at that time a town of promise. He met with slight encouragement at first, making scarcely anything the first year. He worked diligently, applying himself closely to his calling, built up an extensive practice and took a leading rank in the legal profession. He is the father of two children.

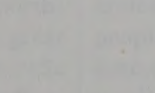
In 1860 Mr. Harrison was nominated for the position of supreme court reporter, and then began his experience as a stump speaker. He canvassed the state thoroughly, and was elected by a handsome majority. In 1862 he raised the Seventeenth Indiana infantry, and was chosen its colonel. His regiment was composed of the rawest of material, but Col. Harrison employed all his time at first mastering military tactics and drilling his men; when he therefore came to move toward the east with Sherman his regiment was one of the best drilled and organized in the army. At Resaca he especially distinguished himself, and for his bravery at Peachtree Creek he was made a brigadier general, Gen. Hooker speaking of him in the most complimentary terms.

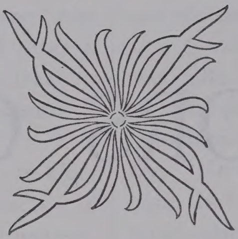
During the absence of Gen. Harrison in the field the supreme court declared the office of the supreme court reporter vacant, and another person was elected to the position. From the time of leaving Indiana with his regiment until the fall of 1864 he had taken no leave of absence, but having been nominated that year for the same office, he got a thirty-day leave of absence, and during that time made a brilliant canvass of the state, and was elected for another term. He then started to rejoin Sherman, but on the way was stricken down with scarlet fever, and after a most trying siege made his way to the front in time to participate in the closing incidents of the war.

In 1868 Gen. Harrison declined a re-election as reporter, and resumed the practice of law. In 1876 he was a candidate for governor. Although defeated, the brilliant campaign he made won for him a national reputation, and he was much sought, especially in the east, to make speeches. In 1880, as usual, he took an active part in the campaign, and was elected to the United States senate. Here he served six years, and was known as one of the ablest men, best lawyers and strongest debaters in that body. With the expiration of his senatorial term he returned to the practice of his profession, becoming the head of one of the strongest firms in the state of Indiana.

The political campaign of 1888 was one of the most memorable in the history of our country. The convention, which assembled in Chicago in June and named Mr. Harrison as the chief standard bearer of the republican party, was great in every particular, and on this account, and the attitude it assumed upon the vital questions of the day, chief among which was the tariff, awoke a deep interest in the campaign throughout the nation. Shortly after the nomination delegations began to visit Mr. Harrison at Indianapolis, his home. This movement became popular, and from all sections of the country societies, clubs and delegations journeyed thither to pay their respects to the distinguished statesman. The popularity of these was greatly increased on account of the remarkable speeches made by Mr. Harrison. He spoke daily all through the summer and autumn to these visiting delegations, and so varied, masterly and eloquent were his speeches that they at once placed him in the foremost rank of American orators and statesmen. On account of his eloquence as a speaker and his power as a debater, he was called upon at an uncommonly early age to take part in the discussion of the great questions that then began to agitate the country. He was an uncompromising anti-slavery man, and was matched against some of the most eminent democratic speakers of his state. No man who felt the touch of his blade desired to be pitted with him again. With all his eloquence as an orator he never spoke for oratorical effect, but his words always went like bullets to the mark. He is purely American in his ideas and is a splendid type of the American statesman. Gifted with quick perception, a logical mind and a ready tongue, he is one of the most distinguished impromptu speakers in the nation. Original in thought, precise in logic, terse in statement, yet withal faultless in eloquence, he is recognized as the sound statesman and brilliant orator of the day. His term of office as president of the United States expired on March 4, 1893, when he surrendered the high position to Stephen Grover Cleveland, allusion to which fact is made on a preceding page.

# GOVERNORS OF OHIO.





# GOVERNORS OF OHIO.

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR, one of the most noted characters of our early colonial days, was a native of Scotland, being born at Edinburg in 1735. Becoming a surgeon in the British army, he subsequently crossed the Atlantic with his regiment and thenceforward was identified with the history of this country until the day of his death. Serving as a lieutenant with Wolfe in the memorable campaign against Quebec, St. Clair won sufficient reputation to obtain appointment as commander of Fort Ligonier, Pa., where a large tract of land was granted to him. During the Revolutionary war he espoused the colonial cause, and before its close had risen to the rank of major-general. In 1875 he was elected a delegate to the Continental congress and afterward became its president. After the passage of the ordinance of 1787, St. Clair was appointed first military governor of the Northwest territory, which then embraced the territory now comprised within the boundaries of the present state of Ohio, with headquarters at Fort Washington, now Cincinnati. In 1791 he undertook an expedition against the northwestern Indians, which resulted in the great disaster known in western history as "St Clair's defeat." On November 4 the Indians surprised and routed his whole force of about 1,400 regulars and militia, in what is now Darke county, Ohio, killing over 900 men and capturing his artillery and camp equipage. Gen. St. Clair held the office of territorial governor until 1802, when he was removed by President Jefferson. He returned to Ligonier, Pa., poor, aged and infirm. The state granted him an annuity which enabled him to pass the last years of his life in comfort. He died near Greensburgh, Pa., August 31, 1818, leaving a family of one son and three daughters.

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CHARLES WILLING BYRD, who was secretary of the Northwest territory, and who succeeded Gov. St. Clair as governor, on the removal of the latter from office, was born in Virginia, received a liberal education and settled in Ohio. While it is not practicable to find fully authentic material for a full biography of Gov. Byrd, it may be of interest to recite briefly the reasons for the removal of Gov. St. Clair, which are of course the reasons for Mr. Byrd becoming governor of the territory. St. Clair's government was very unpopular, and when the people became desirous of forming a state government in 1801, and found themselves unable to secure a majority of the legislature, they sent Thomas Worthington to congress to obtain if possible a law under which a convention could be called to consider the expediency of forming a state, and framing a constitution therefor. This convention met in Chillicothe in November, 1802, voted to form a state government and adopted a constitution, all this notwithstanding the fact that the territory did not then contain the 60,000 inhabitants required at that time.

But this was a small difficulty compared with the prohibition in the ordinance of 1787 against slavery in the territory of the northwest. This clause tended to prevent immigration to Ohio from Virginia and other southern states; and the attempt was made to so frame a constitution for the new state that slavery in a somewhat modified form could be established. When this clause was proposed it was discovered by the opponents of slavery that on the morrow there would be a majority of one in its favor, and thus, if it were adopted, the curse of slavery would be fixed upon the state. Judge Ephraim Cutler, of Washington county, a delegate to the convention, and a son of one of the principal framers of the ordinance of 1787, was lying sick in bed, when this situation was revealed, and Gen. Putnam, hastening to his bedside, urged him to reach the convention hall at the earliest practicable moment the next morning. Judge Cutler having next day reached the hall, made an impassioned appeal to the delegates in opposition to the proposed action of the convention, and won over the one delegate necessary to save the state from the blighting curse of slavery.

Gov. St. Clair and his friends looked upon the convention as little short of revolutionary, the governor taking strong grounds against the formation of a state government, before the convention began the labors of the day. Their utter disregard of this advice filled him with irritation, and in the bitterness of his heart he declared, in the hearing of unfriendly listeners, that he no longer had confidence in republican institutions, and that in his opinion, without some stronger form of government, anarchy seemed inevitable. These remarks were quickly reported to President Thomas Jefferson, who immediately removed St. Clair from his office, and the secretary of the territory, Charles W. Byrd, became acting governor, serving until the state government was formed under the constitution, which, as framed by the convention, was declared by that convention, without having been submitted to the people for their ratification, to be the fundamental law of the land. After the expiration of his brief term as governor of the Northwest territory, Gov. Byrd was appointed by President Jefferson United States judge for the district of Ohio.

EDWARD TIFFIN, first governor of Ohio upon the organization of the state, in 1803, was a native of England, born in the city of Carlisle on the 19th day of June, 1766. After coming to the United States he studied medicine, located at Charlestown, W. Va., in 1784, and in 1789 received his degree from the university of Pennsylvania. In the year last named he was united in marriage with Mary Worthington, sister of Gov. Thomas Worthington, and in 1790 united with the Methodist church, of which he soon afterward became a local preacher. In 1796 Mr. Tiffin settled at Chillicothe, Ohio, where he preached and practiced medicine, and was instrumental in organizing a number of local congregations in that part of the state. The same year he was elected to the legislature of the Northwest territory, became speaker of that body, and in 1802 was chosen president of the convention that formed the state constitution. He proved to be a potential factor in political affairs, and in 1803 was elected first governor of the state under the constitution. He was re-elected in 1805, and proved a most capable chief executive, but resigned in 1807 to become United States senator, having been elected to the latter body as successor to his brother-in-law, Hon. Thomas Worthington. Gov. Tiffin's senatorial career was cut short on account of the death of his wife, by reason of which he resigned in March, 1809, and for a time lived a retired life. Subsequently he married again, and afterward was elected to the lower house of the state legislature, in which he served two terms as speaker.

At the expiration of his legislative experience, Gov. Tiffin resumed the practice of medicine at Chillicothe, and in 1812 was appointed by President Madison commissioner of the general land office, having been the first person to fill that position. On assuming his official functions he removed to the national capital and organized the system that has obtained in the land office until the present time; in 1814 he was instrumental in having the papers of his office removed to Virginia, thus saving them from destruction when the public buildings in Washington were burned by the British. Becoming dissatisfied with residing in Washington and wishing to return west, Gov. Tiffin succeeded in exchanging his position for that of surveyor of public lands northwest of the Ohio river, held by Josiah Meigs, the change being sanctioned by the president and senate, and he discharged the duties of the latter position until July, 1829, receiving while on his deathbed an order from President Jackson to deliver the office to a successor. During his long period of public service, Gov. Tiffin maintained most scrupulously his ministerial relations, and preached the gospel whenever occasion would admit. He was on familiar terms with Gen. Washington, who always spoke of him in terms of praise, and he will always be remembered as one of the leading spirits in the formative period of Ohio's history. His death occurred at Chillicothe on the 9th day of August, 1829.

THOMAS KIRKER, who succeeded Edward Tiffin as governor of Ohio, is one of the few governors of the state of whom but little can be learned. In 1807 there was a remarkable contest for the governorship of the state. The two opposing candidates were Return Jonathan Meigs and Nathaniel Massie. The former received a majority of the votes, and therefore, so far as the people were concerned, was elected governor of the state. The general assembly, however, declared him to be ineligible to the office, on the ground that he was not a resident of the state, and as Mr. Massie had not received a sufficient number of votes, he had not been elected governor, and the election was therefore entirely void. Hon. Thomas Kirker bing then speaker of the state senate, became acting governor by virtue of his office as speaker, when Gov. Edward Tiffin resigned his office in order to take his seat in the United States senate. Gov. Kirker remained in the office of governor until after the election, in 1808, of Samuel Huntington, who had been elected by the people. At the time of serving as governor he was a resident of Adams county, and he served in the general assembly of the state for twenty-five years.

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SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, the second governor elected by the people of Ohio, was born at Norwich, Conn., in 1765, and graduated at Yale college in 1785. He adopted the profession of law, in 1795 married a lady of his own name, and attended strictly to the duties of his profession in the town of his birth until the year 1800, when he resolved to visit that western country which was then attracting to it so many residents of the New England states. First stopping at Youngstown, Ohio, he from there went to Marietta, where he spent the summer, and in the fall of that year returned to Norwich. The following spring, taking his wife and children in an Ohio wagon (then so called), they arrived, after weeks of toilsome travel, at Cleveland, then a settlement of doubtful name as a healthy abode, as they found that many who had preceded them had vacated the cabins they had first built and had removed to the higher ground back of the town to escape the sickness so prevalent near the lake. He erected a strongly-built house, as attacks by drunken and riotous Indians were not uncommon. Mr. Huntington soon entered upon public life. Gen. Saint Clair appointed him second in command of a regiment of Trumbull county militia, and he was shortly afterward elevated to the position of presiding judge in the first court in that part of the territory. In 1802 he was a member of the constitutional convention, and by that body appointed state senator from Trumbull county, the name then borne by the territory now known as the northeastern portion of the state and which at present is divided into six counties. For some time he was speaker or president of the state senate, and by the legislature elected to a seat on the supreme bench. When Michigan was organized as a territory Judge Huntington was offered the position of judge of the district court of that territory, but this he declined, as well as other important offices which were pressed upon him. The prevailing unhealthiness of Cleveland finally induced him to remove his residence to Newburg, where he erected a grist-milll, then a very important construction and advantageous to the settlers. In 1809 he purchased a mill, located on the eastern shore of Grand river, between Painesville and the lake, and erected a mansion—commodious, and, for those days, rather imposing in its style of architecture. This house remains to attest by its position the good taste of him who built it. A conflict of authority arose between the legislative and judicial departments of the state while Judge Huntington was on the supreme bench. The legislature passed a law conferring certain rights upon justices of the peace which the judges of the supreme court declared to be unconstitutional. Thereupon the whole house filed articles of impeachment against the judges, but in the midst of this confusion the people of Ohio had elected Judge Huntington governor of the state. He, having resigned, was therefore not brought to trial, and it being impossible to obtain two-thirds of the legislative vote against the other two judges, they consequently escaped conviction. Nothing of particular moment occurred the term he held office, but his prominence prevented his retiring to private life. In 1812 he was, during the second war with Great Britain, a member of the Ohio legislature. The destruction of life and property by the Indians during that year was such that Gov. Huntington, having with Gen. Cass visited Washington to represent to the authorities there the condition of affairs in Ohio, was appointed district paymaster, with the rank of colonel, and returned to the camp of Gen. Harrison with a supply of funds in the shape of government drafts. He remained for many months in the army and until peace was declared, when he returned to his home, where he subsequently lived peacefully until 1817, during which year he died a comparatively young man, being but fifty-two years old. His character for strict integrity, great executive ability and accomplished scholarship was second to that of no other governor.

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RETURN JONATHAN MEIGS, who succeeded Samuel Huntington in the gubernatorial chair, was born in Middletown, Conn., in March, 1765, the son of Return J. Meigs, a distinguished American soldier, whose name is inseparably connected with the war of American independence. Gov. Meigs was graduated from Yale college in 1785, after which he studied law and began the practice of the same at Marietta, Ohio, at which place his father had previously settled. He entered the army at the breaking out of the Indian war, and was sent on a commission to the British commander at Detroit, by Gen. St. Clair, in 1790, and later took part in a number of battles with the savages. He rose rapidly in his profession and in 1803-4 was chief justice of the Ohio supreme court; later he had charge of the Saint Charles circuit in Louisiana until 1806, with the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel in the United States army, being also judge of the supreme court of said district during the years of 1805 and 1806. Mr. Meigs was further honored, in 1807, by being appointed judge of the United States district court of Michigan, in which capacity he continued until 1808, when he was elected to the United States senate from Ohio. The honorable distinction acquired by Mr. Meigs as a jurist was not dimmed by his senatorial experience, and his record in the national legislature is replete with duty ably and conscientiously performed. He served in the senate from January, 1809, till May, 1810.

In October, 1807, Mr. Meigs was the democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, and after the election, which went in his favor by a decided majority, his competitor, Nathaniel Massie, contested the same on the ground that Meigs had not been a resident of the state for the four years next preceding the election, as provided by the constitution. The general assembly, in joint convention, decided that Meigs was not entitled to the office, but it does not appear that his competitor was allowed to assume the same; Thomas Kirker, acting governor, continued to discharge the duties of the office until December, 1808, when Samuel Huntington was inaugurated as his immediate successor.

In 1810 Mr. Meigs was again a candidate for governor, and at the ensuing election was victorious, defeating his competitor by a large majority. He was triumphantly re-elected in 1812 and filled the office with distinguished ability during the trying years of the last war with England, his services in behalf of the national government throughout that struggle being far greater than those of any other governor, and of such a patriotic character as to elicit the warmest praise from the president and others high in authority. He assisted in the organization of the state militia, garrisoned the forts on the border, thus securing safety to the exposed settlements, and did much toward strengthening the army under Gen. Harrison. Near the expiration of his gubernatorial term, in 1814, Gov. Meigs resigned to accept the appointment of postmaster-general in the cabinet of President Madison, to fill the place made vacant by the death of Gideon Granger; he continued in office under President Monroe until 1823, in December of which year he retired from active life and spent the remainder of his days at his home in Marietta, dying March 29, 1825.

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OTHNIEL LOOKER, the fourth governor of Ohio, was born in the state of New York in 1757. He was a private soldier in the Revolutionary war, going into the army from his native state, and serving through the war. He was a man of humble origin and a farmer most of his life. In 1784, having received a land warrant for his services during the war of the Revolution, he crossed the Alleghany mountains, and located his land in what was then the wilderness of the territory northwest of the Ohio river. within the limits of the future state of the same name. Upon this grant he erected his cabin and began the labor of clearing his farm, as did other pioneers of his day. Upon the organization of the state he was elected a member of the lower house of the general assembly, and by increasing his knowledge and acquaintanceship with the people of the new state, he so rose in popular favor and esteem as to be elected to the senate. Of this body he eventually became president, and by virtue of holding this office, when Gov. Return J. Meigs resigned, in 1814, to accept the position of postmaster-general in the cabinet of President Madison, became governor of Ohio. He served eight months, and afterward was a candidate before the people for election to the office of govenor, but was defeated by his opponent, Thomas Worthington. Mr. Looker afterward returned to his farm, where he lived respected by all for his unusual intelligence, his clear logical mind, and his pleasing disposition. But little else is known of Gov. Looker, except that he died unmarried.

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THOMAS WORTHINGTON, fourth elected governor of Ohio, was born near Charlestown, Va., July 16, 1773. He received a liberal education, but when a young man went to sea and continued before the mast for three years—from 1790 to 1793. In 1797 he became a resident of Ross county, Ohio, served as a member of the territorial legislature in 1799–1801, and was chosen delegate to the state constitutional convention in the year 1802. He was elected to the United States senate as a democrat immediately after the adoption of the state constitution and served in that body from October 17, 1803, till March 7, 1807; was again chosen to fill the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Return J. Meigs, Jr., and served from January 8, 1811, until his resignation in 1814. Mr. Worthington was elected governor of Ohio in 1814 and served till 1818—having been chosen his own successor in 1816. After the expiration of his second gubernatorial term Gov. Worthington became canal commissioner, which position he held till his death. He was a public-spirited man and to him is the great commonwealth not a little indebted for much of its development and prosperity.

To Gov. Worthington belongs the unique distinction of being the only Ohio governor ever arrested and started to jail for debt. In 1815 or 1816, Gov. Worthington contracted with Judge Jarvis Pike to grub and chop the timber off the present state-house square. The governor was a non-resident of Franklin county, residing at Chillicothe. Some misunderstanding arose as to the payment of Judge Pike for his labors, whereupon he sued a capias from the court of Squire King, and had the governor arrested and marched off to jail. He was not locked up, however, the matter having been amicably adjusted. Gov. Worthington departed this life in the city of New York, June 20, 1827.

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ETHAN ALLEN BROWN, seventh governor and the fifth elected by the people of Ohio, was born on the shores of Long Island Sound in Fairfield county, Conn., July 4, 1766, and died at Indianapolis, Ind., February 24, 1852. His father, Roger Brown, was an intelligent farmer of wealth, who, to secure the advantages of a liberal education for his children, employed a teacher of good ability to instruct them at home. Under such tuition Ethan's quickness of apprehension and extraordinary memory enabled him to acquire a knowledge of the Latin, Greek and French languages not inferior to that of most college graduates of the present day. Having determined to adopt the profession of a lawyer, he then procured the necessary books and began the study of law at home, at the same time assisting in the labors of his father's farm. After thus acquiring some legal knowledge he went to New York city and entered the law office of Alexander Hamilton, who, as a lawyer and statesman, had achieved at that time a national reputation. Here he soon won the esteem and friendship of Mr. Hamilton, while also he was brought into contact with others of the ablest men of the day, and, mingling with the most refined and cultivated society of the city, his mind was developed and stimulated and he acquired the elegance and polish of manners for which he was remarkable in after-life. Diverted from the study of law at this time, he engaged in business, by which he obtained very considerable property, but subsequently he again entered upon his neglected study, and in 1802 he was admitted to practice. Then, urged by love of adventure and a desire to see the principal portion of that state which, in that year, had qualified for admission into the Union, he, with a cousin, Capt. John Brown, started on horseback and followed the Indian trails from east to west through middle and western Pennsylvania until they reached Brownsville on the Monongahela river. Having brought a considerable sum of money with them they here purchased two flat-bottomed boats, loaded them with flour, and placing crews upon them started for New Orleans, which city they reached in safety, but not being able to sell their cargoes to advantage they shipped the flour to Liverpool, England, and took passage themselves in the same vessel. Having disposed of their flour at good prices, they returned to America, landing at Baltimore the same year. Then his father, wishing to secure a large tract of western land, eventually to make it his home, he empowered his son to select and purchase the same, which he proceeded to do, locating it near the present town of Rising Sun, Ind., that locality having attracted his attention on his flat-boat trip to New Orleans. Hither his father removed from Connecticut, in 1814, when that part of the Northwest territory which subsequently became Indiana was canvassing delegates to hold a territorial convention.

Ten years subsequently, however, and after securing the land mentioned, Ethan Allen Brown began the practice of law in Cincinnati, where he soon took a prominent position in the profession and secured a large income for his professional services. In 1810 he was chosen by the Ohio legislature a judge of the supreme court of the state, a position he held with distinguished ability during the eight following years, and in 1818 was elected governor of the state. His administration is marked for the prosecution and completion of important internal improvements, among the chief of which may be mentioned that important work, the "Ohio canal," and which was nicknamed "Brown's Folly." In 1820 he was re-elected, and in 1821 elected to the United States senate and served one term with distinction. In 1830 he was appointed minister to Brazil, remaining in that country four years and giving general satisfaction, when he resigned and came home. A few months later, at the urgent request of President Andrew Jackson, he accepted the position of commissioner of public lands, held the office two years, and then retired finally from public life. Gov. Brown never married, and the close of his life was spent among his relatives at Rising Sun. After reaching the age of eighty-two years, with not more than a week's sickness during all the years of his long life, he died suddenly while attending a democratic convention at Indianapolis, and was buried at Rising Sun, near the grave of his venerated father, leaving an enduring record of a useful and well-spent life.

ALLEN TRIMBLE, who filled out the unexpired term of Ethan Allen Brown as governor of Ohio, and also served as governor by election from 1827 to 1830, was born in Augusta county, Va., March 24, 1783. He was the son of Capt. James Trimble, who removed in 1784 to Lexington, Ky., and who died in that state about the year 1804. Later Allen Trimble came to Ohio, settling in the county of Highland, where he served in various official positions, including those of clerk of the courts and recording secretary, filling the last two offices for a period of about seven years. He took part in the war of 1812 as commander of a regiment of mounted troops under Gen. William Henry Harrison, and in 1816 was chosen a member of the state legislature. Subsequently, from 1817 to 1826, he served as state senator, and was also speaker of the house for several terms. In 1821 he was appointed governor, and, as already stated, was elected to the office in 1826, and discharged the duties of the position in an eminently satisfactory manner until 1830. In 1846, Gov. Trimble was chosen president of the state board of agriculture, being the first man honored with that office, and served as such until 1848. While governor he was untiring in promoting the cause of education in Ohio, and the present excellent public school system is indebted to him for much of its efficiency; he also encouraged manufacturing and did much toward improving the penal institutions of the state. Politically Gov. Trimble was a federalist; his death occurred at Hillsborough, Ohio, February 2, 1870.

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JEREMIAH MORROW, sixth governor elected under the state constitution, was born in Gettysburg, Pa., October 6, 1771. In early manhood he removed to the Northwest territory and in 1802 was chosen delegate to the convention that framed the constitution of Ohio. Politically he was an ardent democrat, and in 1803 was elected a representative in the congress of the United States, in which body he served for a period of ten years. He did much toward promoting legislation in behalf of the western section of the United States, and for some time was chairman of the committee on public lands. In 1814 he was commissioner to treat with the Indians west of the Miami river, and from 1813 till 1819 served with distinction in the United States senate. In 1822 Mr. Morrow was elected governor of Ohio and served as such until 1826, having been re-elected in 1824. From 1826 to 1828 he was state senator, later became canal commissioner, and for some time served as president of the Little Miami Railroad company. In 1841 he was again elected to represent his district in the national house of representatives, in which capacity he served a single term. Gov. Morrow left the impress of his character on the commonwealth and his is among the many illustrious names which have given Ohio so prominent a position among her sister states; his death occurred in the county of Warren, on the 22nd day of March, 1852.

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DUNCAN McARTHUR, distinguished as a soldier and statesman, and governor of Ohio from 1831 to 1832, was a native of the state of New York, born in the county of Dutchess, on the 14th day of June, 1772. When he was a mere lad his parents emigrated to the western part of Pennsylvania, and at the age of eighteen he volunteered in Gen. Harmar's expedition against the Miami Indians, in which he distinguished himself by many acts of bravery. Subsequently he acted as scout in the warfare with the Indians in Ohio and Kentucky, and after the cessation of hostilities, in 1794, settled near Chillicothe, Ohio, where he became the possessor of large tracts of real estate. For some years after settling in Ohio Gov. McArthur followed the profession of civil engineer, later he became interested in political matters and in 1805 was elected to the lower house of the Ohio legislature. In 1808 he was appointed major-general of the territorial militia, and at the beginning of the war of 1812 was commissioned colonel of the First Ohio volunteers. He was second in command at Detroit, when that ill-fated post was surrendered to the British by Gen. Hull, and it is stated that so great was his chagrin and anger at the capitulation that he tore off his epaulettes and broke his sword in a fit of indignation. Gov. McArthur was commissioned brigadier-general in 1813, and upon the resignation of Gen. William Henry Harrison the year following, he succeeded to the command of the western army. He planned the conquest of Canada, crossed the Saint Clair river in 1814 with a strong force, and after considerable manuvering returned to Detroit by way of Saint Thomas, and discharged his force at Sandwich the latter part of the aforesaid year. In the meantime, 1813, he had been elected by the democrats to a seat in the congress of the United States, but declined to leave the army, remaining with the command until honorably discharged June 15, 1815. On leaving the army Gov. McArthur was returned to the state legislature, and during the years 1816-17 served as commissioner to negotiate treaties with the Indians, by which their lands in Ohio were ceded to the general government in 1818. From 1817 to 1819 he was again a member of the lower house of the legislature, of which he was made speaker, and in 1822 was elected to congress on the democratic ticket and served as a member of that body from December 1, 1823, till March, 1825. In 1830 he was elected governor of Ohio, which position he filled very acceptably for one term, and in 1832 was again a candidate for congress, but lost the election by a single ballot.

The record of Gov. McArthur, both military and civil, is without a blemish, and he will ever be remembered as one of the leading soldiers and officers of the great commonwealth of Ohio. While governor he suffered severe injuries from an accident, and never entirely recovered from the effects of the same. He died near Chillicothe, on the 28th day of April, 1839.

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ROBERT LUCAS, the immediate successor of Duncan McArthur, was born in Shepherdstown, Va., April 1, 1781, and was a direct descendant of William Penn, the founder of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His father bore a distinguished part in the war of the Revolution, serving thoughout that struggle as captain in the American army, and was a trusted friend of Gen. Washington. Robert Lucas spent his youthful years in his native state, and about the beginning of the present century removed to Ohio, where in due time he became major-general of the state militia. Subsequently he was commissioned captain in the Ninteenth United States infantry, and in February, 1813, became lieutenant-colonel of the same, serving as such until June of the same year, when he resigned. Immediately after leaving the government service Mr. Lucas was made brigadier-general of Ohio militia, and as such served from July, 1813, till the following September, in defense of the frontier. In 1814 he was elected to the Ohio legislature, in the deliberations of which he took a prominent part, and in 1832 presided over the democratic national convention which nominated Andrew Jackson for a second term. In 1832 General Lucas was elected governor of Ohio, was re-elected in

1834, and in 1838 was made first territorial governor of Iowa, at which time the now state of that name was erected into a territory, including Minnesota and the Dakotas, and December 28, 1846, as a state. He was a man of marked ability, possessing great energy, and was noted as a man of strong impulses and strict integrity. He died February 7, 1853, in Iowa City, at the advanced age of nearly seventy-two years.

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JOSEPH VANCE, governor of Ohio for one term, 1837–38, was a native of Pennsylvania, born March 21, 1781, in the county of Washington, of Scotch-Irish descent. While quite young he was taken by his parents to Kentucky, where he grew to manhood, after which he removed to Ohio, locating at Urbana, where he became a successful merchant and married Miss Mary Lemen, of that city. Subsequently he turned his attention to farming and stock raising, in which he also met with success and financial profit, in the meantime becoming conversant with public affairs. Gov. Vance, becoming quite popular, was elected to and served in the legislature in 1812–16, and in 1822 was elected to the congress of the United States, in which he served by successive re-elections until March, 1835. Originally Gov. Vance was a democrat, and as such was elected to the aforesaid offices, but later he became a whig, which party sent him to congress in 1842. He served through two terms, during one of them as chairman of the committee on claims. In the meantime, 1836, he was elected governor, and as chief executive of the commonwealth his record will compare favorably with those of his illustrious predecessors and successors. He was a delegate to the whig national convention of 1848, and while attending the constitutional convention of 1850 was stricken with paralysis, from which he suffered extremely until his death, August 24, 1852, near the city of Urbana.

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WILSON SHANNON, the eleventh governor of Ohio whom the people elected, was born February 24, 1803, in Belmont county, and was the first white child born in Mount Olivet township, that county. He was also the first governor of Ohio who was a native of the state. His parents crossed the Alleghany mountains from Pennsylvania and settled in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1802. In January of the next year the father of the future governor, whose name was George Shannon, and who had settled on a farm, upon his arrival in that county went out hunting. Late in the day, while returning home, he lost his way, became bewildered and wandered round and round, finally sitting down by a large maple tree and freezing to death. His tracks were plainly visible next morning in the deep snow that had fallen during the night.

Upon the farm his father had selected young Wilson Shannon was reared. When fifteen years old he attended the Ohio university at Athens, remaining one year, and for two years afterward was a student at the Transylvania university at Lexington, Ky. Returning home, he began the study of law in the office of Charles Hammond and David Jennings, completing his studies with them in Saint Clairsville, which town became the county seat. There he practiced for eight years. In 1832 he was the democratic nominee for congress, but was defeated by a small majority. In 1834 he was elected prosecuting attorney, and was so assiduous in the performance of his duties that his party elected him governor of the state in 1838 by a majority of 3,600. At the close of his first term he was again a candidate, but was defeated by his opponent, Thomas Corwin, the whig candidate, who was opposed to slavery, while Gov. Shannon, together with the entire democratic party, favored it. The most remarkable thing about this election was that the democratic candidate for president carried the state by about 25,000 majority. Gov. Shannon then returned to Belmont county to the practice of the law. In 1842 he was again elected governor of the state over Gov. Corwin, both of whom during the campaign had thoroughly canvassed the entire state, as they had done in 1840.

In the spring of 1843 President Tyler offered Gov. Shannon the appointment of minister to Mexico, which he accepted, resigning his governorship and going to the city of Mexico, where he remained two years, when he was compelled to return home, because Mexico, on account of difficulties between the two countries over the annexation of Texas to the Union, severed all diplomatic relations with the United States. After being then engaged for several years in the practice of the law, Gov. Shannon was elected to congress by a majority of 1,300. In congress, by the manner in which he performed his duties, he attracted the attention of President Pierce, and was appointed territorial governor of Kansas, the most difficult position he had tried to fill. The contest on the soil of Kansas was more bitter and persistent than anywhere in the country, both pro-slavery and anti-slavery partisans being determined to carry out their own views in that state. It was therefore impossible for any man to preserve peace within her borders, especially as the weight of the administration at Washington was in favor of the pro-slavery party. Shannon, therefore, after fourteen months as governor in Kansas, was superseded by John W. Geary, who gave but little better satisfaction than had Gov. Shannon. The following year Gov. Shannon removed his family to Lecompton, Kans., the capital, and began the practice of the law in that turbulent state. His reputation soon gained for him a very large and profitable practice, as there was much litigation under the pre-emption laws of the United States.

When Kansas was admitted to the Union, Topeka became the capital, Lecompton rapidly declined, and Gov. Shannon removed his office and residence to Lawrence, where he resided until his death, highly regarded by all who knew him as having been a faithful public servant, and as a most conscientious man. His death occurred in September, 1877.

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THOMAS CORWIN, the twelfth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Bourbon county, Ky., July 29, 1794. In 1798 his father, Matthias Corwin, who subsequently became a judge, removed to what afterward became Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, and there, in a log school-house, taught by a school teacher named Dunlevy, young Corwin obtained what was then considered a thorough English education. When he was seventeen years old he drove a wagon-load of provisions for the army to the headquarters of Gen. Harrison, and this event had a potential influence upon his subsequent career. In 1817, after having studied law one year, he was admitted to practice, and in March, 1818, was elected prosecuting attorney of his county. In 1822 he was elected to the legislature, having become by this time a well-read lawyer and a fluent speaker. Returning to his law practice he was again elected prosecuting attorney. In 1829 he was again elected to the Ohio legislature, and the following year to congress on the whig ticket. By subsequent re-elections he was kept in congress for ten years. In 1840 he was elected governor of Ohio, serving one term. In 1845 he was elected to the United States senate, and discharged his duties there with great ability and faithfulness until 1850. It is on his attitude while in this body that his memory will be perpetuated to posterity, for he showed the greatest courage imaginable, and took the true ground in reference to the war with Mexico, which is now generally recognized as a wholly unnecessary and unwarranted war, begun without proper authority from congress, and solely for the purpose of conquest, in order that slavery might be extended into free territory. His speech against that war was bold, patriotic and high-toned, and it is probable that had he subsequently been consistent in the attitude he then assumed his party would have made him its candidate for the presidency in 1852, but he became an advocate of the Wilmot proviso, which by many is believed to have sealed his political career, so far as national promotion is concerned. For his action, however, in connection with this proviso, he was appointed, by President Fillmore, secretary of the United States treasury, a position which he held until 1852, when he resigned, and returned to private life among the hills of Warren county.

Not long afterward he opened a law office in Cincinnati, and was again elected to congress in 1858 and 1860. By President Lincoln he was appointed minister to Mexico, and on April 11, 1861, he embarked for Vera Cruz, whence he went to the city of Mexico, where he served his country efficiently until the close of the war, returning to the United States in April, 1865, opening a law office in Washington, D. C., but had no more than settled down to practice there than he was stricken with apoplexy, and died after an illness of three days.

While he was in congress he never rose to speak unless he had something to say; hence he always commanded the attention of that branch in which he was serving. His greatness in oratory is beyond question, his patriotism no one ever doubted, and in his private life, from boyhood until his death, every one recognized the integrity and purity of his character, which, during his whole public career, took on the form of the highest sense of honor, and through which he always maintained his reputation among his countrymen.

November 13, 1822, he married Miss Sarah Ross, a sister of Hon. Thomas R. Ross, who served three terms in congress. By his marriage he had no children, so that he left nothing to his country but his labor therefor and his great and his everlasting fame.

THOMAS WELLES BARTLEY, who succeeded Gov. Wilson Shannon as governor of Ohio, upon that gentleman's resignation, as mentioned in his life above inserted, was born February 11, 1812, at the home of his parents, in Jefferson county, Ohio. His ancestry emigrated from Northumberland county, England, in 1724, and settled in Londoun county, Va., but subsequently removed to Fayette county, Pa., where his father, Mordecai Bartley, was born. His mother was Elizabeth Welles, and Gov. Bartley was named Thomas Welles, from her father, Thomas Welles, of Brownsville, Pa. Having received a liberal education under his father's care and guidance, and having graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts from Washington & Jefferson college, a Presbyterian institution of learning located at Washington Pa., and founded in 1802, Mr. Bartley studied law in Washington, D. C., and was licensed to practice at Mansfield, Ohio, in 1834. The following year he had conferred upon him by his alma mater the honorary degree of master of arts. Having taken a high position at the bar he was elected attorney-general of Ohio and served as such four years; being afterward appointed United States district attorney, he served in that position also four years. Subsequently he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly of the state, served therein one term, and was then elected to the state senate, in which he served four years. While president of the senate of Ohio, in 1844, he became governor of the state, through the resignation of Gov. Shannon, who had been appointed, by President Tyler, minister to Mexico, and he administered the affairs of the office until he was succeeded therein by his father, Mordecai Bartley, in December of that year.

In 1851 he was elected judge of the supreme court of the state, served two terms in this high position, and then resumed the practice of the law, in Cincinnati, continuing there, thus engaged, for several years, when, owing to the ill health of his family, he removed, in 1869, to Washington, D. C., where he followed his profession until his death.

Gov. Bartley was a sound attorney, a faithful public official, a wise judge and a most courteous gentleman, and his removal to the capital of the nation placed him in a field where he enjoyed full scope for the exercise of his powers, untrammeled by local politics, for in that city, where the people have no vote, politics does not enter into their business and their profession as it does elsewhere in the United States. Gov. Bartley is well remembered by many of the leading men of the state.

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MORDECAI BARTLEY, who succeeded his son Thomas W. Bartley as governor, was born in Fayette county, Pa., December 16, 1783. He was reared to manhood on his father's farm, attended school at intervals during his minority, and in 1809 moved to Ohio. He tendered his services to the government in the war of 1812, served as captain and adjutant under Gen. William Henry Harrison, and on leaving the army settled, in 1814, in Richland county, where he remained until his removal to the city of Mansfield in 1834. For some years Mr. Bartley was engaged in mercantile pursuits in Mansfield, but previous to locating there, had served as a member of the Ohio state senate, to which he was elected in 1817. In 1818 he was chosen, by the legislature, registrar of the land office of Virginia Military school-lands, which position he held until 1823, when he resigned in order to take his seat in the congress of the United States, to which he had been elected in the meantime. He served in congress until March, 1831, and in 1844 was elected, on the whig ticket, governor of the state, the functions of which office he discharged in a very creditable manner until 1846, declining a renomination and retiring to private life. After the nomination by the whigs for governor of Mordecai Bartley, the democrats in their convention, in the same year, came within one or two votes of placing his son Thomas once again in the field as his opponent. Gov. Bartley was very decided in his opposition to the Mexican war, but when the president issued a call for troops, he promptly responded and superintended the organization of the Ohio forces in person. Politically Gov. Bartley affiliated with the whigs until the disruption of that party, after which he espoused the cause of the republican party. He died in the city of Mansfield October 10, 1770.

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WILLIAM BEBB, lawyer and judge, the fourteenth governor elected by the people of Ohio, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1804, and died at his home in Rock River county, Ill., October 23, 1873. His father emigrated from Wales, Great Britian, in 1795, and first located in the Keystone state. Traveling across the mountains to the valley of the Miami on foot, he purchased in the neighborhood of North Bend an extensive tract of land, returned to Pennsylvania and married Miss Robert, to whom he had been engaged in Wales, and, with his bride, riding in a suitable conveyance, again crossed the mountains and settled on his land in what was then but a wilderness. He was a man of sound judgment, and, in common with many of his countrymen, of a joyous and ever hopeful disposition. His wife was a lady of culture and refinement, and her home in the valley of the Miami, with few neighbors except the wild, unshorn, and half-naked savages, was a great change from her previous life. There were of course no schools there to send her children to, and this was a matter of grave concern to the parents of our subject, who was in consequence taught to read at home. In those years the Western Spy, then published in Cincinnati, and distributed by a private post-rider, was taken by his father, and William read with avidity its contents, especially the achievements of Napoleon Bonaparte. His education advanced no further until a peripatetic schoolmaster, passing that way, stopped and opened a school in the neighborhood, and under him our subject studied English, Latin and mathematics, working in vacation on his father's farm When twenty years old he himself opened a school at North Bend and resided in the home of Gen. Harrison. In this employment he remained a year, during which he married Miss Shuck, the daughter of a wealthy German resident of the village. Soon afterward he began the study of law while continuing his school, and as a teacher was eminently successful, and his school attracted pupils from the most distinguished families of Cincinnati.

In 1831 he rode to Columbus on horseback, where the supreme court judges examined him and placed him in the practice of the state. He then removed to Hamilton, Butler county, and opened a law office, where he continued quietly and in successful practice fourteen years. During this period he took an active interest in political affairs, and advocated during his first (called the "Hard Cider") campaign, the claims of Gen. Harrison, and no less distinguished himself during that "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," campaign, in which the persons indicated were successful, and the whigs in 1840, for the first time, succeeded in electing their candidates. Six years afterward he was elected governor of the state, and the war with Mexico placed him, as the governor of Ohio, in a very trying position. As a whig he did not personally favor that war, and this feeling was greatly entertained by the party who made him their leader in the state, but he felt that the question was not one of party but of cordial support of the general government, and his earnest recognition of this fact eventually overcame the danger that had followed President Polk's proclamation of war. His term of office (1846–48) was distinguished by good money, free schools, great activity in the construction of railroads and turnpikes; the arts and industry generally were well revived, and high prosperity characterized the whole state.

In 1844 Gov. Bebb purchased 5,000 acres of land in Rock River county, Ill., of which the location was delightful and the soil rich; 500 acres were wooded and constituted a natural park, while the remainder was pasture of the best quality, with a stream of water fed by perpetual springs. No man of moderate ambition could desire the possession of a more magnificent portion of the earth's surface. Three years after making this purchase he removed to it, taking with him fine horses, and a number of the choicest breeds of cattle, and entered upon the cultivation of this fine property. Five years afterward he visited Great Britain and the continent of Europe. In the birth-place of his father he found many desirous to immigrate to America, and encouraging the enterprise a company was formed and a tract of 100,000 acres purchased for them in east Tennessee, where he agreed to preside over their arrangements in the settlement of this land. In 1856 a party of the colonists arrived on the land and Gov. Bebb resided with them until the war of the Rebellion began, when he left the state with his family. The emigrants, discouraged by the strong proslavery sentiment, scattered and settled in various parts of the northern states.

On the inauguration of President Lincoln Gov. Bebb was appointed examiner in the pension department at Washington, and held this position until 1866, when he returned to his farm in Illinois and the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. His scale of farming was the cultivation of 2,000 acres in a season, while another 1,000 formed his cattle pasture. He took an active part in the election of Gen. Grant, and the first sickness of any consequence he ever experienced was an attack of pneumonia following an exposed ride to his home from Pecatonica, where he had addressed the electors. From this he never recovered, and although he spent the following winter in Washington, occupied mainly as a listener to the debates in the senate, he felt his vital forces declining. Returning home the next summer, and feeling that he was no longer able to superintend his farm operations, he resided at Rockford until his death.

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SEABURY FORD, the fifteenth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Cheshire, Conn., in 1802. John Ford, his father, was a native of New England, but of Scotch descent, while his mother, Esther Cook, was of English Puritan ancestry. She was a sister of Nabbie Cook, the wife of Peter Hitchcock, the first chief justice of Ohio. In 1805, John Ford explored the Western Reserve in search of lands and a home in the west, purchasing 2,000 acres in what is now the township of Burton, Geauga county, Ohio, and removing to this land in the fall of 1807. Seabury was then but five years old, but even then gave indications of superior intelligence. He prepared for college at the academy in Burton, entering Yale college in 1821, in company with another young Ohioan, named D. Witter, they two being the first young men from Ohio to enter Yale. Graduating from Yale in 1825, he then began the study of the law in the office of Simon W. Phelps, of Painesville, completing his course in the office of his uncle, Judge Peter Hitchcock, in 1827. Being admitted to practice he opened an office in Burton, and grew rapidly in popular favor. He was always interested in military affairs, in agricultural pursuits and in politics, and was in 1835 elected by the whigs to the legislature from Geauga county. Being twice re-elected, he served three terms, during the latter term acting as speaker of the lower house. In 1841 he was elected to the state senate from Cuyahoga and Geauga counties, and remained a member of that body until 1844, when he was again elected to the lower house. In 1846 he was again elected to the senate and was chosen speaker of that body. In 1848 he was elected governor by a small majority, retiring at the close of his term to his home in Burton, much broken in health. On the Sunday after reaching his home he was stricken with paralysis, from which he never recovered.

During twenty years of his life he was an honored member of the Congregational church, and was always a highly respected citizen. As a representative of the people he was faithful to their interests, and was possessed of the most rigid integrity. A private letter, published in a Cleveland, Ohio, paper, said of him, in 1839, that he was one of the most useful men in the legislature and that in a few years he had saved the state millions of dollars.

September 10, 1828, he married Miss Harriet E. Cook, a daughter of John Cook, of Burton, by whom he had five children, three of whom reached mature age, as follows: Seabury C., George H., and Robert N. Gov. Ford died May 8, 1855.

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REUBEN WOOD, the successor of Seabury Ford, was born in Rutland county, Vt., in the year 1792. He was reared to manhood in his native state, served with distinction in the war of 1812 as captain of a company of Vermont volunteers, and afterward studied law and began the practice of his profession in Cleveland, Ohio. From 1825 till 1828 Mr. Wood served in the state senate; in 1830 was appointed president-judge of the Third district, and in 1833 was elected associate judge of the state supreme court, which office he held until 1845.

In 1848 Mr. Wood was the democratic nominee for the governorship, to which office he was elected by a handsome majority, and with such ability and satisfaction did he discharge his official functions that in 1850 he was chosen his own successor, being the first governor under the new constitution. Gov. Wood was prominently spoken of in 1852 as an available presidential candidate, but the party, while admitting his fitness for the high position, finally united upon Franklin Pierce. In addition to the honorable positions above mentioned, Gov. Wood served eighteen months as United States consul at Valparaiso, Chili, resigning at the end of that time and retiring to private life. The death of this eminent jurist and statesman occurred in Rockport, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, October 2nd, 1864, in his seventy-second year.

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WILLIAM MEDILL, the seventeenth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in New Castle county, Del., in 1801. He graduated from Delaware college in 1825, and studied law with Judge Black, of New Castle city. Removing to Lancaster, Ohio, in 1830, he began there the practice of the law, being regularly admitted to the bar by the supreme court in 1832. In 1835 he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly from Fairfield county, and served several years with great ability. In 1838 he was elected to congress from the counties of Fairfield, Perry, Morgan and Hocking, and was re-elected in 1840, serving to the satisfaction of his constituents. In 1845 he was appointed by President Polk second assistant postmaster-general, performing his duties with marked ability. The same year he was appointed commissioner of Indian affairs, and as such commissioner introduced many needed reforms. Indeed, he was one of the few men holding office under the government of the United States who have treated the unfortunate sons of the forest with any semblance of justice. Both these offices he held during President Polk's administration, at its close returning to Ohio and resuming the practice of the law. In 1849 he was elected a member of the constitutional convention that gave us the present constitution of the state of Ohio, serving with impartial ability as presiding officer of that body. In 1851 he was elected lieutenant-governor, and in 1853 as the second governor under the new constitution. In 1857 he was appointed by President Buchanan first controller of the United States treasury, holding that office until March 4, 1861, when he retired to private life in Lancaster, Ohio, holding no office afterward.

Gov. Medill was a man of great ability, a true patriot, of spotless character, a faithful friend and an incorruptible public servant. He never married, and died at his residence in Lancaster, Ohio, September 2, 1865.

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SALMON P. CHASE, the eighteenth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born at Cornish, N. H., January 13, 1808. His father, Ithaman Chase, was descended from English ancestry, while his mother was of Scotch extraction. Ithaman Chase was a farmer, was a brother of the celebrated Bishop Philander Chase, and died when his son, Salmon P., was yet a lad. In 1815 his father removed his family to Keene, Cheshire county, N. H., where young Salmon received a good common-school education. Bishop Chase, having removed to Ohio, invited his young nephew to the state, and in Worthington, Franklin county, he pursued his studies preparatory to entering college, becoming a student at Dartmouth in 1825, and graduating in 1826. He then went to Washington, D. C., where for some time he taught a classical school, which did not prove successful. For this reason he made application to an uncle of his, in the United States senate, to secure for him a position in one of the government offices, but was met with the reply from that uncle that he had already ruined two young men in that way, and did not intend to ruin another. Young Chase then secured the patronage of Henry Clay, Samuel L. Southard and William Wirt, who placed their sons under his tuition, and he in the meantime studied law with William Wirt.

In 1830, having been admitted to the bar, he settled down in Cincinnati to the practice of the law, but meeting for some years with indifferent success, he spent his leisure time in revising the statutes of Ohio, and introduced his compilation with a brief historical sketch of the state. This work, known as Chase's Statutes, in three octavo volumes, proved of great service to the profession, and its sale was so great a success that his reputation as a lawyer of ability was at once established.

In 1834 he became solicitor of the branch bank of the United States in the city of Cincinnati, and soon afterward of one of the city banks, and in 1837 he distinguished himself by defending a negro woman who had been brought by her master to Ohio, and who had escaped from his possession. This gave him considerable prominence as an abolitionist, and by some it was thought he had ruined his prospects, especially when he enhanced that reputation in the defense of James G. Birney, whose newspaper, the Philanthropist, had been destroyed by the friends of slavery. Mr. Chase had always looked upon things from the moral standpoint, believed ever in freedom, and that if Christ died for any man he died for all men, and hence Mr. Chase was always the friend of man. The position he took in the defense of slaves who had escaped to or were brought to free soil, was that by that act alone, even under the constitution of the United States, they obtained their freedom.

In 1846 Mr. Chase, in the supreme court of the United States, defended Van Zandt (who was the original of John Van Trompe, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin"), who was prosecuted for harboring fugitive slaves, taking the ground, as before, that, even though the constitution contained a provision for the return of such fugitives, no legislative power on the subject had been granted to congress, and that therefore the power to devise legislation thereon was left to the states themselves. The bold statements and forcible arguments of Mr. Chase in his management of such cases, alarmed the southern states, and ultimately led to the enactment of the fugitive slave law in 1850, as a portion of the compromise measures of that period.

In 1841 Mr. Chase united with others opposed to the further extension of slavery, in a convention for which he was the principal writer of the address to the people on that subject. He also wrote the platform for the liberty party when it nominated James G. Birney as its candidate for the presidency. In 1842 he projected a convention of the same party in Cincinnati, the result of which was the passage of a resolution declaring the urgent necessity for the organization of a party committed to the denationalization of slavery. In 1848 Mr. Chase presided over the Buffalo free soil convention, which nominated Martin Van Buren and Charles Francis Adams for president and vice-president. On the 22d of February, 1849. Mr. Chase was elected to the United States senate by a coalition of democrats and free soilers, who had declared slavery to be an evil, but when the Baltimore convention in 1852 approved of the compromise measures of 1850 he withdrew from their ranks, and advocated the formation of an independent democratic party, which should oppose the extension of slavery. In 1855 Mr. Chase was elected governor of Ohio by the newly organized republican party by a majority of 15,651 over Gov. Medill, and in 1857 he was elected governor, the second time, over Henry B. Payne.

At the national republican convention in 1860 Mr. Chase received on the first ballot forty-nine votes, in a total of 375, and immediately withdrew his name. By President Lincoln he was appointed secretary of the treasury of the United States, holding this position until July, 1864, when he resigned. His management of the nation's finance was marked with consummate ability, and contributed largely to the success of the government in its efforts to suppress the Rebellion. In November, 1864, he was nominated by President Lincoln as chief justice of the United States, to succeed Chief Justice Taney, who had then recently died, and he filled this great office until his death.

In 1868 he permitted his name to go before the democratic national convention as a candidate for the presidency, but received only four votes out of 663, Horatio Seymour of New York securing the nomination. The most valuabe public service rendered the nation by Mr. Chase, as secretary of the treasury, was the origination by him of the bill under which, in 1863, state and private banks became national banks, and under which the government of the United States became responsible for the circulation of national bank notes, the government being secured by a deposit of bonds equal in amount to the proposed circulation, plus ten per cent. While this law was at first opposed by many public men, yet in time it won its way into their judgment long before Mr. Chase's death, and he had the satisfaction of realizing that its advantages were such that the people of the United States were more greatly benefited by this than by any previous monetary measure, as under it the money of the banks was made equally valuble in all parts of the United States.

Mr. Chase was married three times, and of six children born to him, two accomplished daughters survived him at his death, which occurred of paralysis, May 7, 1873.

WILLIAM DENNISON, Jr., nineteenth governor of Ohio, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 23, 1815. His father and mother emigrated from New Jersey to Ohio, settled in the

Miami valley about 1805, gave their son a liberal education, and he graduated from Miami university in 1835 with high honors in political science, belles lettres and history. After his graduation he became a law student in the office of Nathaniel C. Pendleton, father of Hon. George H. Pendleton, and was admitted to the bar in 1840. The same year he married a daughter of William Neil, of Columbus, to which city he removed and applied himself with energy and diligence to the practice of the law. In 1848 he was elected to the Ohio senate as a whig for the district composed of Franklin and Delaware counties. At that time the slavery question was a prominent one in politics, men taking positive positions on one side or the other, and a desperate struggle was made throughout the state for the control of the general assembly. After failing by a small adverse majority to be elected president of the senate he was appointed to a leading position on a committe having in charge the revisal of the statutes, which had become in the opinion of most of the people a disgrace to the state, especially those laws which prohibited black men and mulattoes from gaining a permanent residence within the state, and from testifying in courts against white persons. Mr. Dennison warmly advocated the repeal of these laws, and with complete success. He was equally opposed to the extension of slavery, with its blighting effects, into new territory.

From 1850 to 1852 he was engaged in the practice of the law, and in the latter year, as a presidential elector, he cast his vote for Gen. Winfield Scott. From this time on for some years he took great interest in the subject of railroads in the west, and was elected president of the Columbus & Xenia Railroad company, and was very active as a director of all railroads entering Columbus. In 1856 he was a delegate to the republican national convention at Pittsburg, and voted for Gen. John C. Fremont for president. In 1859 he was elected governor of Ohio by the republican party, and in his first message to the general assembly took the position that "The federal Union exists by solemn compact voluntarily entered into by the people of each state and thus they became the United States of America, *e pluribus unum*, and this being so, no state can claim the right to secede from or violate that compact."

When the war was begun he exerted all the authority of his office to aid the general government to suppress the Rebellion, and as the first war governor of Ohio his name will go down to posterity as one of the most patriotic of men. When Gov. Magoffin, of Kentucky, telegraphed to President Lincoln that Kentucky would furnish no troops for such a wicked purpose as the subduing of the sister southern states, Gov. Dennison telegraphed that if Kentucky would not fill her quota, Ohio would fill it for her, and in less than two weeks, under the influence of her patriotic governor, Ohio raised enough soldiers to fill the quota of three states, and it was not long before the attention of the entire country was directed to Ohio as the leading state in the suppression of the Rebellion, a position which she proudly maintained all through the war. The people of West Virginia owe to Gov. Dennison the fact of their separate existence as a state, the story of which is well known and too long for publication here.

At first Gov. Dennison opposed Sec. Chase's national banking system, but as its beneficial effects became apparent he gave it his unqualified support, and it is well known that Ohio took the lead in the establishment of national banks, a system of banking which, among its other features, has done much to cement the union of the states since the war. After his term of office as governor had expired he became a favorite speaker in defense of the Union.

As a delegate to the national republican convention, in 1864, he did much to secure the renomination of Abraham Lincoln, and succeeded Montgomery Blair as postmaster-general, but resigned his office when President Johnson had defined his "policy." For several years after this Gov. Dennison lived in retirement, but was called on by President Grant, in 1875, to act as one of the commissioners of the District of Columbia, a position which he filled until 1878.

By his marriage to Miss Neil he became the father of three children, the first-born dying in infancy, and the others being named Neil and Elizabeth. He died June 15, 1882, respected by all people as an able, patriotic and good man.

DAVID TOD, Ohio's twentieth elected governor, was born in Youngstown, Mahoning county, February 21, 1805, received a good literary education, and after studying for the legal profession was admitted to the bar in the year 1827. He practiced about fifteen years at Warren, where his talents soon won him recognition among the leading lawyers of the northeastern part of the state, and while a resident of Warren was elected, in 1838, a member of the state senate. Gov. Tod soon took high rank as a successful politician, made a brilliant canvass for Martin Van Buren in 1840, and in 1844 was nominated for governor, but was defeated by a small majority. One of the issues of the gubernatorial campaign of 1844 was "hard" and "soft" money, the democrats representing the former and the whigs the latter. In a speech David Tod, the democratic candidate, said that sooner than adopt "soft" or paper money, it would be better to go back to the Spartan idea of finance and coin money from pot-metal. His opponents seized upon this expression, dubbed him "pot-metal" Tod, and insisted that he was really in favor of coining pot-metal into currency. Medallions of Mr. Tod about the size of a silver dollar were struck off by his opponents by the thousands, being composed of pot-metal and circulated throughout the state. The "pot-metal" cry doubtless had much to do in bringing about his defeat by a slender margin, showing that small things are often effective in political campaigns, if the people happen to be in the humor to be influenced by them, which not infrequently happens to be the case. In 1847 he was appointed, by President Polk, minister to Brazil, and represented his government until 1852, when he returned to the United States and took an active part in the campaign which resulted in the election of Franklin Pierce to the presidency. In 1860 he was chosen delegate to the Charleston convention, of which he was made vice-president, and after the withdrawal of the southern wing of the democratic party, presided over that body until its adjournment. Upon the breaking out of the Civil war, Gov. Tod was earnest in his advocacy of a compromise between the north and south, but with the commencement of hostilities he became a firm supporter of the Union and did much to arouse enthusiasm in the prosecution of the struggle. In 1861 he was the republican nominee for governor, and at the ensuing election defeated his competitor by an overwhelming majority of 55,000 votes. He proved a very popular and capable executive, and during his term of two years, greatly aided the national administration.

JOHN BROUGH, the twenty-first governor of Ohio elected by the people of the state, was born at Marietta, Ohio, September 17, 1811. His father, John Brough, was a companion and friend of Blennerhassett, both coming to the United

States in the same ship in 1806. They remained in close friendship for many years, but Mr. Brough was not connected with the unfortunate complications between Blennerhassett and Aaron Burr. John Brough died in 1822, leaving his wife with five children, and with but small means of support.

John Brough, who became governor of Ohio, was sent to learn the trade of printer in the office of the Athens Mirror before he was fourteen. After a few months he entered the Ohio university at Athens, reciting with his class in the day time, and setting type mornings and evenings to support himself. He was a good compositor and also a good student, and was distinguished for his skill in athletic games. Having completed his education at the university he began the study of law, but soon afterward went to Petersburg, Va., to edit a newspaper. Returning to Marietta, Ohio, in 1831, he became proprietor of the Washington county Republican, a democratic paper, which he conducted until 1833, when he sold out, and in partnership with his brother, Charles H., purchased the Ohio Eagle, published at Lancaster, Ohio, and while he was a strong partisan, yet he had no patience for any kind of underhand work in either party. In 1835 he was elected clerk of the Ohio senate, and retained this position until 1838. He was chosen representative from Fairfield and Hocking counties in 1838, and the next year he was chosen by the legislature to fill the office of auditor of state. To this latter office he was again elected and served six years. Many evils then existed in the finances of the state, but, notwithstanding much opposition and many embarrassments, he succeeded in finding remedies therefor, and the pecuniary affairs of the state were placed on a solid foundation. The reports he made upon the state's financial system are among the ablest and most valuable of our state papers.

During his second term as auditor of state he purchased the Phœnix, a newspaper in Cincinnati, changed its name to the Enquirer and placed it in charge of his brother, Charles H., and at the close of that term removed to Cincinnati, opened a law office and wrote editorials for his paper. He also became a powerful and effective public speaker, and while he was becoming a distinguished leader in the democratic party he was also becoming with equal rapidity thoroughly disgusted with party politics. In 1848 he retired from partisan strife, sold one-half interest in the Enquirer, and devoted his attention to railroads. Being elected president of the Madison & Indiana Railroad company, he removed to Madison, Ind., but later, at the invitation of one of his friends, Stillman Witt, of Cleveland, Ohio, he accepted the presidency of the Bellefontaine Railroad company, which, under his management, became one of the leading railroads of the country. In 1861 he removed to Cleveland, and during the first two years of the war was untiring in his efforts to serve the government by the prompt transportation of troops to the front.

In 1863, that portion of the democrats of Ohio that was opposed to the further prosecution of the war nominated C. L. Vallandigham for governor of the state, and Stillman Witt, having urged Mr. Brough to take an active part in politics, generously offering to perform the duties of the president of the railroad, and permit Mr. Brough to draw the salary, Mr. Brough was at length nominated by the republican party as its candidate in opposition to Vallandigham. The result of the election was that Mr. Brough was elected by a majority of 101,099, the total vote being 471,643. It was at the suggestion of Gov. Brough that an extra force of 100,000 men was raised to aid Gen. Grant in his arduous campaign of 1864, Ohio's quota of this 100,000 being 30,000.

Within ten days Ohio raised 38,000 men, the result being due largely to Gov. Brough's energetic action, which called out the warmest commendation from both President Lincoln and Gen. Grant.

While Gov. Brough lived to see the war brought to a successful close, yet he died before the close of his term, on August 29, 1865. He was of the honest men in politics, just in all his motives and acts. Though not a member of any church, yet he took a deep interest in religion and died in the hope of an eternal life. Gov. Brough was twice married—first to Miss Acsah P. Pruden, of Athens, Ohio, who died in 1838 at the age of twenty-five years, and second, to Miss Caroline A. Nelson, of Columbus, Ohio, whom he married in 1843 at Lewiston, Pa. By this latter marriage he had two sons and two daughters.

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CHARLES ANDERSON was put in nomination as lieutenant-governor of Ohio on the ticket in 1863, with John Brough for governor and elected. The death of the latter transferred Col. Anderson to the office of governor in August of the same year.

Charles Anderson was born June 1, 1814, at the residence of his father, called Soldiers' Retreat, or Fort Nelson, near the falls of the Ohio, and which locality is about nine miles from the city of Louisville, Ky. His father, Col. Richard Clough Anderson, a gentleman of high character, who was an aid-de-camp to Lafayette, removed to Soldiers' Retreat from Virginia in 1793, and there, in the capacity of surveyor-general of the Virginia military land grant, made his residence three years before Kentucky was recognized as a territory. His mother was a relative of Chief-Justice Marshall, and his eldest brother, Richard Clough Anderson, represented his district in congress, was the first United States minister to the republic of Columbia and commissioner in congress at Panama. Robert Anderson, another brother of Gov. Anderson, was the Major Anderson commanding Fort Sumter in April, 1861.

Charles Anderson graduated from Miami university at Oxford, Ohio, in 1833, began the study of law in Louisville in his twentieth year in the office of Pirtle & Anderson, and in 1835 was admitted to practice. He then went to Dayton, Ohio, and September 16th married Miss Eliza J. Brown, a young lady of that place. He remained a resident of Dayton, Ohio, varying his professional engagement by working the farm during the following ten years, having in that time been elected prosecuting attorney of the county, and in 1844 was elected to the state senate. His vote in this body in favor of bills to give to the colored men the privilege of testifying in court caused him the enmity of all the pro-slavery element among his constituency, but of this he took no notice. He resolved that at the close of his term he would recuperate his health by a protracted sea voyage, and, descending to New Orleans, he took a vessel for Havana, and there took passage on a vessel bound for Europe, and with much advantage to his health returned by the way of Paris and Liverpool. Arriving in Cincinnati, he entered into a law partnership with Rufus King, Esq., and for eleven years practiced his profession. Then his original love of farming still influencing his life, he went to Texas in 1859, and found the people greatly excited on account of the political condition of the country. Demagogues had advocated dissolution of the Union there as elsewhere, and the establishment of a new southern states' government of a monarchical form, its foundation-stone human slavery, and under the protectorate of Great Britain, to which people their cotton would be exchanged for goods of British manufacture exclusively. He soon saw that this treasonable project had taken deep root among the ignorant masses of the south. There was no term that had been uttered that could be more opprobrious than abolitionist, and his well-known love of freedom prompting him to boldly address the people, he did so at a great gathering at San Antonio November 20, 1860, advocating, in the most stirring and patriotic language, the perpetuity of the national Union. Though the recipient subsequently of letters threatening his life, he continued to reside in San Antonio in spite of the forty-day resident act passed by the Confederate congress at Montgomery, Ala., and was therefore confined as a political prisoner in the guard-tent of Maclin's battery of artillery. By the assistance of two persons, who subsequently were maltreated for so assisting him, he escaped to the north. It was not reasonable to suppose that Mr. Anderson, born in Kentucky, and from infancy surrounded by and breathing the atmosphere of slavery, could have regarded that institution as it was looked upon by the millions who had not been similarly situated. Hence the original idea of the war, restoring the Union as it was, caused him to offer his services to Gov. Tod, and he was appointed colonel of the Ninety-third Ohio regiment, in command of which brave body of men he was seriously wounded in the battle of Stone River. After his term of service as lieutenant-governor and governor of Ohio he removed to a large iron estate on the Cumberland river, in Lyon county, Ky., where he spent the remainder of his life.

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JACOB DOLSON COX, the twenty-second governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Montreal, Canada, October 27, 1828, to which city his parents, who were natives of the United States, and who were then residents of New York, had gone for a temporary purpose, Mr. Cox being a master builder, and having in charge in Montreal the erection of the frame work, roofing, etc., of the church of Notre Dame. The following year they returned to New York, where were spent the childhood days of the subject of this sketch. In 1846 he entered Oberlin college, from which he graduated in 1851, and in 1852 he removed to Warren, Ohio, where for three years he was superintendent of the high school. In the meantime he studied law and was admitted to the bar, and in 1859 he he was elected, from the Trumbull and Mahoning district, to the legislature, where throughout his term he was regarded as a "radical," not only on account of the section of the state from which he came, but also on account of his having married the daughter of President Finney of Oblerlin college. He took his seat in the senate on the first Monday in January, 1860.

After the enactment of the fugitive slave law of 1850 the state of Ohio passed a law providing penalties for carrying free blacks out of the state without first having recourse to judical proceedings. The democrats in the legislature earnestly desired to repeal this law, and Mr. Cox, as chairman of the judiciary committee, made a minority report against its repeal, to which report the support of the entire republican party was given. While Mr. Cox was not in favor of any unnecessarily harsh measures to grieve the southern states, yet he was always uncomprisingly in favor of supporting the government in its efforts to suppress the Rebellion. Ten days after President Lincoln's first call for troops, Mr. Cox was commissioned, by Gov. Dennison, a brigadier-general of Ohio volunteers for the three months' service, and placed in command of Camp Jackson, which was established for the reception of troops. A larger camp being necessary, President Lincoln commissioned him brigadier-general of volunteers, and with the assistance of Gen. Rosecrans he laid out Camp Dennison. On the 6th of July, 1861, he was ordered by Gen. McClellan to take a position at the south of the Great Kanawha, whence he drove the rebels under Gen. Wise out of the valley of that river, and took and repaired the bridge at Gauley, and other bridges; and it is owing to the success of these early military maneuvers that West Virginia became an independent state. In August, 1862, he was assigned to the army of Virginia under Gen. Pope, and when Gen. Reno fell succeeded to his command, that of the Ninth corps, which he commanded at the battle of Antietam, in which battle his troops so distinguished themselves that he was appointed to a full major-generalship. On April 16, 1863, Gen. Cox was in command of the district of Ohio, and also of a division of the Twenty-third army corps, with headquarters at Knoxville, Tenn. In the Atlanta campaign he led the Third division of the Twenty-third army corps, and in the engagement at Columbus had entire command, as he had also at Franklin, November 30, where he felt the full force of Hood's attack. On reaching Nashville Gen. Thomas assumed command of the army, Gen. Schofield of the Twenty-third corps, and Gen. Cox of his division—his division in this battle capturing an important rebel position and eight pieces of cannon. In January, 1865, Gen. Cox, with his division, performed important service in North Carolina, aiding in the capture of Kingston, and then he united his forces with Sherman's army. Gen. Cox had charge of the details connected with the surrender of Gen. Johnston's soldiers. In July, 1865, he was placed in command of the district of Ohio, and while in charge of the discharge of Ohio soldiers was elected governor of the state, and was inaugurated January 15, 1866. Throughout the war Gen. Cox was steadily promoted, and won golden opinions from all patriots, but after the close of the struggle he supported President Johnson's "policy," which gave great dissatisfaction to loyal people. In 1869 President Grant appointed him secretary of the interior, which position he resigned after a few months, and returned to Cincinnati, where he was appointed receiver of the Toledo, Wabash & Western railroad, and resided temporarily at Toledo, where, in 1875, he was elected to congress from the Sixth district. He was appointed a member of the Potter committee, which investigated the manner in which the presidential election of 1876 had been conducted in the "disputed states," South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. Subsequently he removed to Cincinnati, where he died.

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RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.—For a sketch of the life of Rutherford B. Hayes, the twenty-third governor of Ohio elected by the people and elected to succeed himself, and also elected to succeed William Allen, the reader is referred to that portion of this work which is devoted to the lives of the presidents of the United States.

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EDWARD FOLLANSBEE NOYES, twenty-fourth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Haverhill, Mass., October 3, 1832. His parents, Theodore and Hannah Noyes, both died before he was three years old, and he was reared by his grandparents, Edward and Hannah Stevens, who resided at East Kingston, Rockingham county, N. H. His grandfather Stevens having died, he was taken when twelve years of age by his guardian, Joseph Hoyt, of Newton, N. H. For two years he worked on his guardian's farm in summer and attended schools in winter, and at fourteen he was apprenticed to the printer's trade in the office of the Morning Star at Dover, N. H., the organ of the Free Will Baptist church. In this office he remained four years. Though his apprenticeship required him to remain until he was twenty-one, yet his employer released him at eighteen, in order that he might secure an education. He prepared himself for college at the academy at Kingston, N. H., and entered Dartmouth college in 1853, graduating at that institution in 1857. In the winter of his senior year he began to read law in the office of Stickney & Tuck at Exeter, N. H., and before leaving Dartmouth he had become really an abolitionist. Being a good speaker, he was appointed by the republican state executive committee of New Hampshire to traverse the state in the interest of Gen. John C. Fremont for the presidency. The next winter he entered the law office of Tilden, Raridan & Curwen, and attended lectures on law at the Cincinnati Law school during the winter of 1857–58, being admitted to the bar during the latter year, and not long afterward established himself in a profitable practice. Giving attention to the political crises then impending, he became convinced that secession, if accomplished, would finally disrupt the Union, and on the 8th of July, 1861, converted his law office into a recruiting station, and was commissioned major of the Thirty-ninth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry. On August 20, 1861, the Twenty-seventh and the Thirty-ninth regiments were transferred from the eastern to the western army, the latter being officered as follows: John Groesbeck, colonel; A. W. Gilbert, lieut.-colonel, and, as stated above, Edward F. Noyes, major. Early in 1862 this latter regiment joined the army of the Mississippi, then commanded by Gen. Pope, and took part in the capture of New Madrid and Island No. 10. From that time until Gen. Pope was assigned to the command of the Potomac, Maj. Noyes was on that general's staff, and when the colonel and lieutenant-colonel of the Thirty-ninth, as named above, resigned, Maj. Noyes was commissioned colonel, and took command of his regiment in October, 1862. In 1864 his regiment was one of those composing the First division of the Seventeenth army corps, and on July 4, of that year, took part in the assault on Ruff's Mill, in which he was shot in the leg, which had to be amputated on the field of battle. The operation not proving successful, the colonel was taken to Cincinnati, and operated on by Dr. W. H. Mussey, and in the following October he reported for duty to Gen. Hooker, who assigned him to the command of Camp Dennison. Upon the recommendation of Gen. Sherman he was promoted to the full rank of brigadier.

He was soon afterward elected city solicitor of Cincinnati, and in 1871 was elected governor of Ohio by a majority of 20,000, while at the election of 1873, when he was again a candidate, he was defeated by an adverse majority of 800. In the presidential campaign of 1876 he was an active participant, and was later appointed by his old friend, President Hayes, minister to France. He remained in Paris four years, in the meantime, however, making an extensive tour through the countries along the Mediterranean sea for the purpose of investigating the condition of the laboring classes, making an able report to the government. He resigned in 1881 and resumed his law practice in Cincinnati. He was very enthusiastic and cheerful in his disposition, and kindly in his manner. In February, 1863, on a leave of absence, he married Miss Margaret W. Proctor, at Kingston, N. H., with whom he became acquainted while in the academy in his youthful days. He died September 4, 1890, nearly fifty-eight years of age.

WILLIAM ALLEN, twenty-fifth governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Edenton, Chowan county, N. C., in 1807. His parents both died within a few months of each other before he was one year old, and he was cared for by an only sister, who soon afterward removed with her husband to Lynchburg, Va., taking young William with her. This sister was the wife of an itinerant Methodist minister and the mother of Hon. Allen G. Thurman. She was a very superior woman, and was well fitted for the task of rearing two of Ohio's distinguished statesmen, whose names are given above. About 1821 Mrs. Thurman, with her husband and family, removed to Chillicothe, Ohio, leaving her brother to attend an academy at Lynchburg, Va., but he rejoined her two years later, and attended the academy in Chillicothe, and later read law in the office of Edward King, the most gifted son of Rufus King, of Revolutionary fame, and a popular statesman for many years. Having been admitted to the bar in his twentieth year, he became a partner of his preceptor, and early in his career manifested that forensic ability to which he was mainly indebted for his success. This, together with his tall, commanding figure and powerful, penetrating voice, attracted people to him, the latter giving him the name of the "Ohio Gong," and all together secured his nomination to congress, he being elected by the democrats in 1832, in a whig district, by a majority of one vote. While he was the youngest man in the Twenty-third congress, yet he was recognized as a leading orator, taking part in the most important discussions in that body.

In January, 1837, on what was called "Saint Jackson's Day," at a supper given in Columbus, Ohio, he made a speech which unexpectedly led to his election to the United States senate, to succeed Hon. Thomas Ewing. He remained in the senate twelve years, or until 1849, during which time he was at the full measure of his powers.

In 1845 Senator Allen married Mrs. Effie (McArthur) Coons, a daughter of ex-Gov. McArthur, who had been, in 1830, elected governor of Ohio. She inherited from her father the old homestead, "Fruit Hill" farm, upon which Gov. Allen resided with his only daughter, Mrs. Scott, his wife having died in Washington soon after the birth of her daughter. In August, 1873, Mr. Allen was elected governor of Ohio, being the only man on the democratic ticket not defeated. As governor he recommended the reduction of taxation and economy in state affairs. He was the first democratic governor of Ohio after the war, and though his administration gave general satisfaction, he was defeated with the rest of the democratic ticket in 1875. It has been said of him that he originated the political catch-word, "Fifty-four forty, or fight," in reference to the boundary question between the United States and the British dominions, from which position the democratic party so ignominiously backed down. Gov. Allen died at Fruit Hill farm in 1879. He was a man of high character, cordial manners, and above all political chicanery of every kind, and his name will long be an honored one in American history.

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THOMAS L. YOUNG, ex-officio governor of Ohio, succeeding to the office by the election of Gov. R. B. Hayes to the presidency of the United States, taking possession of the office in February, 1877, was born December 14, 1832, on the estate of Lord Dufferin in the north of Ireland. Of Lord Dufferin it may perhaps be permissible, parenthetically, to remark that as governor-general of Canada, in 1874, he made a remarkable report on the loyalty of the people of Canada to the British government, which appeared to him so "wholesome and satisfactory." This estate of Lord Dufferin was in Down county, Ireland. When Mr. Young was twelve years old his parents brought him to this country, and he was educated in the common schools of New York city. When he was sixteen years old he enlisted in the regular army, serving in all ten years. At the expiration of his enlistment he visited the home of his parents, in the northern part of Pennsylvania, on one of the upper tributaries of the Susquehanna river, where he engaged in the business of country merchant until 1859, when he removed to Cincinnati, and took charge of the house of refuge, a youths' reformatory institution, which position he retained until the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion. Having, while in the regular army, spent several years among the people of the south, he knew that they had determined upon war, and in March, 1861, he wrote to Gen. Scott, whom he personally knew, offering to assist in organizing volunteers for the defense of the government. Gen. Scott thanked him for his loyalty, but expressed his incredulity as to the southern people entertaining any such purpose.

In August, 1861, Mr. Young was commissioned a captain in Gen. Fremont's body guard, serving in that capacity until the following January, when that organization was disbanded by Gen. Halleck. For some months afterward Capt. Young was engaged in editing a democratic paper in Sidney, Ohio, in which he severely condemned the indecision manifested in the conduct of the war. In August, 1862, he was appointed to raise a company for the One Hundred and Eighteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and became the first major of the regiment. In February, 1863, he was promoted to lientenant-colonel, and commanded his regiment in the Tennessee campaign. In April, 1864, he was commissioned colonel of his regiment and served as such until the 4th of September following, when he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability resulting from his services and exposures in the field. At the battle of Resaca, Ga., Col. Young led the first charge on the enemy's works, the severity of the contest being indicated by the fact that he lost 116 men out of 270 engaged. For this and other acts of bravery the president brevetted him brigadier-general of volunteers, March, 13, 1865.

Upon leaving the service he engaged in the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1865, being in the same month appointed assistant city auditor of Cincinnati. In October, 1865, he was elected to the Ohio house of representatives for Hamilton county, and in December, 1868, was appointed, by President Johnson, supervisor of internal revenue for the southern district of Ohio. This position he resigned at the end of one year. For some time afterward he was engaged in the purchase and sale of real estate, and in 1871 was the only republican elected to the state senate from Hamilton county. In 1873 he formed a law partnership with Gen. H. B. Banning and Jacob McGarry, and in 1875 he was elected lieutenant-governor. Upon the resignation of Gov. Hayes he became governor, serving the remainder of the term. In 1878 he was elected to congress by the republicans of the second district, and died July 19, 1888, thoroughly admired for his integrity of character and manliness.

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RICHARD M. BISHOP, the twenty-sixth governor of Ohio, was born November 4, 1812, in Fleming county, Ky. His parents, who were of German and English lineage, removed from Virginia in 1800. They were members of the regular Baptist church, of which he also became a member in 1828.

At this time the Baptist churches in Kentucky were greatly excited in consequence of the criticisms made by Mr. Campbell, and his co-laborers, upon the religious corruption of the age. This excitement continued to increase in the immediate neighborhood of the Bishop family until 1832, when they and others were excluded from the Baptist church on account of "Campbellite heresy." Since then Mr. Bishop has been associated with the church of the Disciples or Christians. Mr. Bishop began his business career in Fleming county, Ky., at the age of seventeen, and before he was twenty-one he became a partner in the store which he had entered as a clerk. From 1838 to 1841 he was engaged with his brother in the pork business, which proved unfortunate in consequence of the sudden depression in prices, and the failure of the Mississippi banks, in which state they sold largely. They were compelled to suspend, but this temporary embarrassment did not discourage him, for he soon resumed business in the same place, where he continued until 1847. He then removed to Mount Sterling, Kentucky, where he established a branch house, his brother remaining at the old stand. In 1848 he removed to Cincinnati and commenced the wholesale grocery business under the style of Bishop, Wells & Co. This firm continued until 1855, when the business was reorganized and conducted under the firm name of R. M. Bishop & Co. The firm was composed of himself and three sons, and at one time did the largest business in the city, the sales amounting in some years to nearly $5,000,000. In April, 1857, he was nominated for council in the Second ward and was elected by a large majority. At the end of the second year he was elected presiding officer. In 1859 he was elected mayor of Cincinnati by a handsome majority, holding the same office until 1861, when he declined the renomination tendered him by each of the political parties. In January, 1860, when the Union was threatened by the leaders of the Rebellion, the legislatures of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee visited Cincinnati to encourage each other to stand by the old flag. At a grand reception given them at Pike's opera house, Mayor Bishop delivered an address of welcome amid a storm of applause. In the September ensuing his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, visited Cincinnati at the invitation of the mayor and received from him a cordial welcome. In February, 1861, when President Lincoln was passing on his way to his inauguration through Cincinnati, he was received in a speech by the mayor. During his administration the laws were rigidly enforced, of which the Sunday ordinance, and those against gambling houses, were notable examples. Liquor selling and various other forms of Sabbath desecration were in the main suppressed. He inaugurated, amid much opposition, most important reforms in the management of the city prison, work-house and the police.

Mr. Bishop has become widely known for his liberality and devotion to the Christian church. From 1859 to 1867 he was president of the Ohio State Missionary society, and was the successor of the late Dr. Alexander Campbell in the presidency of the general Christian Missionary conference, which office he held until 1875. He was president of the board of curators of Kentucky university from its organization until 1880, when he declined a re-election; he was also one of the curators of Bethany college; also for many years trustee of the McMicken university. He was director of the First National bank for many years, and of several other business enterprises, as well as philanthropic institutions. He was a member of the Ohio state constitutional convention held in 1873 and 1874, and was president of the great national commercial convention held in Baltimore in 1871. He was one of the prime movers in that great enterprise, the Southern railway, the building of which he so successfully managed, having been a trustee from the beginning, and the laborious work of obtaining charters for the road is largely his.

In 1877 he was elected governor of Ohio by a majority of nearly 23,000 over the dominant party, and served two years with entire satisfaction to all parties. His first annual message was well received and complimented by the press generally. Upon his return to Cincinnati he was given a cordial and enthusiastic reception at Lytle hall, where a large number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled to welcome him home. Since the expiration of his term as governor he has been urged by his friends to accept the nomination for various important offices, but always declined.

Few men in the state can point to so many substantial benefits conferred upon society as the results of their single labors. Prompt decision, constant industry, sound judgment, and a desire to benefit his fellow-men, are his chief characteristics.

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CHARLES FOSTER, twenty-seventh governor of Ohio elected by the people, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, April 12, 1828. His parents, Charles W. Foster and wife, the latter of whom was a daughter of John Crocker, were from Massachusetts, reaching Seneca county, Ohio, in 1827.

Charles Foster received only a common-school education, and went to Rome, now Fostoria, Ohio, when he was fourteen years old, where he was compelled to take charge of his father's store, and thus failed to secure a liberal education, which his father intended he should receive, and for which he had prepared himself at the Norwalk seminary. His success in the management of the store was very marked, and he soon became sole manager. The town of Fostoria, named from the Foster family, was the result of the consolidation of Rome and Risdon, which lay but a mile or two apart. In 1870 Mr. Foster was induced to accept the nomination for congress at the hands of the republicans of his district, and he was elected by a majority of 776 over Hon. E. F. Dickinson. In 1872 he was again elected to congress by a majority of 726 over Rush R. Sloane. In 1874 he was elected by a majority of 159 over Hon. George E. Seney, and in 1876 he was elected by a majority of 271. In 1878, the democratic party having secured a majority of the state legislature, in order to defeat Mr. Foster most outrageously gerrymandered his district, and he was defeated by a majority of 1,255. In 1879 he was elected governor of Ohio over Hon. Thomas Ewing, by a plurality of 17,129, and in 1881 he was again elected, by a plurality of 24,309, over John W. Buchwalter.

Upon the death of the secretary of the United States treasury, William Windom, Mr. Foster was appointed his successor by President Harrison, February 27, 1891, and served until the close of the Harrison administration, March 4, 1893. The successful adjustment of the four and one-half per cent. loan was one of the notable events of his first year's administration of the treasury department of the government. Of the $50,869,200 of the four and one-half per cent. bonds, July 1, 1891, $25,364,500 were presented for continuance at two per cent., the rest being called in for redemption. No other financial officer of the general government has ever negotiated a public loan at so low rate of interest. Since retiring from the national treasury, Mr. Foster has been engaged in arranging his own financial affairs, which were thrown into confusion, while he was in public office by those whom he had trusted.

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GEORGE HOADLY, who was the twenty-eighth governor of Ohio, was born in New Haven, Conn., July 31, 1826. He is the only son of George and Mary Ann (Woolsey) Hoadly. Mary Ann Woolsey was a daughter of William Walton and Elizabeth (Dwight) Woolsey of New York, and she was a great-granddaughter of Jonathan Edwards, the famous New England theologian. She was a niece of President Dwight of Yale college, and the eldest daughter in a family containing among its members President Woolsey of Yale college. Theodore Winthrop was her nephew and Sarah Woolsey, known in literature as "Susan Coolidge," her niece. George Hoadly, Sr., was at one time mayor of New Haven, Conn., removed in 1830 to Cleveland, Ohio, and resided there the remainder of his life, serving as mayor of that city five terms, from 1832 to 1837, and again one term, 1846–47.

George Hoadly, the subject of this sketch, received his preliminary education in Cleveland, and when fourteen years old was sent to the Western Reserve college at Hudson, Ohio, where he was graduated in 1844. He then spent one year in the Harvard law school under the tuition of Judge Story and Prof. Simon Greenleaf, and after studied a year with Charles C. Convers, of Zanesville, Ohio, then removed to Cincinnati and entered the office of Chase & Ball as a student. He was admitted to practice in 1847 and in 1849 became a member of the firm of Chase, Ball & Hoadly, the senior member of which was Salmon P. Chase. In 1851 he was elected judge of the supreme court of Cincinnati, and in 1853 formed a co-partnership with Edward Mills. In 1855–56 he was city solicitor of Cincinnati, and in 1859 succeeded Judge W. Y. Gholson as judge of the new superior court, holding this office uutil 1866, when he resigned, in order to form the firm of Hoadly, Jackson & Johnson. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1873–74, and served as chairman of the committee on municipal corporations. For eighteen years he was professor in the law school at Cincinnati, trustee of the university, and of the Cincinnati museum. He was one of the counsel in behalf of the board of education in its famous case of resistance to the attempt to compel Bible reading in the public schools, in which the victory was with the board.

Originally a democrat, he left that party and became a republican on the question of slavery, but during the campaign of 1876 supported Tilden as against Hayes. In 1877 he appeared as counsel before the electoral commission and argued in favor of the democratic electors from Florida and Oregon. In 1880 he was temporary chairman of the democratic national convention which nominated W. S. Hancock for president. In 1883 he was elected governor of Ohio, and in March, 1887, he removed to New York city, became the head of a law firm there, and has resided there ever since.

In 1851 he married Mary Burnet Perry, third daughter of Capt. Samuel Perry, one of the earliest settlers of Cincinnati. He and his wife have had three children, viz: George, Laura and Edward Mills.

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JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER, ex-governor of Ohio and United States senator, elect, was born near Rainsborough, Highland county, Ohio, July 5, 1846. His parents, who are still living, represent the agricultural class of the population of this country, and upon their farm he spent his earlier years.

When the war of the Rebellion broke out young Foraker enlisted in company A, Eighty-ninth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, being then but sixteen years of age. With this regiment he served until after the fall of Atlanta, at which time, by successive promotions, he had risen to the rank of first lieutenant. Immediately after the fall of Atlanta he was detailed for service in the signal corps as a signal officer on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Slocum, commanding the left wing of the army of Georgia. After the marches through Georgia and the Carolinas he was promoted brevet captain of United States volunteers, and assigned to duty as aid-de-camp on the staff of Gen. Slocum, holding this position until he was mustered out of service at the close of the war.

Returning home and resuming his studies, he graduated from Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y., in 1869. To gain time lost while in the service of his country in the army he read law while attending the university, and was admitted to the bar in Cincinnati, October 14, 1869, and he at once began in that city the practice of his profession. He was married October 4, 1870, to Miss Bulia Bundy, a daughter of Hon. H. S. Bundy, of Wellston, Ohio, and they have five children, two sons and three daughters.

In April, 1879, he was elected judge of the superior court of Cincinnati, Ohio, and held this position until May 1, 1882, when he resigned on account of ill health. Recovering his health he resumed the practice of the law in Cincinnati, and in 1883 was nominated for governor of Ohio, but was defeated by his opponent, Judge George Hoadly. In 1884 he was a delegate to the national convention of the republicans which met in Chicago, and as chairman of the Ohio delegation, placed Hon. John Sherman in nomination before the convention for the presidency. In 1885 he was again a candidate for governor of Ohio, and this time was elected, defeating his former opponent, Judge Hoadly, and in 1887 he was re-elected governor of the state. In 1888 he was again a delegate to the republican national convention and was again chairman of the Ohio delegation, placing Hon. John Sherman again in nomination before the convention for the presidency of the United States. In 1889 he was again nominated for governor of Ohio, but through the persistent cry of "third termism" he was defeated by James E. Campbell.

In January, 1892, he was a candidate for United States senator, receiving thirty-eight votes, but was defeated by Senator John Sherman. This year he was a delegate at large to the national republican convention, which met at Minneapolis, serving in that body as chairman of the committee on resolutions. The state convention held at Zanesville, May 28, 1895, unanimously endorsed him as the republican candidate for United States senator to succeed Hon. Calvin S. Brice, whose term of office will expire March 4, 1897, and at the November election, 1895, a republican legislature was chosen by a majority of nearly 100,000, which was practically instructed by the people to elect Mr. Foraker to the position named above. In obedience to these instructions the legislature of the state, on January 14, 1896, elected Mr. Foraker United States senator from Ohio, for six years from March 4, 1897, by a majority, on joint ballot, of eighty-five, the majority in the senate being twenty-three, and in the house of representatives being sixty-two, the entire legislative majority being, as stated, eighty-five. Mr. Foraker is, therefore, the people's choice for this high position, in which it is confidently predicted he will confer honor on his native state, even as he has had honor conferred upon him.

In his speech accepting the office Mr. Foraker used the following language:

"I go there (to the United States senate) as a republican. I belong to that party. I believe in that party. I believe in its past; I believe in its present; I believe in its future. I believe it the most acceptable agency we can command in the administration of national affairs. I believe it is better calculated than any other political organization to contribute to the strength, power, dignity, happiness and glory of the American people." After speaking in favor of the American marine interests and of the construction of the Nicaragua canal he then referred to financial questions as follows: "I believe in bi-metallism. I believe the world made a mistake when it demonetized silver. I sincerely hope some safe way may be found for the restoration of silver to its rightful place alongside of gold as a money of ultimate redemption. I shall favor every measure calculated in my judgment to bring about that result, subject always, however, to the condition that it provides for the maintenance of the parity of the two metals."

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JAMES EDWIN CAMPBELL, ex-governor of Ohio, was born in Middletown, Ohio, July 7, 1843. He is a son of Dr. Andrew and Laura P. (Reynolds) Campbell, the former of Scotch and the latter of English descent. John P. Reynolds, the father of Mrs. Laura P. Campbell, was at one time a publisher of the state of New York, but later a resident of Madison, Ohio. The Reynolds family came originally from Devonshire, England. Jonathan Reynolds emigrated from Plympton Earl, in that country, in 1645, to America, taking up his residence near Plympton, in the colony of Massachusetts bay, and from Jonathan Reynolds Mr. Campbell is of the sixth generation. By another branch of his family on his mother's side he is a descendant of John Parker, who commanded the American troops at the battle of Lexington, the first battle of the American Revolution. Both his grandfathers were in the war of 1812.

Upon reaching his maturity Mr. Campbell began reading law. In the summer of 1863 he became a master's mate on the gunboats Elk and Naiad, and took part in several engagements, but on account of ill health he was discharged at the end of one year's services. During the winter of 1864–65 he was a law student in the office of Doty & Gunckel at Middletown, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar in 1865. Beginning practice in 1867, he was elected prosecuting attorney of Butler county in 1875 and again in 1877. In 1879 he was defeated for the state senate by twelve votes. Up to 1872 he was a republican, but then voted for Greeley, and has since acted with the democrats. He was elected to the Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth and Fiftieth congresses, and in 1889 was elected governor of Ohio. In 1891 he was again a candidate, but was defeated by Maj. McKinley. In 1895 he was the third time a candidate, but was defeated by the present incumbent of the office, Hon. Asa S. Bushnell, by a plurality of 92,622 votes.

On January 4, 1870, Mr. Campbell was married to Miss Libbie Owens, a daughter of Job E. and Mary A. (Price) Owens, the former of whom was a native of Wales, and the latter of Welsh descent.

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HON. WILLIAM McKINLEY, who has recently retired from the governorship of Ohio, is one of the most distinguished politicians of the state and nation. His ancestry lived in western Pennsylvania, his father, William McKinley, who died recently at the age of eighty-five years, having been born on a farm in Pine township, Mercer county, that state—a farm which was recently and may be to-day in the possession of the Rose family, which is related to Mr. McKinley, and of which ex-mayor W. G. Rose of Cleveland, Ohio, is a member. William McKinley, Sr., was in the iron business all his life, as was also his father before him.

Gov. William McKinley was born at Niles, Trumbull county, Ohio, January 29, 1843. He was educated in the common schools, in the academy at Poland, Ohio, and in the fall of 1860 he entered Allegheny college at Meadville, Pa., with the view of taking a full college course; but owing to sickness he was obliged to return home before the winter came on. During the winter of 1860–61 he taught a district school, and intended to return to Allegheny college, but in April, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon by the rebels, and the spirit of patriotism in young McKinley's heart was so strong that he enlisted in company E, Twenty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, as a private soldier, and in that company and regiment he marched and fought in the ranks for fourteen months. His regiment was with Rosecrans and McClellan in Virginia and West Virginia. His first battle was that of Carnifax Ferry. After this he joined the army of the Potomac and fought with McClellan. Subsequently Private McKinley was promoted, first to second lieutenant September 24, 1862; then to first lieutenant, February 7, 1863, and then to captain, July 25, 1864. Then he served on the staff of Gen. R. B. Hayes and was afterward detailed to act as assistant adjutant-general on the staff of Gen. George Crook. He was with Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley, in the battles of Winchester, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, Opequan, Kernstown, Cloyd Mountain and Berryville. For meritorious conduct he was brevetted major by President Lincoln, and after Gen. Crook's capture, in Maryland, he served on the staff of Major Gen. Hancock, and later on that of Gen. S. S. Carroll, commander of the veteran reserve corps at Washington, D. C. He was present at the surrender of Gen. Lee, April 9, 1865, was with his regiment all through its campaigns and battles, and was mustered out of service July 26, 1865, having been in the army four years and one month.

Returning to Ohio Maj. McKinley studied law with Hon. Charles S. Glidden and David Wilson of Mahoning county, and then attended the law school at Albany, N. Y. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar, and in May of that year located in Canton, Ohio, where he formed a law partnership with Judge Belden, practicing in that relationship for two years. In 1869 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Stark county, notwithstanding that county was democratic usually by a reliable majority, but in 1871 he was defeated for re-election by an adverse majority of forty-five. In 1876 he ran for congress, and to the surprise of the older politicians was elected, and was then continuously in congress, from his district (notwithstanding several gerrymanders made for the sake of defeating him), for fourteen consecutive years, with the exception of a part of his fourth term, when he was unseated by a democratic majority in congress and his place given to his competitor. He was a candidate for re-election to congress in 1890, but on account of fictitious alarm awakened by his political enemies as to the effect, and the probable effect, of the "McKinley tariff bill," which went into effect about October 1, 1890, a little more than one month before the election, he was defeated, the majority against him and in favor of his competitor, Lieut.-Gov. Warwick, being 303 votes. The year before the counties composing this district, which had been most outrageously gerrymandered for the sake of accomplishing his defeat, gave a majority to James E. Campbell for governor of 2,900.

But while this defeat retired him from congress it at the same time made him governor in 1891, when he was elected over his opponent by a plurality of 21,511. In 1893 he was again elected governor by the phenomenal plurality of 80,995, his opponent this time being the Hon. Lawrence T. Neal.

In 1884 Maj. McKinley was a delegate at large to the republican national convention which nominated Hon. James G. Blaine. In 1888 he was again a delegate at large to the republican national convention, and this time was in favor of the Hon. John Sherman for the party's candidate, but the complications then were numerous and difficult of solution, because of Mr. Blaine's refusal to be again the nominee. Many thought the nomination of Maj. McKinley would solve all problems and harmonize all factions, but in spite of all arguments and all persuasions he remained true to his state and to himself by steadfastly refusing to permit his name to be used as a presidential candidate. Again, in 1892, Maj. McKinley was a delegate at large to the Minneapolis convention which renominated President Harrison, and in this convention, in spite of all remonstrances that he could make, he received within a fraction of as many votes as were given to the idol of the republican party, James G. Blaine, the latter receiving 182 5-6 votes, while McKinley received 182 1-6 votes. President Harrison was, however, renominated only to be defeated by the present incumbent of the presidential chair, Grover Cleveland.

In his political campaigns he has manifested brilliant qualities as an orator. It is probably true that more people have heard him discuss political questions than have ever listened to any other campaign speaker in the United States. Thousands of people assemble to hear him; he always commands the rapt attention of his hearers, and he frequently elicits at least hearty applause. One of his most notable addresses was that delivered at the Atlanta Chautauqua in 1888, upon the invitation of the late Henry W. Grady, the subject selected for discussion being protection to American industries. Although the weather was threatening in the morning, and notwithstanding that the people had to ride on the cars about thirty-five miles out from Atlanta to reach the Chautauqua, yet there were assembled about 4,000 Georgians; and despite the deprecatory manner in which the subject of protection was referred to by the introductory speaker, yet Maj. McKinley completely carried the day with his audience, a fact which indicates that the people of that state are interested in the subject.

His great tour in the fall of 1894 is probably without a parallel in the history of the United States. Everywhere thousands greeted him. For more than eight weeks he averaged seven speeches a day, and it is estimated that during that time 2,000,000 people listened to him. It is altogether likely that the secret of his power over an audience lies in his sincerity, as he employs no adventitious methods and is not amusing, his simple and single aim being apparently to convince by argument fairly and squarely.

Gov. McKinley was married January 25, 1871, to Miss Ida Saxton, daughter of James A. Saxton, of Canton, Ohio, who is an accomplished lady, but through illness is compelled to remain at home much of the time. When health will permit she accompanies her husband on his travels. They have had born to them two children, both of whom died in infancy. In religion both Gov. McKinley and his wife are Methodists, as were his father and mother, and he has placed a memorial window to his father in the little Methodist church at Poland, Ohio. His grandfather, however, was a Presbyterian, and was a member of the Lisbon Presbyterian church from 1822 to 1836.

during the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Vallandigham, father of Clement L. Vanlandigham. Gov. McKinley's father died recently at the age of eighty-five, but his mother is still living, aged eighty-seven years.

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ASA S. BUSHNELL, governor of Ohio at the present time, is, without doubt and without qualification, one of the ablest men in the state. In many respects his career has been an exceptional one. His education and training have been those of a practical man of affairs, and to-day, at the age of sixty-two, having been born at Rome, Oneida county, N. Y., in 1834, he is one of the most clear-headed business men in the country.

At the age of eleven he left his home in the Empire state to begin his career in the Buckeye state, reaching Cincinnati in 1845, where he spent six years in the public schools, paying his own expenses by working out of school hours and in vacation seasons. At the end of the six years spent in Cincinnati he removed, in 1851, to Springfield, Ohio, in which city he has since lived and in which city he has acquired a princely fortune. His first three years in the "Champion City" were spent as a dry-goods clerk, during which time he became a thoroughly practical book-keeper, and at their expiration he was given a position as book-keeper with the old and well-known water-wheel firm of Leffel, Cook & Blakeney, which was even then doing an extensive business. This position he retained until 1857, when he formed a partnership with Dr. John Ludlow in the drug business, a partnership which lasted ten years, or until 1867. The only break in the continuity of his labors here was while he was engaged as captain of company E, One Hundred and Fifty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, in 1864, in the Shenandoah valley. Here his bravery and his kindly manner won for him the admiration of and made him very popular among his fellow-soldiers of the entire regiment. While he was in the army he was somewhat slight in build and light in weight, and he was not much given to physical exercise, while at the present time he is unusually active and weighs fully 200 pounds.

In 1867 Capt. Bushnell purchased an interest in the large manufacturing firm of what is now known as the Warder, Bushnell & Glessner Co., of which the late Benjamin F. Warder was then the head, and of which the junior member was J. J. Glessher, now a prominent capitalist of Chicago. And it is in connection with this concern, which Mr. Bushnell has so long and so successfully managed, that he has made the fortune which he to-day possesses.

Hon. Asa S. Bushnell has long been closely identified with the republican party in Ohio, though his attempt to become governor of the state was the first he ever made to secure public office. He became chairman of the republican state executive committee in 1885, and from 1886 to 1890, he served the state as quartermaster-general, having been appointed by Gov. Foraker, who was largely instrumental in securing for him the nomination for governor in 1895, at Zanesville. In the fall of 1888 he was assaulted in the streets of Springfield by political enemies, and through that assault came near losing his life. This assault still remains a mystery, and no one has been brought to punishment. He was chosen as a delegate at large to the republican national convention which met at Minneapolis in 1892, and which nominated President Harrison for re-election, and on November 2, 1895, he was elected governor of Ohio by a plurality of 92,622, over Hon. James E. Campbell, the democratic candidate, this plurality being the largest ever given to a governor with the exception of that given Gov. John Brough, during the progress of the Civil war, when the soldiers at the front voted almost unanimously for Brough as against Vallandigham. He was inaugurated governor on January 13, 1896.

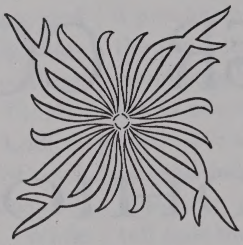
In the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, Gov. Bushnell has long been a prominent participant, being a member of Mitchell post, of Springfield, Ohio. He is also an ardent Free Mason. Among other of Gov. Bushnell's benefactions may be mentioned the Ohio Masonic Home, which was in all probability preserved to Springfield by his unsolicited contribution of $10,000, at a time, too, when he was not a Mason.

Dr. John Ludlow, with whom Mr. Bushnell, as a young man, found employment, had at that time a pretty daughter named Ellen, and these two young people were eventually married. Several children blessed the union, three of whom survive, as follows: Mrs. J. F. McGrew: Mrs. H. C. Dimond, and John Ludlow Bushnell, the latter of whom graduated with honors from Princeton in 1894. Mrs. Bushnell is an ideal woman in every relation. While she is a society woman, yet she is not so in the ordinary sense of the phrase, her principal strength lying in her domestic qualities. Her two daughters are as happily married as is she herself. Mrs. McGrew is the wife of one of Springfield's most promising young attorneys, and is the mother of two children, Ellen and Fanny; while Mrs. Dimond is the wife of a prominent young physician and also the mother of two children, Asa Bushnell and Douglas Marquand Dimond.

Brief reference can be made to the inaugural address of Gov. Bushnell. Among other things he commended was the proposition of home rule or local option in matters pertaining to taxation—which means that counties should provide their own systems of taxation for their necessary expenses; that double taxation should be avoided, and that such taxation as is necessary should be distributed as to lighten the burden of government, and so as to retain and attract capital to the state. He also favored a purchasing board for state institutions, and the providing of some means by which the state could supply employment to such of its prisoners as are now compelled to remain perpetually idle. He also favored the limitation by statute of local indebtedness to ten per cent of the tax duplicate, and in closing said: "Time only can tell how much or how little I shall merit your commendation, but it will be my constant aim and purpose to serve you as faithfully and as wisely as there is light given me to show the path of right, and I shall ever remember that I am the servant of the people."

# MERCER COUNTY,

## OHIO.



# MERCER COUNTY.

JAMES H. ADAMS, M. D., one of the leading citizens as well as one of the most prominent physicians of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Civil war, springs from the best of Scotch ancestry. Three brothers of this name, who were triplets, came when yet young men to America from the neighborhood of Edinburgh, Scotland, one of the three being the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He settled in Pennsylvania, and it is believed that the other two of the triplets went to the southern states, though their history is not known to the subject.

William Adams, grandfather of the subject, married Ann Douglass, who was, as the name indicates, of Scotch ancestry, and by her became the father of the following children: James, John, Levi, Washington, Matthew, David, Douglass, Elizabeth and Ann. William Adams was a substantial farmer of York county, Pa., and later removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, as one of its pioneers. There he cleared up a farm of eighty acres from the primeval forest, made a good home for his family, became a substantial citizen, and lived on this farm the remainder of his days. He died at the age of sixty years, his wife living to be about seventy-five years of age. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and highly esteemed citizens of Columbiana county.

David Adams, father of the subject, was born in York county, Pa., in 1806, received the common-school education of the time, and became a farmer. He came to Columbiana county, Ohio, when a young man, with his father, and there he married Elizabeth Walter, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1815. To this marriage there were born nine children, as follows: Matilda, William F., David W., Elizabeth A., James H., Joseph H. B., John F., Rebecca and Sarah S. Mr. Adams settled, upon reaching Ohio, in Columbiana county, and there kept a hotel in New Lisbon, now Lisbon, but removed thence to Jay county, Ind., in 1840. There he cleared up a farm, prospered and at length became the owner of 200 acres of land, and upon this farm passed the remainder of his days. Beside the home farm of 200 acres, he owned other tracts of land, to the aggregate amount of 1,000 acres, and before his death gave each of his children a farm. He died when about seventy years of age. Early in their lives Mr. and Mrs. Adams were members of the Presbyterian church, but in later life became Congregationalists. Three of their sons were in the Civil war, viz: William F., David W., and James H. William F. and David W., were in the three years' service, belonging to company C, Eighty-ninth regiment Indiana volunteer infantry. Both served their full time, and were in the following battles: Munfordsville, Ky.; Fort Russe, La.; Plant, La.; Bayou Lamore, La.; Yellow Bayou, and Tupelo, Miss.; the second battle of Nashville, Tenn.; and Fort Blakley, Ala. Both escaped without being wounded. David Adams was a strong Union man. At first he was an old line whig, but afterward he became a republican and most vigorous anti-slavery man. He was one of the first to settle in Jay county, and was a well-known pioneer.

Dr. James H. Adams was born May 7, 1843, in Jay county, Ind., was well educated in the public schools, and afterward attended Liber college in that county. He studied medicine with Drs. Bare & Wright, of Maumee city, Ohio, the leading physicians of that place. Later he attended the Physio-Medical college, of Cincinnati, Oeio, graduating in 1867, and immediately began the practice of medicine at Fort Recovery, where he has ever since remained, and soon after locating here established a large and profitable practice, extending throughout the entire county, riding a good deal in his earlier experience, there being then no railroad in the county. Dr. Adams is a great reader and subscribes to the leading medical magazines of the day. His medical library is a large and well selected one.

Dr. Adams enlisted in the service of his country when about nineteen years of age, in company E, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth regiment, Indiana volunteer infantry, and served until honorably discharged in December, 1864. His service was mostly in Kentucky, at Elizabethtown and Hill, beside being in several skirmishes with bushwhackers. Returning from the war he attended medical college, as narrated above, and in 1867 married Sarah H. Brown, by whom he had two children, viz: Myrtle and Charles M. His first wife being divorced, he married for his second wife Mary E. Bower, M. D., the marriage taking place September 1, 1895. His second wife was born in Hancock county, Ohio, July 15, 1865, to Adam and Mary E. (Heldman) Bower.

Dr. Mary E. Bower graduated from the high school at Bluffton, Ohio, in 1883, with the highest honors of her class, and afterward successfully taught in the public schools at Bluffton and at Fort Recovery for eight years, has had experience in business and is well and widely known as a woman of ability and culture. She began the study of medicine with Dr. Arlington Stephenson, of Fort Recovery, and afterward attended the Woman's Medical college at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which she was graduated with honor April 5, 1895, winning the gold prize medal for the best general medical examination of her class. She began the practice of medicine at Fort Recovery and has met with great and merited success.

Dr. James H. Adams is a member of McDaniel post, No. 188, G. A. R., of Fort Recovery, being now surgeon of the post. As a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge he has filled all the chairs, including that of noble grand, and has passed all three degrees in the encampment. He is among the oldest medical practitioners of medicine in Mercer county, as to years of continuous practice, and stands deservedly high among his professional brethren.

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JOHN B. ALBERS, a successful teacher in the public schools at Cold Water, Mercer county, Ohio, and a well educated gentleman, was born in Philothea, in the same county, September 15, 1865. He is a son of John F. and Eliza (Droppelman)

Albers, the former of whom was born in Oldenburg, Germany, May 14, 1822, and grew up a farmer in his native land. This occupation he followed there until he emigrated to the United States, when in his twenty-first year. Arriving in this country he located first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he engaged in hauling coal, and after three years of hard labor in Cincinnati he removed thence to Philothea, Mercer county. Here he resumed his first occupation, that of farming, which he steadily and successfully followed until within a few years, and then, on account of old age, he retired to Cold Water. The date of his arrival in Mercer county was 1844, more than fifty years ago. Two years previous thereto he married Eliza Droppelman, both of whose parents are now deceased. To their marriage there were born the following children: Mary, married to Benjamin Tengeman, a carpenter and farmer, living in Philothea, and who has two children—Frederick and John; Joseph, died in infancy; Katharine, died when eight years of age; Benjamin, died when seven years old;. Elizabeth, died when four years old; Anna, married to Frank Rahe, a retired merchant and the first to establish a business of any kind in Cold Water; Elizabeth (first child of that name having died), married to Joseph R. Birkmeyer, a retired merchant living in Cold Water; John B., the subject of this sketch, and Josephine, married to Frank S. Bettinger, a lumber dealer of Cold Water.

In 1844, when John F. Albers came to Mercer county, it was in fact an almost impenetrable and literally a howling wilderness. He was obliged to chop his way through the country to the spot on which he wished to settle; but, doffing his coat, and rolling up his shirt-sleeves, he went to work with undaunted heart and willing hand, to transform the wilderness which he had selected for his home from the habitation of wild animals and savage men into a home fit for men of a higher grade of civilization. So primitive was this new country when he first saw it, that deer was exceedingly plentiful and very tame. He well remembers firing into a herd of seventy, and killing several of them, about where the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw depot now stands. In order to go to mill he had to consume two days' time, one in going to Wabash, the other in returning, and on the way had to cut out trees and underbrush in order that his horse, with a sack of flour on his back, might get through the woods. Mr. Albers was a very strong, energetic and industrious man, and by dint of persistent hard labor and careful financial management he at one time owned 240 acres of land, an excellent and very valuable farm. He was always a very popular man, and there was probably no old pioneer in Butler township that had more warm-hearted friends than he. For nearly a quarter of a century he held the office of justice of the peace, and for many years he was township clerk. He was always glad to extend a cordial greeting to any and all of his acquaintances and friends, which he numbered by the score. He was a leader among men of his nationality in his township, possessed their confidence to the fullest extent, and was by them, as well as all others, considered to be an excellent business man. Although he had enjoyed throughout his long life exuberant spirits and vigorous health, the last year of his prolonged existence evinced a decadence of energies, and for nearly the last two months of his existence were passed on his couch. His lamented death took place May 4, 1896, and his mortal remains were interred in the Catholic cemetery at Cold Water. He left a wife and four children and a large circle of devoted and sincere friends to mourn his demise.

John B. Albers, the subject of this sketch, was born on his father's farm and received a good education in the common schools. Afterward this education was well supplemented by attendance at the Western Normal university at Ada, Ohio, in which institution he took a thorough normal course. In 1890 he became a teacher in the public schools of Cold Water, and has ever since followed his profession there. He has given the best of satisfaction to all the patrons of the school. In politics Mr. Albers is a democrat and is active in the defense and support of his party's principles. Having many friends and being an unusually intelligent and coolheaded man, he naturally wields great influence in his party's councils. He has never sought office, but in the spring of 1895 he was called to a membership in the county democratic central committee, of which he is a valuable and valued member.

Mr. Albers was married August 7, 1895, to Miss Katie Moeller, daughter of Frank and Mary (Lehman) Moeller; both of whom are now living in Cold Water, Ohio. She was reared in Shelby county, where she was born December 3, 1875, was educated in the common schools of Shelby county, and in 1891, with her parents, she removed to Cold Water. She is the second of a family of seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, married to John Anthony, a prosperous farmer of Butler township; Katie, Joseph, Albert, Clara, Martha and Nora. The latter five, bright and intelligent children, are living with their parents in Cold Water. Mr. and Mrs. Albers are highly reputable people of that town, and have many admirers and friends.

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CALVIN W. ALEXANDER, deceased, for many years a representative man of Mercer county, Ohio, was born on the coast of Maryland in 1818, passed his boyhood in his native state, was thoroughly educated, was proficient as a lawyer, and in 1848 came to Ohio and opened a land or real estate office in Shanesville, now Rockford, which he conducted until about 1853, when he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was employed as a traveling salesman for about three years, when he returned to Mercer county, Ohio, and, owning a farm of 260 acres of fine land just west of Shanesville village, engaged in farming until his death, July 2, 1880.

Calvin W. Alexander was a man of great public spirit and enterprise and was prominent in every undertaking designed for the good of the people in general; he was generous to a fault, and always ready to assist those of his neighbors who were in need of aid. He platted twelve acres of his farm as an addition to the village of Shanesville, was one of the first and most liberal contributors to the project of securing the railroad through the village, and was largely instrumental in bringing about that important event. In politics a democrat, he was for many year a justice of the peace and a notary public, and also, as a matter of patriotism, and not for the sake of pecuniary emolument, filled at various times a number of local offices of minor note or importance. For many years, being a profound lawyer, he had charge of all the legal business transacted at Shanesville (or Rockford), either as an attorney or arbitrator, being well known as an authority on all points of law. Fraternally he was a Free Mason and Odd Fellow.

Mr. Alexander was twice married, his first bride being Matilda Hedges, daughter of Col. W. B. Hedges. This lady having died young in 1847, he was joined in matrimony, in 1848, with Miss Sarah Harb, who was a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Harb, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1829, and this union was blessed with eight children, as follows: Odell S., a resident of Rockford; Samuel, deceased; Joseph, on the old homestead; Frank, in the

United States army; Anderson, at home; Delilah, deceased; Amanda A., wife of J. F. Dellinger, of Rockford, and Matilda B., at home—all of whom were reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church.

Anderson Alexander, son of Calvin W. Alexander, was born December 10, 1861, and was educated in the public schools of Shanesville; at the age of nineteen years he took charge of and managed the home farm for about twelve years, operating it as a grain and stock farm, after which he became a dealer in all kinds of agricultural implements, making a specialty of the Deering harvester, and operating throughout Mercer and Van Wert counties, with a depot at Rockford. In politics he is a stalwart democrat, of which party he is a leading and active member and in which he has served for six years as a member of the central committee, having previously served on all the other committees in which his party had representatives, and having frequently canvassed the county immediately prior to elections. Mr. Alexander has traveled extensively through the west and spent considerable time in sight seeing in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Kansas, Missouri and elsewhere. Fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, A. & F. M., and of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., and is popular with his brethren as well as with his party and the general public. He is recognized as an energetic and progressive young business man, and, in addition to the close attention he is giving his implement trade, he is now taking an active part in prospecting for oil.

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STEPHEN A. ARMSTRONG, senior member of the well-known law firm of Armstrong & Johnson, of Celina, was born in Montezuma, Mercer county, December 18, 1848. He is a son of William and Martha (Livingston) Armstrong, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, born of Scotch-Irish parentage, and the latter a native of Dublin, Ireland, but of English extraction, born in 1812. They were married in Liverpool, England, and came to the United States in 1832. They at first located in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., where they had relatives. They thence removed to Drummond county, near Montreal, Canada, and in 1847 they came to Mercer county, Ohio, locating at Montezuma, in Franklin township. The father was a machinist by trade, and had learned his trade at Enniskillen, Ireland, a city beautifully situated on the river Erne. For some time he worked at his trade in London, England, and after arriving in this country he continued to follow it. He died in March, 1850, his family consisting at that time of his wife, two daughters and one son. Four sons had died in Montezuma in December, 1849, all within the same month, of scarlet fever. Within four months' time four sons and the father of the family died, and the widow, left with her three children to care for, was in but moderate circumstances. In 1851 or 1852 she removed to Celina, but some time later returned to Montezuma. She was a woman of fine intellect and good education, which she brought into requisition as a school teacher, teaching both at Celina and Montezuma, thus earning the money on which to support her little family, without drawing on her capital, which she kept intact for a considerable time. Her two daughters, also, as soon as old enough, taught school, continuing for several years both in Montezuma and Celina. She died in Montezuma December 13, 1857. The eldest daughter, Anna, is the wife of K. Albery, of Celina, and the other, Eliza, is now deceased.

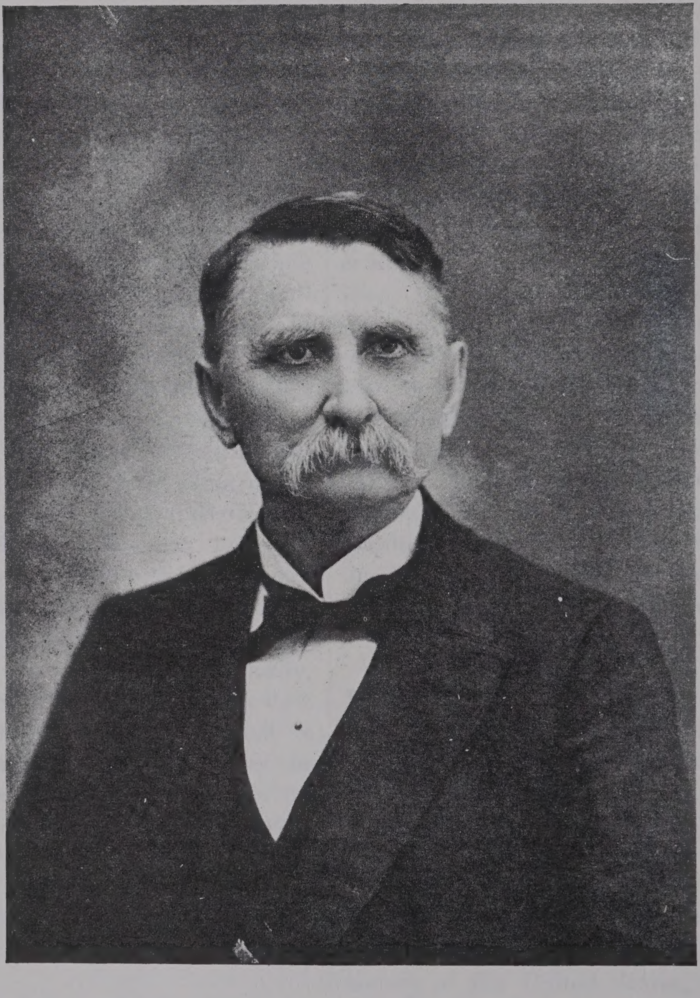
Stephen A. Armstrong received his preliminary education in the public schools of Montezuma and Celina. About 1862 he began an apprenticeship to the printer's trade, at which he continued for about three years in Celina, after which he returned to the public schools and completed a high school course. Afterward he taught four terms of school in the country. Then he was employed as superintendent of the public schools of Celina, holding this position one year, after which he entered the university of Michigan, where he took both the literary and the law course of study, and graduated from the law department of the university with the degree of L. B. in 1873. For five years previous to entering the university of Michigan he had read law while teaching school, so that his course in the university was much more easy and valuaule to him than it otherwise would have been.

April 19, 1873, he was admitted to the bar to practice before the supreme court of the state of Michigan, then sitting in Detroit, and immediately thereafter he was admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio and the federal courts. On the 7th of July, 1873, he began the practice of law in Celina, and he has since been constantly engaged in practice. In the fall of 1875 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer county by a very large majority, running five hundred votes ahead of both state and county tickets. He was re-elected in 1879, again leading the ticket. At one of the elections he received every vote polled in his native (Franklin) township. Mr. Armstrong has always taken an active interest in school affairs, and has served as president of the school board several years. The law firm of Armstrong & Johnson was formed at Celina January 1, 1887.

Mr. Armstrong was married December 28, 1870, to Alice J. Shipley, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, April 25, 1854, and is a daughter of Samuel B. Shipley, of Rockford, Ohio. To this marriage the following children have been born: William B., who graduated from the Celina high school in 1889, and is now engaged in the oil business in Mercer county; Russell L., who graduated from the Celina high school, was appointed a cadet in the United States Military academy at West Point, was prepared at Highland Falls, N. Y., passed his examination, and was admitted to the academy June 15, 1895, being a member of the fourth year class of that institution; Samuel F.; Stephen C., Alice May, and John, the last four attending the public schools in Celina.

In speaking of Mr. Armstrong, Robert L. Mattingly, of the well-known firm of Mattingly & Kenney, of Celina, compliments him as follows: "An acquaintance and association with him for the last ten years or more enables me to say of him that as a lawyer he is thoroughly grounded in the elementary principles of the law—abreast with the decisions of the present time—justly in the front rank of the Ohio bar. In practice active, resourceful, logical, scholarly; not in any sense affecting oratory or excelling as an advocate, but strong in trials, and by reason of his legal acumen very successful in his practice before the courts."

HON. JAMES H. DAY, a judge of the circuit court of Ohio, born near Findlay, in Hancock county, Ohio, February 10, 1840, is a son of Ezekiel P. Day, of English descent, born April 10, 1798, in Morris county, N. J., and of Margaret Day, née Barr, born in Chester county, Pa., July 24, 1798, of Scotch-Irish ancestry—an ancestry distinguished in many public enterprises in the history of the United States, and generally noted for courage, and physical and intellectual powers. The American branch of the Day family settled at an early date in the colony of New Jersey. Ezekiel P. Day and Miss Margaret Barr were married at Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1820, and resided in that



J. H. Drey

MRS FRANCES O. DAY.

county until 1834, when they moved to Hancock county, settling near Findlay. Here they lived for many years, rearing a family of eight sons and two daughters, of whom five of the sons and the two daughters are yet living. Ezekiel P., the father, died October 11, 1849, Margaret, his wife, surviving him twenty-eight years. Of this family of children, James H., the subject of this sketch, was the youngest, and, as may readily be inferred, from the time of his father's death he had to depend very largely upon his own efforts and resources from a very early age; but, with such help and kindly aid as his mother could provide, he attained a fair common-school education.

In 1856 he went to Van Wert, Ohio, where he remained until 1861. In 1858 he entered the law office of Messrs. Edson & De Puy, of that place, as a student, where he read law for nearly two years, then discontinued such study to engage in other pursuits. In 1861, on attaining his majority, he located in Celina, his present home, and there established himself in the mercantile business. About this time, the Civil war having commenced, his immediate plans were changed, and in July, 1862, receiving an appointment, by Gov. Tod, as major of the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, entered the military service, in which he continued until the following December, when, on account of ill health, he resigned, and resumed mercantile business in Celina. Such business not proving altogether satisfactory and entirely to his taste, he in 1868 resumed the study of law, and was admitted to the bar August 20, 1869. From the time of being admitted until 1879, he practiced his profession at Celina, at which time he was elected to the common pleas bench, as one of the judges of the first subdivision of the Third judicial district of Ohio, comprising Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Shelby and Van Wert counties, and entered upon his judicial career. The district being democratic by an overwhelming majority, his election from the first was assured, but his majority was not limited to his party vote. On February 9, 1880, the day preceding the fortieth anniversary of his birth-day, he entered upon the duties of common pleas judge, and so ably, faithfully and impartially did he perform the duties of such office, that he was re-elected in 1884, and, contrary to all party rules and precedent, he was again re-elected in 1889, without opposition, for a third term. During his incumbency he held court in various counties of the state, and deservedly won the highest regard and confidence of the legal profession wherever he presided as judge, and acquired an acquaintance with the people and the profession throughout the district that afterward was a potent factor in securing him the nomination and promotion as a judge of the circuit court—a nomination which he received in 1892 by an almost unanimous voice of the convention from the very first, and as against the very learned and distinguished judge and incumbent, the Hon. Thomas Beers, whom he succeeded to such office, and was elected by a most flattering vote to such judgeship, which judicial office he now ably fills. His frequent selection by the well pronounced choice of the people, as well as of the legal profession, and his entire judicial career, emphasize the deserving qualities that have obtained for him such marked evidence of public recognition and favor. He is possessed of a ready insight into the practical question coming before a court, a high degree of legal learning, a fair sense of justice, a judgment willing to be informed—not arrogating to himself infallible accuracy in judgment or in a knowledge of the law, but by an honest motive and purpose and industrious investigation, aiming to arrive at a true solution and impartial decision, and has not only deservedly acquired the reputation of, but may justly be termed, an able, honest and impartial judge—

the highest compliment that can be paid a judicial officer. And such is the character of the judge, recognized by the legal profession, and by the public. As a private citizen he is a gentleman of quiet dignity and modest manners. Toward the young or old, the poor or rich, he exhibits the same friendly fellow feeling. He is a faithful friend, a fair and open opponent. As well as being honored by the offices he has received from the people, he has honored the people and the offices he has filled. He is not a member of any church, but is a regular attendant, and is a member of the royal arch degree of the Masonic order. Of the many distinguished citizens of the county of his residence, there is no one who can claim a securer place in the loyal friendship of her people, or whose modest but manly demeanor towards others, and conscientious discharge of the duties of public office, more strongly commend themselves as an example for emulation.

Judge Day was married the 10th of June, 1863, to Miss Frances O. Small, daughter of Richard W. and Elizabeth Small, of Celina, Ohio. By such marriage there are four children, in order of age: Margaret R., born November 3, 1864; Annie L., born January 31, 1866; Elizabeth S., born November 4, 1871; and Frances Edna, born November 17, 1874; all of whom are living, and, except Frances Edna, the youngest, are married. Margaret R. was married to A. G. Briggs, banker and merchant of Geneva, Ind., November 27, 1883; Annie L., to John W. Loree, an attorney at law, December 22, 1886; and Elizabeth S., to William E. TouVelle, an attorney at law, of Celina, August 13, 1891. Frances Edna is still in school, pursuing her education at Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Judge Day is an active member and regular attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, as are also her daughters. The family are all comfortably situated and occupy pleasant homes, all in Celina, except Mrs. A. G. Briggs, whose husband resides and is engaged in business at Geneva, Ind., as stated above.

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GIRARD BAILEY, a physician and farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of Christopher and Nancy (Noble) Bailey, and was born in Auglaize county, then Allen county, February 12, 1841. His father, Thomas Bailey, father of Christopher, was born in Virginia in 1807, was a farmer by occupation and a Quaker in religion. He married Anna Timberlick, by whom he had several children—Christopher, the father of Dr. Girard Bailey, being the fourth child—and three of whom are still living. Thomas Bailey removed with his family, in 1808, to Highland county, and there Christopher was reared on a farm and educated, like other boys of the time who were brought up in the country, at the common schools. In 1838 he married Nancy Noble, a daughter of Elisha and Christina (Bowers) Noble, and to this marriage there were born five children, as follows: John N., a lawyer of Spencerville; Girard; Greene, a farmer of Auglaize county; Joshua, who died from the effects of a wound received at Lexington, Ky., while he was serving the cause of the government in the Civil war, as a member of the Ninty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry; and Elisha, who died in 1889, when twenty-seven years of age. Nancy Noble was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1816, and her father, who came from Maryland, was a soldier of the war of 1812. After his marriage Mr. Bailey lived in Auglaize county on a farm, which he bought of the government, and on which he carried on farming until his death, which occurred in September, 1892, at Spencerville, Ohio, his wife having died in 1887. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and highly respected people. He served as justice of the peace for many years and also as township trustee. He was in every sense a self-made man, and was, as a consequence, a man of straightforward honesty, and successful in his undertakings.

Girard Bailey was reared on his father's farm, and was educated at the Lebanon normal school, graduating therefrom in 1865. He read medicine in Celina with Dr. Miller for three years, and in 1868 graduated from the Ohio Medical college in Cincinnati. In 1859 he began teaching school and continued thus engaged for several years, and in 1868 began the practice of medicine in Auglaize county, continuing in practice there six years. In 1869 he married Mary A. Cowgill, who lived but one year afterward, and in January, 1871, he married Mrs. Susan Ellsworth, a daughter of Nicholas Brewer, and to this marriage there was born one child, Arthur H., February 1, 1872, and who is now a farmer on the home farm. Dr. Bailey's second wife died in 1891, and he was married, the third time, to Sarah Davis, who was a daughter of Robert Davis, and who was born in 1850 in Ashland county. Addie, the wife of Samuel J. Vining, whose biography will be found on another page, is a step-daughter of Dr. Bailey. In 1873 Dr. Bailey went to New Corydon, Jay county, Ind., and practiced his profession there six years. In the spring of 1880 he removed to his present place, which he had purchased one year before. This he has cleared and improved and converted into a good farm. In 1889 he erected his present large, comfortable residence, and now has a fine home in every respect. In politics he is a republican, and takes an active interest in public affairs. So greatly is he interested in politics that his party friends have elected him to a number of offices, all of which has he filled with general satisfaction to his constituents. Religiously he is a Methodist, and fraternally he is a member of Dolph Gray post, G. A. R.

Dr. Bailey was a patriotic soldier in the Civil war, enlisting in the spring of 1862, in company B, Eighty-sixth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, serving three months. In October, 1862, he enlisted in company K, Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until July, 1863. He served in the battle of Port Gibson, and in that of Champion Hills, in the latter of which he was wounded in the hip. After serving through the Vicksburg campaign he was discharged, at Vicksburg, in July, 1863. Dr. Bailey is one of the liberal-minded, public-spirited citizens of Mercer county, and is highly respected by all who know him.

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WILLIAM J. BARKER, one of the most enterprising farmers of Franklin township, Mercer county, was born in Perry county, Ohio, April 6, 1831. He is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Strait) Barker, the former of New York, the latter of Pennsylvania. Samuel Barker was born in 1805, came to Ohio with his parents, was a farmer by occupation, and became a very prominent man. In politics he was a republican, and served for a number of years as justice of the peace. Miss Elizabeth Strait, whom he married in Perry county, was born in 1807. They were the parents of eleven children, two of whom died young; the nine who reached mature years are: Mary, who married Paul Randolph, and remained in Perry county; William, a prominent farmer of Mercer county; John, who died in Mercer county in 1892, leaving a wife and three children; Christopher, who died in Iowa in 1893, leaving three children; Sophia, who has been married twice—first to James Wyatt, who died, and then to Charles Byers, a farmer of Butler township; James, who enlisted in the army, where he contracted disease from which he died six months after coming home; Joseph, who also served in the army of the Union, and is now living in Illinois; Minerva, who married Leroy Cooper, and is living in Iowa; and Harriet, who married A. D. Coate, a full biography of whom appears elsewhere in these pages. Both Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Barker were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The former died in 1870, the latter in 1875. (A sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Barker is given in connection with that of Abitha D. Coate.)

William J. Barker remained at home with his parents until he was of age. During his minority he had made good use of his time, acquiring a good education, teaching school, and working out as a farm hand, by which means he earned some money, which was of use to him after he started out in life for himself. For some time after his marriage he rented a farm in Fairfield county, Ohio, and in 1863 removed to Mercer county, and bought a tract of eighty-seven acres of land in partnership with his brother. Not long afterward he purchased his brother's interest, at which time there were twenty acres cleared, a few fruit trees planted, a house erected, and other slight improvements made. At the present time he has only ten acres of timber, and the seventy acres he has cleared are thoroughly ditched and drained with tile, and all under a high state of cultivation. He has a commodious two-story frame house, a large barn, a wind-mill, and other improvements, such as are becoming common on the best farms throughout the country. This most desirable farm home is situated four miles from Celina, one mile from Montezuma, and three miles from Cold Water. Here Mr. Barker carries on general farming and stock raising, and is carefully grading up his stock and thus steadily improving it.

Mr. Barker was married to Miss Nancy Palmer, of Fairfield county, who was born September 12, 1832, and is a daughter of Jonathan and Nancy (Dundun) Palmer, both of whom came from the state of Delaware at an early day, but after their marriage, arriving in Ohio, they settled in Fairfield county, and remained there the rest of their lives—he dying in 1859, she in 1862. He was a farmer by occupation, and an influential democrat, though he never sought office for himself. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They reared a family of twelve children, as follows: James, who died in Hocking county; George, a farmer, who lived on the old homestead until his death; Benedict, who removed to Mercer county, and cleared up a farm, upon which he lived until his death, in 1875; Jackson, who removed to Mercer county in 1854, bought and cleared up a farm, and died in 1886: William, who still lives in Fairfield county; Jonathan, deceased; Hamilton, who died in 1894; Maria, who married Samuel Milligan, and died in 1844; John, living on the home farm in Fairfield county; Nancy, wife of the subject of this sketch; Lewis, who was killed by lightning; and Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

To the marriage of Mr. William J. Barker with Miss Nancy Palmer there have been born six children, viz: Survedas H., born November 24, 1858, and now a grocer in Winchester, Ind.; Aratus, born April 20, 1860, a Methodist minister, located at Liberty Center, Henry county, Ohio; Orlington, born February 3, 1862, and now a farmer of Mercer county; Louisa, born February 7, 1864, wife of George W. Buxton, a farmer of Tippecanoe county, Ind.; Emor E., born May 15, 1869, married, and is now managing the homestead farm; Lizzie C., born May 27, 1874, wife of Norton Hemphill, M. D., and residing in Clinton county, Ohio. Both parents of these children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

He is independent in politics, and has filled some of the minor offices, notably that of township treasurer, which position he held for eleven years. Mr. and Mrs. Barker both are excellent members of society, and are highly esteemed citizens for their many good qualities.

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JOHN H. BARR, one of the representative business men and citizens of Celina, was born on a farm in Greene county, Ohio, October 24, 1846. When he was two years of age his parents removed to Lima, Ohio, and there young Barr attended the public schools, and worked in different stores. Even while yet very young he was unusually patriotic, and enlisted in the army of the Union three seperate times, his mother each time preventing him from going to the war because he was still under eighteen years of age; but at length, on November 2, 1864, he enlisted and was sworn into company F, Sixty-seventh regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until mustered out at Richmond, Va., November 2, 1865, thus seeing just one year's service, during which he was in front of Petersburg and assisted in the capture of Fort Gregg. He was also at Farmville and at Appomattox Court House on the memorable morning of the 9th of April, 1865, when Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant. After the surrender, the regiment in which Mr. Barr was serving remained in Virginia until he was finally mustered out.

Returning from the war, Mr. Barr went to work in a grocery store in Lima, and afterward he engaged in shipping potatoes from Michigan to that city. Then he engaged in contracting in street work in Lima, and during the fall of 1868, while the presidential campaign was in progress, he sold goods on the street. The same fall he became engaged in conducting an eating-house, or restaurant, in the old French Hotel in Lima, in the employ of Beverly Hall. Ten months later he bought out the business and continued to conduct it until December, 1870, when he sold out, and in connection with a partner, took the Burnett House, in Lima. He continued to manage the Burnett House as hotel proprietor until August, 1873, when he sold out, and was for some months afterward engaged in the patent right business. Then, purchasing the Decker House, at Saint Mary's, he conducted that until the spring of 1878. For the next five years he was engaged in the hotel business in Edgerton, Williams county, and after that went to Hicksville, Defiance county, where he was engaged in the hotel business for a year and a half, returning then to Edgerton, where he ran the Arlington House until November, 1889. At this time he removed to Celina and has been there ever since. At first he took the old Miller hotel, and changed its name to the Barr House, and conducted it successfully until June 26, 1895, when he sold out and purchased the grocery owned by John R. Davis. This business Mr. Barr conducted until February 10, 1896.

Mr. Barr was married March 22, 1874, to Miss Emma C. Mott, of Saint Mary's. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Grand Army post at Celina, and of Ben Hur lodge. Although having passed through many changes in location, he has uniformly been successful in his undertakings, and is now enjoying the results of his past labors. He is a man of correct personal and business habits, and has the confidence of the community to a high degree.

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JOHN G. BECKMAN, a prominent citizen of Saint Henry's, Mercer county, Ohio, was born May 9, 1845, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Borgerding) Beckman. Henry Beckman was born in

Hanover, Germany, June 6, 1819, and was a son of John G. and Rebecca (Pilster) Beckman, who were farmers and came to the United States in 1829, living for a few years in Cincinnati, and then removing to Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, where they lived from August, 1834, until 1839. Then Mr. Beckman removed to Saint Henry's, entered four eighty-acre tracts of land, on which he settled, and while engaged in clearing up his newly acquired property was killed by a falling tree. This occurred February 28, 1841. Both he and his wife were members of the Catholic church. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Mary Ann (Mrs. Wenzing), of Richmond, Ind.; Henry, father of the subject of this sketch; Catherine (Mrs. Fihe), deceased; Rebecca (Mrs. Boellner) of Cincinnati; Mary (Mrs. Doerman), deceased; Frank, deceased. After her husband's death Mrs. Beckman married Henry Kaiser, and died in Saint John's, September 11, 1869, while living with her daughter, Mary, at the age of seventy-eight. She was a Catholic in religion, and at the time of her death was again a widow.

Henry Beckman was reared on his father's farm, and in his youth, though he attended school but three months in all, acquired a good education, both in English and German. February 13, 1844, he married, in Cincinnati, Elizabeth Borgerding, daughter of John G. and Catherine (Wolfkuhle) Borgerding. To this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: John G., the subject of this sketch; Rebecca, wife of J. H. Roemer; Mary, wife of Bernard Roemer; Franz, of Burkettsville, Darke county, Ohio; Catherine, born April 11, 1853, died January 8, 1882; Joseph H., died in infancy; William, who died in infancy; and Clara, who also died in infancy. Elizabeth Borgerding was born in Oldenburg, Germany, August 15, 1822, her father being a sailor; she came to this country alone in December, 1843, and died August 16, 1887. After his marriage Henry Beckman lived on a farm until 1852, when he removed to Saint Henry's, became superintendent of the building of a church, then in process of erection there, and from that time on until his death he was there engaged in business. Politically he was a democrat, served as township clerk, as justice of the peace twenty-one years, and also held other offices. For some years he was postmaster at Saint Henry's, and for years during his residence there he was a leading citizen, being full of public spirit, and highly respected by all. He died August 3, 1868.

John G. Beckman was reared in Saint Henry's, was there educated in both German and English, and in 1859 went to Dayton, where he became a student in the famous Dayton academy. Returning to Saint Henry's he began teaching school, and followed this most useful profession for a period of twenty-two years. On July 13, 1869, he was married to Catherine Roemer, who is a daughter of Bernard and Agnes (Greifenkamp) Roemer, and who was born November 1, 1849, in Saint Henry's, maturing there into a most excellent woman. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Rosa M. E., born May 3, 1870; Leo H., born October 14, 1871, and who is now traveling for a wholesale house of Cincinnati; Emma E., born March 25, 1873; Edward B., born January 27, 1875, and died February 6, 1875; Rebecca F., born October 31, 1876, and died April 12, 1879; Vincent H., born December 1, 1879; Felix, born April 7, 1882, and died August 28, 1882; Mark B., born April 11, 1883; John G. F., born August 25, 1885, and died February 12, 1887; Clemens, born November 22, 1887; Viola Ann, born July 12, 1891, and Ralph Henry, born July 6, 1893, and died November 24, 1894.

After his marriage, John G. Beckman took up his residence where he now lives, where his father lived and died, and where he has lived ever since. When his father died he succeeded to the business. He was appointed postmaster, July 12, 1871, which office he held continuously for nineteen years, was again appointed in April, 1895, and still holds the office. Politically he is a democrat, and has been justice of the peace for twenty-seven years; he has been township clerk twenty years and notary public thirty years. At the present time he is a candidate for probate judge, with no opposition. He and his entire family are members of the Catholic church, and he is one of the most public-spirited and popular men of the township and village in which he lives. He is a progressive citizen, highly respected by all that know him, and is now president of the building and loan association of Saint Henry's, and also of the gas company. In every way he is a good and useful man, and that his worth is and has long been well recognized is fully evident from the long periods he has filled important public offices.

The grandmother of the subject, Borgerding, came to the United States in 1852. Henry Borgerding, his uncle, served in the Germany army, and also served in the Union army three years. Thus it will be seen that the family on either side is full of patriotism and energy, and worthy of being classed with the best citizens of this country.

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SILAS BEAM, a prosperous and prominent farmer of Black Creek township, was born in Darke county, Ohio, March 13, 1847. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Riffle) Beam, the former of whom was born in the same county on January 29, 1813. The grandfather, Jacob Beam, was a native of Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-German descent, came to Ohio and located in Darke county in 1812, and took up some government land, which he cleared, and underwent the many trials and privations incident to the opening up of a new country, and there farmed till his death. He was a whig in politics, and a well-known citizen. His children were nine in number: Adam, John, and David, all three deceased; George, Jacob, Fred, Daniel, Solomon, and Barbara, the deceased wife of William Hathaway.

John, the second son, passed his boyhood days on his father's farm. About 1839 he married Elizabeth Riffle, who was born in Virginia on November 10, 1814, and at an early age came with her father, Jacob Riffle, to Darke county, Ohio, and there lived till her marriage. After marriage the young couple lived in Darke county for twenty years, and in 1859 they moved to Mercer county, where they lived on a farm till death called them away—the husband in December, 1879, and the wife in September, 1893. They were both faithful members of the Christian church, and were the parents of nine children: Martha Jane, who died when twenty-one years old; Johnson, who at his country's call responded, and for two years served in the Forty-seventh Indiana volunteer infantry, and received a wound from which he afterwards died; Jacob, a grocer living in Willshire; William, a farmer living near the same place; Silas, the subject of our sketch; Aaron, and John, both of whom died in infancy; Rachael, the wife of Aaron Ireland, of Mendon, Ohio; and Milton, a sawmiller of the same place.

Silas, the fourth son, was reared on his father's farm, and here received his education. At his country's call for additional troops to put down the Rebellion he responded, and on February 2, 1865, enlisted in company D, One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, served in the Shenandoah valley, Va., until the close of the war, and was mustered out at Winchester, Va., August 11, 1865. After his discharge he returned home and took up the peaceful pursuit of farming. On January 11, 1872, he married Miss Mary Neus, who was born in Auglaize county, March 14, 1853, a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Stein) Neus. Her parents were both natives of Germany, who had emigrated to this country and settled in Auglaize county, and her mother is still living in Wapakoneta.

After his marriage Mr. Beum brought his young wife to the farm on which they now live, which at that time was but little cleared. He had all the hard work and trials of those who had come to the county at an early date. Having cleared the land, he has since continued to improve it, and has now a fine farm under a high state of cultivation. Politically he has followed the footsteps of his father and casts his votes with the democrats. For nine years he has held the office of township trustee, and is still honored with it. He is not a member of any church, but is quite liberal to all, and gives liberally to all worthy and charitable causes. He is the father of eight children, a record of which is given as follows: Chauncey, born August 28, 1872, who now lives in Mendon; Carrie, born October 16, 1878, also living in Mendon; Margaret, born July 26, 1881, who is still at home, along with the following: Thomas, born October 29, 1883; Hoadly, born July 29, 1885; Daniel Boone, born September 7, 1887; Bird, born January 22, 1890; and Bessie Pearl, April 11, 1892.

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THOMAS BENTON BEHYMER, a prominent farmer, contractor, and at the present time commissioner of Mercer county, Ohio, was born September 1, 1841, in Clermont county, Ohio, near the birthplace of President Grant. He is a son of Aaron and Nancy (Manning) Behymer, the former of whom was born in Virginia in 1795, and was of German descent, his father having been a pioneer settler in that state. Aaron Behymer was the second of three children, his younger brother, James, settling in Clermont county, Ohio. Aaron Behymer was reared on the Virginia farm, was educated in Virginia, and there learned the millwright trade. To his first marriage, which also occurred in Virginia, there were born four children, as follows: Aaron, of Missouri; Mrs. Littleton, now deceased; Lavina Arimcost, of Clermont county, Ohio, and Lizzie. The mother of these children having died, Mr. Behymer married for the second time, and by this marriage became the father of one child, Frances, now Mrs. Wilson, of Clermont county, Ohio.

Aaron Behymer located in Clermont county in 1815, and there followed his trade seven years, building and successively running six saw-mills in that county. In addition to milling he followed farming, purchasing a farm of 300 acres, cleared it of its timber, and upon this farm spent the rest of his life, engaged in farming, and operating both saw and grist-mills. The grist-mill which he erected is still in operation. He is one of the best of men, never using profane language, although belonging to no church, and being always honest and upright. For his third wife he married Nancy Manning, about 1839. To this marriage there were born three children, as follows: Thomas Benton, the subject of this sketch; Perry, of Rockford, and James, of Hopewell township. Nancy Manning was born in Clermont county in 1811, and came of a long-lived family, her father reaching the age of ninety-eight, and her mother the age of ninety-two. She was a member of the Christian church, and died in June, 1886. Aaron Behymer had preceded her to the grave in 1856.

Thomas Benton Behymer, reared on the farm, was educated in the common schools of

Clermont county. He was one of the first to enlist in the service of his country, enlisting April 24, 1861, in company I, Twenty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served four months, most of the time guarding railroads, etc., in the east. He was discharged August 19, 1861, and on November 13, 1861, he again enlisted, in company L, Fifth Ohio volunteer cavalry, being appointed sergeant. He was commissioned second lieutenant October 29, 1862, and first lieutenant March 1, 1864. The battles in which he participated were as follows: Shiloh, Corinth, Lookout Mountain, and in those of the famous Atlanta campaign, being with Sherman from Memphis until he started on his march through Georgia to the sea. He was wounded in a skirmish two days previous to the battle of Shiloh, was shot in the arm at Missionary Ridge, and also at Tecumseh. He was promoted for special service rendered Gen. Sherman, on recommendation from the governor of Ohio. He was one of the most useful soldiers in the army of the Union, was always at the front, and did not miss a day's service during the whole period of his enlistment. He was discharged in January, 1865. After the war he returned to Clermont county, and began farming. He was married September 13, 1866, to Lulu Brown, daughter of Alfred and Elizabeth (Waters) Brown. Lulu Brown was born in Brown county (which county was named after her ancestors), August 16, 1841. To this marriage there have been born two children, viz: Charles S., a banker of Rockford, Ohio, and Arthur D., a farmer.

Alfred Brown, father of Mrs. Behymer, was born in Brown county, in 1817, was a prominent and successful farmer, and died in 1877. His wife was born in 1819 in the same county and died in 1852. They were the parents of three children that survive, viz: Mollie, now Mrs. Ritchie, of Brown county; Lulu, the wife of the subject of this sketch; and Reason, of Galion, Ohio. In 1849 Alfred Brown moved to Kentucky, where he followed farming and milling until 1854, when he returned to Brown county, Ohio. In politics he was a republican, and in religion a member of the Christain church. After the family returned to Ohio from Kentucky, Lulu Brown returned to Kentucky, and there taught school a number of years. She was married in Ripley, Ohio. She is a woman of character, well-educated and intelligent, and possessed of many excellent qualities. She and her husband are members of the Friends' church, in which she is an elder.

In 1866 T. B. Behymer, our subject, removed to a farm in Darke county, where he lived until 1877, when he bought a farm in Hopewell township, Mercer county. For five years he dealt in stock, and from 1867 to 1869 operated a saw-mill, which he purchased in the former year. From 1869 down to the present time he has been a farmer and contractor. In 1889 his barn was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of $2,000, less $900 of insurance. In 1893 he moved to his present home, where he has excellent buildings, including a fine house and barn. As a democrat he has served as trustee of his township two terms, and also as county commissioner, two terms by election, and eight months by appointment. He is a most public-spirited man, favorable to all enterprises that promise to promote the public good, and highly honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men.

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A G. BENNETT, a successful and enterprising farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the county in which he lives, and was born September 1, 1847. His early boyhood days and his youth were spent on the farm, engaged in all kinds of farm work. During the winter seasons he attended the district schools, and secured a good common school-education. He is a son of Landon and Elizabeth (Grant) Bennett, of Butler county, Ohio. Landon Bennett's father located at an early day in Hamilton county, where Cincinnati now stands, and owned there 160 acres of land; but this land was so poor he could not make a living on it for his large family, so he sold out and left the place.

Landon Bennett went to Butler county probably about 1830, remaining there until 1836, when he removed to Mercer county. He at first entered a tract of land, of which he cleared and improved ninety acres, and made of it a good farm. In that county he reared his family and lived until his death, which occurred in 1866, though the last ten years of his life were spent in Montezuma. In the early day he experienced all the hardships and deprivations of pioneer life. He did "corn cracking" upon his first arrival, and had to go to Piqua to get his milling done, as did all the other pioneers, until a mill was erected in their neighborhood. Game of all kinds was plentiful, and as he was a great hunter he gave much of his time to the trap and the rifle. Deer skins, and coon and mink skins readily passed as money, and for a number of years he hunted on, giving only such attention to his farm as was necessary to get his crops in, in the spring, and to care for them in the fall. In politics he was a democrat and filled many of the minor offices in the gift of his party. He was township treasurer and justice of the peace for many years, and he was, in all, one of the most prominent and influential men of his time in his section of the country. Alexander Grant, father of Mrs. Landon Bennett, located in Mercer county about 1834, entered land and made a good farm. After living in this county a good many years he sold out and went to Iowa, where he died. Landon Bennett and his wife were the parents of six children, viz: Mary, who married Ellis Myers, now both dead; Elizabeth, who married Eben Tyler, and died in Missouri; Lydia, who married Jacob Golder, both dying in Indiana; Rebecca, who married J. T. Miller, and resides at Montezuma; H. B., a prominent farmer of Franklin township, and A. G., the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children is a member of the Christian Union church.

A. G. Bennett married Miss Elizabeth Tharp, a native of Mercer county, born July 30, 1851, and a daughter of William and Lecy (Woodward) Tharp, the former of whom came from Virginia, and the latter from North Carolina. They married in Clinton county, Ohio, and removed to Mercer county about 1846. Here, Mr. Tharp bought state land, and improved a farm, upon which he lived for some years. Then, selling it, he moved to Indiana, and there both he and his wife died, he in 1878, she in 1882. He was a strong democrat, but never aspired to an official position. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church.

William and Lecy Tharp were the parents of ten children, viz: John T., who died in Indiana; Milton, died an infant; Elizabeth, the wife of our subject; Nancy, who married William Palmer, a farmer of Indiana; Almeda, who married John Vernon, a farmer of Indiana; William, a farmer of Indiana; Arminda, who married Charles Shelby, proprietor of a paper mill at Saint Mary's, Ohio; George, a teacher in Oklahoma, and Oscar, of Saint Mary's.

A. G. Bennett and wife became the parents of six children, of whom three died young and the surviving three, Ira, Henry, and Ila, are at home. Both parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Bennett is a democrat in politics, and has always taken great interest in political and other public affairs. While his party friends have offered to nominate him for such offices as were within their power to bestow, he has steadily declined to be a candidate. During the life of his parents he remained with them. In 1874 he married and rented a piece of land, removing in 1876 to Indiana, where he bought a farm. This farm he sold in 1882 and returned to Ohio, buying the farm upon which he now lives. Since that time he has done considerable clearing, built his present house, also a good barn and such other out-houses as were needed, and at the present time has thirty-seven acres cleared, ditched and thoroughly underdrained, and in a high state of cultivation. Beside all this he has leased his farm for oil, and has five wells drilled, all of which are producing oil; and beside, he has a well on his farm, which supplies his house with natural gas. Confining his attention strictly to his farm and its interests, instead of going into politics or other extraneous business enterprises, is probably the main reason for his success in life, for if a man has too many "irons in the fire," some of them are sure to get badly burnt.

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JOHN BETZ, one of the most prominent and one of the most useful of the ancient pioneers of Mercer county, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, March 8, 1821. No one of the pioneers, living or dead, is more worthy of a place in history than is the subject of this sketch. He was reared on a farm and brought up to realize that labor conquers all things that can be conquered. This has been the spirit of his life, and this is what has led to the success with which he has met. His education was obtained in the country schools in his early youth, such as they were, but they were not very good. Few then gave their attention to teaching, and those that did had to work with the poorest facilities.

John Betz is a son of John and Mary (Stickle) Betz, the former from Maryland, the latter from Virginia. They were both of German descent and were married at Zanesville, Ohio. John, the father, was born January 19, 1791, and in 1804 came to Ohio, locating in Muskingum county and entering land. In 1812 he married, and the same year enlisted in the army, to help fight Great Britain in what has been often called the second war for independence. He was elected lieutenant of his company, and served nearly one year, when, on account of sickness in his family, he resigned. Returning home he remained there, but sent a substitute to the war. Continuing on the farm he made a comfortable home for his family and was employed for some time in the manufacture of salt on the Muskingum river. He was also engaged to some extent in boating down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. Remaining in Muskingum county until 1832, he then sold his possessions there and removed to Knox county, where he purchased a tract of raw land, opened it up, improved it, and ran a distillery on his own private account. Here he remained until 1836, when he removed to Mercer county, and entered 160 acres of land, and, soon afterward, still another tract, containing forty acres. Then disposing of his Knox county property, he removed all his personal effects to his Mercer county farm, using oxen as the motive power. In coming through Sidney he made a bargain to use his oxen in working on the construction of the Ohio canal, and was thus engaged for one year. He followed an Indian trail as far as Celina, when moving from Knox county, but from Celina, the rest of the way, he had to cut his road through the woods. This was about twelve miles, and it was no easy task. Securing assistance, he built a log cabin and dug a well, and soon began the work of clearing his land. Not long afterward he put in a crop of corn, and then gave a good deal of time to hunting, as wild game was the principal source of meat for his table. Of fresh meat there was no scarcity, and it was not very difficult to obtain, but for breadstuffs, that was a very different thing, as he had to go to Piqua for a number of years to get his milling done. Then he erected a horse-mill himself for the convenience of the settlers, and had a fine run of business in this line. But, strange to say, there was in many instances no profit in this business, for the pioneers came many miles to mill, and when there was a good many of them waiting for their grists to be ground, they boarded with the miller, and it often cost him more than the toll amounted to which he received for grinding their grain. After a time he settled down to farming, let others take charge of the milling, and continued to manage his farm the remainder of his days. His death occurred January 28, 1867.

Politically Mr. Betz, the father, was always a strong Jackson democrat. At the first election in the township which he attended there were cast only four votes, and his vote was the only democratic vote cast. He was always active in politics, as in everything else, and served six years as county commissioner. His only brother, William, came to Mercer county, also, and kept hotel at Celina for a number of years, afterward returning to Muskingum county, where he died. John Betz became one of the most prominent men of his day and one of the best farmers in his township. On his marriage he became the father of twelve children, viz: Henry, now deceased; George W., deceased; William, resides at Piqua; Mary A., married I. J. Thompson; John, Jr, the subject of this sketch; Phebe, wife of Charles Gillespie; Lucy, deceased; Jackson F., deceased; Margaret, wife of John Gibbons; Perry, a farmer of Washington township; Nancy, wife of John Allen, and Elizabeth, who married twice—first, A. Channell, and, second, Jacob Hottle. She is now deceased. George W, served through the late war, in which he was wounded in the knee, and has since died. The mother of these children lived until 1875. Both she and her husband were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John Betz, Jr., the subject of this sketch, was seventeen years old when he removed to Mercer county; but he was old enough and strong enough to do his share of raising the log cabin, and to roll logs. Many a time he went eight or ten miles to assist a "neighbor" to raise a log cabin or some other kind of work, and he was all the time familiar with everything that was going on in the country for many miles around. In 1848, when he was twenty-six years old, he married, and settled down on forty acres of land which he had previously bought from his father. It was all woods, and many a day he spent hard at work cutting down the timber, and in reflecting upon how easy it would be to farm where the timber was all cut down. Soon he had a log cabin erected and was living in it as comfortably and cozily as can be imagined. Continuing to improve his land, he soon afterward added eighty acres, making 120 acres in all, but he still continues to live on the original forty. He now has a fine two-story frame dwelling house, and other buildings necessary for his use, to stable his horses and cattle, and to store away his crops. The farm on the whole is one of the most desirable in the township in which it is situated. About 1870 he erected a steam saw-mill on his land, which he conducted for about twenty years. He was also in the threshing business for many years. Some of the turnpikes in his township also he helped to construct, so that, taking his life as it has passed, he has by no means been a lazy man, nor indifferent to the progress of his country. Politically he is a strong democrat and has filled some of the most important offices in the gift of his party. He has served as township trustee, as county commissioner six years, and he as filled all the offices connected with the public schools, and he is now serving as justice of the peace. Thus it will be seen that he has been and is one of the most prominent, active, public-spirited and useful men in the county.

John Betz, our subject, married Miss Mary Walters, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, May 31, 1827, and is a daughter of Jacob and Susanna Walters, both of whom were of German ancestry, and were married in Pennsylvania. They settled in Jay county, Ind., where Mr. Walters entered land, improved a farm and remained during his life, dying in 1866. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, viz: Henry, John, Elizabeth, Peter, David, Mary, William, Catherine, Washington, Daniel and Sarah. Three of these children died young, and their mother died about 1883. Both parents were members of the Lutheran church.

John Betz, Jr., and his wife have had thirteen children born to them, viz: Theodore C.; John, residing at Piqua; Nancy, wife of E. Miller; Newton, married and settled down to farm life, and died October 30, 1895, leaving a wife and three children; William F., residing at Geneva; Henry W., residing at Bryant, Ind.; Mary A., at home; Charles E., who farms the home place; Daniel G., a farmer of Washington township; Susannah D., wife of Daniel Fennig, a farmer, and three that died young. The mother of these children died June 27, 1890, having been for many years a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

One peculiarity of Mr. John Betz has not been mentioned, and it is a proper thing to close this sketch with. He was the hunter of the family, especially in the pioneer days. Wild game was, as has been said, abundant, and many a deer and wild turkey fell before the unerring aim of his rifle. The skins of all kinds of animals bearing fur were a never-failing source of revenue, as the flesh of game was a never-failing source of supply for the table. Both were of great value to the pioneers; but nature is inexhaustible in her resources, and if the present inhabitants of this country have not these supplies to rely upon they have others, which will, in all probability, last much longer.

HENRY H. BEVINGTON, one of the oldest merchants of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Black Creek township, in the same county, January 27, 1851, and descends from one of the oldest pioneers, his grandfather, Henry Bevington, having settled, in about 1820, on what was known as Shane's prairie, about two miles east of the present site of Rockford. There he entered land and followed farming until his death, which occurred September 12, 1841. His widow, Rachael (Wood) Bevington, survived him many years, and died at eighty-four years of age. They had a family of nine children, born and named as follows: Annie Rebecca, March 18, 1823; Elizabeth, February 7, 1825; John Wood, May 4, 1827; Sarah, January 3, 1829; Charles, March 7, 1831; Joel Wood, September 13, 1833; Hannah Wood, February 27, 1836; Massie J., April 27, 1838; and Rachel Ann, born November 18, 1841. Of these children there are only three living: Massie, wife of H. A. Hughes; Rachael Ann, wife of T. J. Morrison, and Joel Wood Bevington, of Marseilles, Ill., retired. Henry Bevington and wife, Rachael (Wood) Bevington, endured many of the hardships of pioneer life in Mercer county. There being Indians still here in their time, Rachael (Wood) Bevington, wife of Henry Bevington, rowed the boat across the Saint Mary's river many a time for the entertainment of said Indians.

John Wood Bevington, son of Henry and Rachael (Wood) Bevington and the father of Henry H., our subject, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, May 4, 1827, was reared to manhood on the home farm, and later became an extensive farmer and stock dealer on his own account. John W. Bevington and Delilah Strete were married in Mercer county, November 14, 1847. They had a family of three children; two died in their infancy, only one being left—Henry H. Bevington, whose father, John Wood Bevington, died in June, 1877; his mother, Delilah Bevington, died December 8, 1893.

Henry H. Bevington, our subject, was reared a farmer and was educated in the common schools. He remained at home until of age and then was employed as a clerk in a store in Van Wert for four years. He then came to Rockford, and, in company with D. H. Robinson, built the old handle factory and saw-mill, in the operation of which they were associated together for about six years. Mr. Bevington then engaged in the dry-goods business for three or four years, and then retired for a year. He next embarked in the grocery trade, in which he is still engaged, and is now the oldest continuous grocer in Rockford.

Mr. Bevington was most happily married, September 11, 1879, to Miss Fredonia Wagner, a native of Mercer county, and a daughter of George W. and Mary Wagner, and this union has been made the more happy by the birth of two children—Flora E. and George H. Mrs. Bevington is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has always assiduously attended to the moral guidance of her children. Politically Mr. Bevington is a democrat and has officiated as a member of the school board and the council, but has never been an office seeker, although he has given his attention to the duties of his positions most faithfully. Fraternally he is a charter member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Bevington, although still a young man, has done much toward building up the business and other material interests of Rockford, and he and family are among the most respectable residents of the village and township and of the county of Mercer.

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CHARLES M. BIENZ, the energetic young proprietor of a first-class harness store in Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the village and was born October 1, 1866, a son of Christopher and Mary (Harrod) Bienz, who, when our subject was but six years of age, moved to a farm in Black Creek township, where he was reared to manhood and educated in the public schools and the Van Wert union schools, being an excellent scholar. At the age of twenty years our subject journeyed west, traveling for a year through Missouri, Kansas, the territories, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, back through Missouri to Arkansas, and thence home, working at intervals at carpentering and stone-cutting. On his return to Black Creek township, in partnership with his brother, J. W. Bienz, he engaged in the manufacture of tile for two years, and then for a year united with his brother-in-law, J. S. Shock, in the same line of business at Mendon, Ohio. He then farmed for three years in Black Creek township, when he went again to Mendon, where he was employed in blacksmithing for nine months, after which he came to Rockford, and, July 13, 1895, purchased the stock and fixtures of his present harness establishment of W. M. Symons. He now carries a full and well assorted line of harness, saddles, robes, blankets, whips and all other articles pertaining to the trade, and through his civility and straightforward dealing has won for himself a liberal share of the public patronage—carrying factory wares as well as goods of his own manufacture, which latter he makes to order, as well as keeping on hand a ready-made stock.

January 1, 1890, Mr. Bienz was united in marriage with Miss Retta Weppler, a daughter of John Weppler and a native of Mansfield, Ohio. This happy union has been blessed by the birth of three children, born in the following order: Ocie P., Lewis M. and Thomas H. In politics Mr. Bienz is independent; fraternally, he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and also of Mendon lodge, No. 416, K. of P. Mr. Bienz is self-made, as a business man, and although, in 1891, he met with some reverses, he never lost courage, but, with the pluck and energy characteristic of his nature, set himself to work with renewed vigor, is once more doing a prosperous trade, and is considered to be one of the solid business men of Rockford, and is one on whom the public can place an unreserved and well deserved confidence. He is broad minded and liberal, never refuses his aid in any project designed for the public good, and is recognized as one of the county's useful and respected citizen.

Christian H. Bienz, a prominent farmer of Black Creek township, was born May 14, 1829, at Garlinga, Germany. He is a son of John Baltus and Catherine (Widely) Bienz, the former of whom was born at the same place, six miles west of Stuttgart, in December, 1796, and was an only son. He was reared on a farm, was well educated in his native town, and married Catherine Widely, also a native of Garlinga, born there in 1798. To their marriage were born the following children: John Baltus, deceased, who lived in Mercer county; George, deceased, of Van Wert county, killed by a falling tree; Christiana, who died in infancy; Catherine, deceased wife of Andrew Ream, of Van Wert county; John, a farmer of Van Wert county; Jacob, a farmer of Van Wert county; Barbara, deceased; Christian H., the subject of this paragraph; Frederick, a carpenter of Goshen, Ind.; Margaret, deceased wife of Christian Ariman, killed at Richmond, Va., during the war; Mary Ann, wife of Abraham Miller, of Van Wert county, and Philip, of Dublin township, Mercer county.

John Baltus Bienz, after his marriage, lived in Garlinga until the necessities of the government demanded every soldier that it could raise, and although Mr. Baltus, on account of being an only son, was exempt from military duty, yet he was informed by a high officer in the army, to whom he was related, that, unless he left his country, he would be drafted into the army, and hence he immediately sold his goods and took passage for the United States. He landed at Baltimore and came direct to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he remained two years, and he then removed to Richland county, where he lived six years. In 1839 he finally removed to Van Wert county, where his two eldest sons had entered eighty acres of land, upon which he lived till his death, which occurred in 1857. He was a member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife, and after he arrived in this country he allied himself with the democratic party. His wife survived him until 1878, when she followed him to the great beyond.

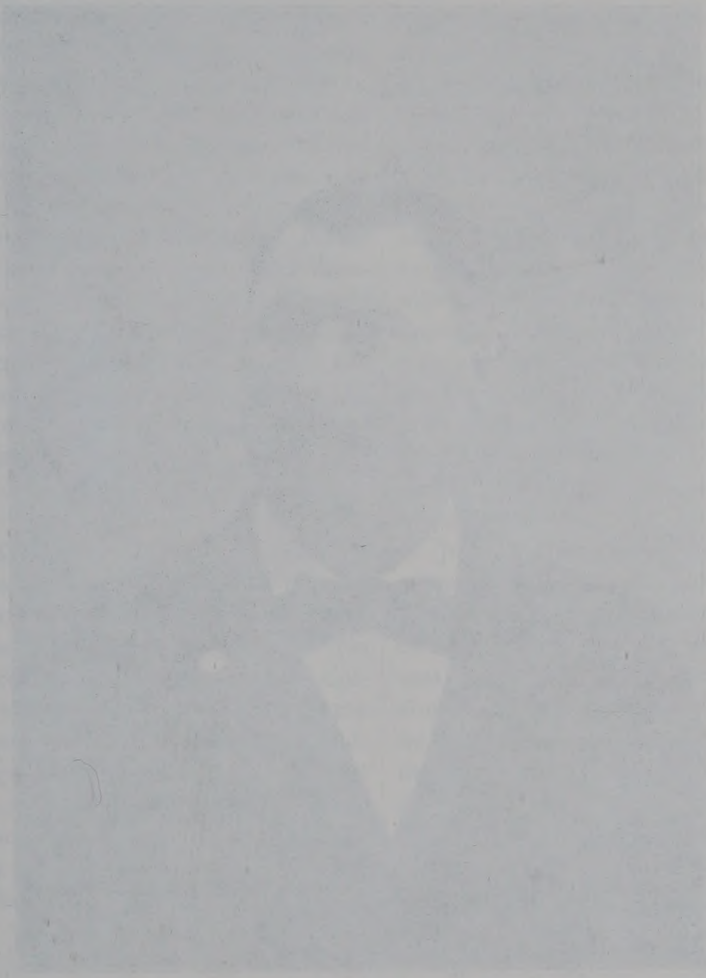
Christian H. Bienz was reared on the farm and educated in Van Wert county. In the fall of 1851 he went to Warren county and worked on a farm five months at $13 per month, and also while there learned the carpenter's trade. He remained in Warren county until 1857, and then returned to Van Wert county, made his home for a time with his brother and followed his trade. April 18, 1858, he married Mary Harrod, a daughter of David and Jane (Rightmire) Harrod, and to this marriage there have been born eleven children, as follows: Sarah E., died at the age of three and a half years; Ellis H., a farmer of Whitley county, Ind.; Alma, wife of Leander Yant, who is in the freight house at Fort Wayne, Ind.; Joseph W., a tile manufacturer of Mercer county, Ohio; Charles M., of Rockford, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in these pages; David Howard, a farmer of Oklahoma; Albert, who died in infancy; Mary Elizabeth, Abraham W. and Francis Eda, all three at home, and Hiram N., a telegraph operator of Shelbyville, Mich.

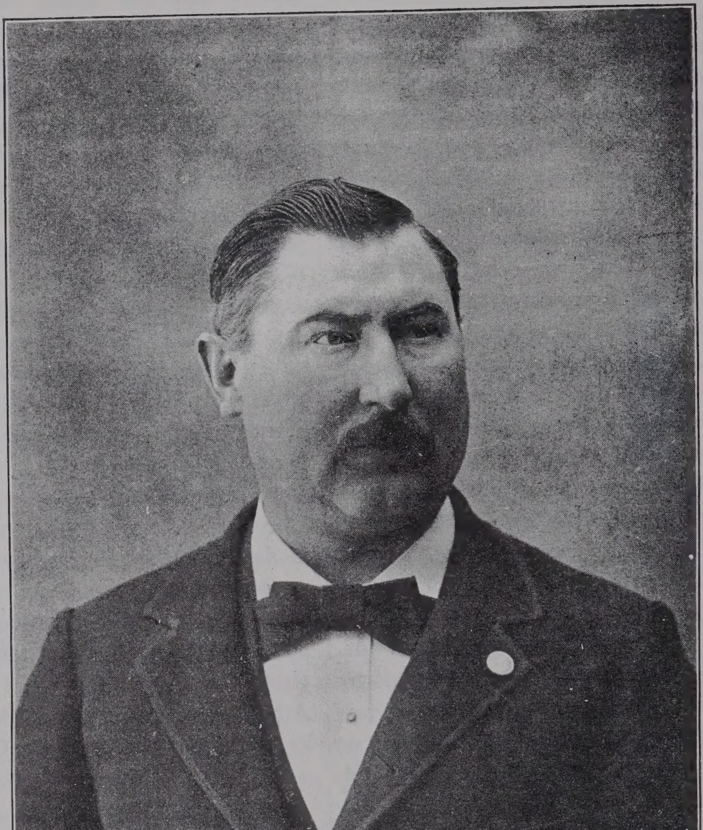
Mary Harrod, who married Mr. Bienz, was born in Knox county, Ohio, July 28, 1836, was educated in Mercer county, where she was also married. Her father, David, was born in Knox county, December 3, 1812, where he was reared upon a farm, was educated, and learned the cabinet-maker's trade. His father, Michael Harrod, was born in Pennsylvania, was a farmer, and married Agnes Ulrey, by whom he had seventeen children, as follows: John, Levi, Elizabeth (Mrs. Lemen), Charlotte (Mrs. West), Rachel (Mrs. Koffman), Mary (Mrs. Henry), James, David (father of the wife of Christian H.), Jesse, Cynthia (Mrs. Adrian), Peary, Rhinehart, Clara, Sarah, Amy (Mrs. Clawson), Jane, and Susie (Mrs. Melick). Michael Harrod and his family were among the very earliest settlers of Knox county. There Mr. Harrod entered a very large tract of land, 160 acres for each of fifteen surviving children. In politics he was a democrat and both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church.

David Harrod married, in Knox county, Miss Jane Rightmire, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Dorothy) Rightmire, and to them were born ten children, as follows: Mahaly, wife of George Schoyer, of Washington township; Mary, the wife of Christian H. Benz; Cynthia, deceased wife of Jerry Allen, who lives near Mendon; Nancy, wife of Thompson Stettler, of Black Creek township; Amy, deceased; James, who died at Louisville, a member of company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, while in the service of his country; Elizabeth, wife of Adam Cully, of Geneva, Ind.; Abraham, recorder of Allen county, living at Lima; Catherine, deceased wife of Silas Robison, whose biography is on another page, and an infant, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Knox county, June 12, 1812. Her parents were natives of Virginia, and early settlers in Knox county, and, it may be added, Grandfather Rightmire was a captain in the war of 1812-15.

David Harrod, after his marriage, worked at his trade in Knox county, removing to Mercer county in 1840, where his father entered for him 160 acres of land, and where he himself entered 160 acres more. On this land he lived thirteen years, then sold out and bought in Black Creek township, where he lived a year and a half, and in 1855 started west and died of cholera May 23, that year. He was a member of the United Brethren church, and took a very active interest in its welfare, as did also his wife. In politics he was a democrat and served as justice of the peace for eight years, as trustee of the township for some time, and for many years before his death he was never out of office. His wife died June 2, 1875.

Christian H. Bienz, after his marriage, located in Mercer county and lived five years on the old Harrod homestead, which he farmed one year. At the same time he also followed his trade. In 1863 he bought a lot in Shanesville, upon which he built a house and lived there until the spring of 1872, when he removed to his present place, which he purchased that spring. Of the 156 acres of which this farm is composed only twenty-five acres were





F. S. Collins

cleared at that time. The rest of the farm he cleared and improved with drainage and good buildings. His present dwelling-house he erected in 1879, and in 1885 he erected a barn 36x76 feet, with a wing or "L," 12x24 feet. He has now under cultivation 100 acres. He has also, as a carpenter, built a number of houses in Rockford and most of the barns in the neighborhood, his wife and sons managing the farm while he is working at his trade. In politics he is a democrat and has served as trustee of his township several years, beside holding other local minor offices, such as member of the school board. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church and a good woman in every way. Mr. Bienz is one of the most prominent and progressive farmers in the county, and one of the most public-spirited men of Rockford.

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FRANKLIN S. COLLINS, probate judge of Mercer county, was born in Rockford, then known as Shane's Crossing, November 23, 1852. He is a son of Jacob and Adeline V. (Davis) Collins, both of whom came into Mercer county at an early day. Moses Collins, the grandfather of Judge Collins, was one of the first settlers of the county. The mother of Judge Collins was born in Virginia, and came to Mercer county with an uncle when she was quite young, her father having died when she was a child. The parents of Judge Collins were married in Mercer county, and to them two children were born, viz: Franklin S., and Emma, the latter now the wife of W. W. Small, M. D., of Shelby county, Ohio. The father died when the subject of this sketch was about eighteen months old, but the mother is still living in Ashland, Ohio.

Franklin S. Collins lived at Shane's Crossing until he was fifteen years old, when he removed with his mother to a farm in Ashland county. His education was obtained in the public schools of both Mercer and Ashland counties, and in 1870 he entered Baldwin university at Berea, Ohio, where he spent one year. After leaving this university he returned to Mercer county, and entered the dry-goods store of his uncle, at Mendon, as a clerk, retaining this position for about two years. Then he purchased the business from his uncle, and carried it on, on his own account, for between four and five years, when he sold out and removed to a farm about one mile north of Mendon, upon which he remained about three years. At the end of this time he returned to Mendon and engaged in the hardware and grocery business, continuing until 1889. He then sold his business in Mendon and returned to the farm on which he remained until February, 1894, when he removed to Celina.

Judge Collins began his political career when he was elected councilman of the town of Mendon, being a member of the first council of that village. Following that first success in politics he was elected mayor of Mendon, in which capacity he served two terms; he was then elected trustee of Union township, in which position he served one term; he was next elected assessor of that township and served one term, being elected to the two latter offices on the republican ticket; he was then elected justice of the peace by the populists, and served as justice until he resigned in December, 1893. In 1893 he was nominated by the populists from probate judge, his nomination being endorsed by the republicans and independent democrats, and after an exciting and bitter campaign he was elected by a majority of 352 votes, overcoming a democratic majority of 2,200. Judge Collins took possession of his office February 9, 1894, the term being for three years. He is giving the people general satisfaction, as he is a careful and competent man.

Judge Collins was married, in 1873, to Elvira Murlin, of Auglaize county, and to this union there have been born four sons and two daughters. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the grange, of the Farmers Mutual Benefit association, and of the Knights of Pythias order. He is one of the best known of the citizens of Mercer county, and is of exceptionally high standing in general society, being strictly upright and true to his convictions of right and duty.

JOHN G. BILS, who has been a very successful teacher of Mercer county, Ohio, and is now a prosperous business man, was born in Marion township, November 15, 1853. He is a son of John Gerhard Bils, who was born in Germany, in 1792, and who at an early age learned the art of spinning, which he followed for a considerable period. He was twice married—first in Germany to Thresia Reinman, by whom he had five children, of whom three died in infancy: Herman died at three years of age, and Elizabeth died at the age of one year. The mother passed away at the age of thirty-five years. His second wife, whom he married in 1844, was Anna G. Prickel, a native of Germany, and by her he became the father of five children, as follows: Anna, wife of Bernard Schaeffer; Gertrude, who died in 1855, aged eight years; two that died in infancy, and John G., our subject.

John Gerhard Bils, father of the subject of this sketch, came with his family to the United States in 1848. Landing in New York, he started immediately for Cincinnati, and from the latter city he made his way direct to Minster, in Mercer county, and from there he went to Saint Rosa, in the same county, where he remained six months. When he landed in this country he was neither rich nor poor, merely in moderate circumstances, and his first purchase of land consisted of forty acres in Marion township, all covered over with the primeval forest. Mr. Bils, by hard and continuous labor, succeeded in clearing this land and in converting it into one of the best farms in the county, on which he was satisfied to live until his death, which occurred September 2, 1858, when he was sixty-seven years of age. His widow still resides on this farm with her eldest daughter. Mr. Bils was a democrat, and a member of the Roman Catholic church, a kind-hearted man, and one full of public spirit and filled with the milk of human kindness, always ready to help the needy, whether that which needed aid was a private individual or a public enterprise. His widow is a member of the Catholic church, and is surrounded by many warm-hearted and loving friends. She is now in her seventy-eighth year.

John G. Bils, the subject of this sketch, after securing his education in the common schools, began learning the shoemaker's trade when thirteen years of age, continuing thus engaged one year. For the next seven years of his life he was engaged in farming, and at the age of twenty-one went to Milwaukee, where he began a course of study in a teacher's seminary preparatory to teaching school. Here he remained six months, and at the end of this time returned to Ohio, and began teaching at Sebastian, Mercer county, on September 2, 1878. After teaching there a term of ten months, he went to Philothea, Butler township, and there taught five years in one school. He was then married to Miss Catherine Heyne, of Sebastian, October 29, 1878. After teaching at Philothea the five years mentioned, he next taught at Cranberry Prairie, Granville township, seven years, and also served the churches in the various places where he taught as organist. After this long period of teaching at Cranberry Prairie, he removed to Chickasaw and engaged in business, where he still remains, and is one of the most successful and foremost of Chickasaw's business men. Politically Mr. Bils is a democrat, and religiously a member of the Sebastian Catholic church. He and his wife are the parents of two children—Jacob, born March 21, 1880, and died on the same day, and Jacob, born August 11, 1881, at Philothea, attending school.

Miss Catherine Heyne, who married Mr. Bils, was born August 30, 1860. Her father, Jacob Heyne, was born October 27, 1827, in Germany, and left his native country when yet quite young for England, whither he went to learn a trade, the baker's trade being that selected. While in England he married Miss Elizabeth Ball, of that country, and after this event emigrated to the United States, landing in New York and coming direct to Ohio, locating in Sebastian. Upon his arrival there he purchased a forty-acre tract of wooded land, which he immediately began to clear, preparing it for a home for himself and family. Soon afterward he purchased another forty-acre tract, and still later another forty-acre piece of land, making in all 120 acres, which he in time, by continuous hard work and good management, converted into one of the best farms in the township in which he lived. Here he lived and labored, following farming and also for some years running a threshing machine, until his death, which occurred November 16, 1892. Mr. Heyne was a democrat in politics, a member of the Sebastian Catholic church, and a very popular man, being liberal in his views and charitably disposed, yet, at the time of his death, leaving his family in comfortable circumstances. His widow is still living on the old home place, at the age of sixty-eight, enjoying excellent health. She is a member of the Sebastian Catholic church and an excellent woman in all respects. Mr. Heyne and his wife, Elizabeth, were the parents of fourteen children, as follows: Elizabeth, Mary, John, Jacob, Clara, Catherine, Barbara, Frederick, Jacob, Mathias, Christina, Michael, and two that died in infancy. Of the twelve that grew to maturity, Jacob and Barbara are now deceased, and those that are living are married and heads of families of their own. Catherine Heyne, who married the subject of this sketch, is a native of Marion township, Mercer county, and lived at home with her parents until her marriage. She is a member of the same church with her husband, and both are regarded by all as among the best citizens of Chickasaw.

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ABSALOM BOLENBAUGH, a prominent general farmer of Van Wert county, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, December 23, 1822. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Stetler) Bolenbaugh, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, and was a son of Peter Bolenbaugh, who was of Dutch parentage. Peter Bolenbaugh was a farmer and weaver by occupation, and about 1820 removed from Pennsylvania to Montgomery county, Ohio, being among the early settlers of that county. He was the father of four children: John, Peter, Michael and Jacob, all of whom settled early in Van Wert, except Michael, who went to Indiana, having assisted to drive the Indians through this country to the west.

John Bolenbaugh, father of the subject, was reared upon a farm in Pennsylvania, and there received a limited education. About 1816 he married Elizabeth Stetler, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, and to their marriage there were born twelve children, viz: Sally, wife of Adlin Wright, a farmer of Nebraska; Peter, deceased, formerly of Van

Wert; Margaret, widow of William Smith, of Wisconsin; Absalom, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, widow of Garrison Alspaugh, of Willshire township, Van Wert county; Jacob, deceased, who lived in Iowa; Henry, deceased; Andrew Jackson, a farmer of Iowa; Thomas, deceased; an infant daughter, deceased; Catherine, wife of George Gauze, of Sidney, Ohio; Rachel, widow of John Howard, of Nebraska; and Nancy, wife of Frederick Hill, of Willshire township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. After their marriage John Bolenbaugh and his wife lived in Montgomery county, until 1825, when they removed to Van Wert county, bringing with them Peter Bolenbaugh, the grandfather of the subject. In Van Wert county, Mr. Bolenbaugh entered forty acres of land on Saint Mary's river, in Willshire township, upon which he lived until his death, having added ninety-seven acres to the original forty acres, all of which he owned when he died. He was one of the old-fashioned farmers, honest and industrious, thinking that without labor nothing could be accomplished. In politics he was a democrat, and in religion a Lutheran, while his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church. She died in 1853, and her husband died in 1854.

Absalom Bolenbaugh was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools of Van Wert county. In the fall of 1845 he married Elizabeth Stetler, daughter of George and Lydia (Pontius) Stetler, and to their marriage were born twelve children, viz: George, who was a member of the Sixty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, was wounded at the first battle of Nashville, and died in the military hospital at Chattanooga, August 30, 1864; Margaret, wife of George Bronstetter, of Indiana; Matilda, who died when ten months old; Joel, a farmer of Van Wert county; Sarah Ellen, living at home; James Willis, deceased August 3, 1859; Nancy, wife of Frank Allison, of Willshire township; Melinda Jane, wife of Albert Allison, of Willshire township; Isabell, deceased; Isadore, wife of Christopher Craw, of Willshire township; John Peter, on the home place; Lydia Catherine, wife of Seymour Sin. Elizabeth Stetler, wife of the subject, was born February 10, 1826, her father having been an early settler in Van Wert county. After their marriage they removed to Mercer county, where Mr. Bolenbaugh followed farming for two years on land he there owned. Upon the death of his mother he returned to Van Wert county, and lived on the home farm for three years, and about 1850 purchased his present place, eighty acres of timber land. This he cleared and improved, and upon it still lives, carrying on general farming rather than devoting himself to any specialty. In 1881 he erected the house in which he now lives, a pleasant and comfortable home.

In politics Mr. Bolenbaugh was a democrat for many years, but of late, perceiving more clearly than in early life the great evils of intemperance, he has been identified with the prohibition party, hoping thereby to advance the cause of temperance. He is a member of the radical United Brethren church, as is also his wife, and both are true and tried. Mr. Bolenbaugh is one of the most prominent citizens of his county, and is highly respected for his high character and for his consistent life. He is recognized as not only one of the oldest continuous resident farmers of the county, but also as one of the most progressive and independent. He well remembers an incident of his early life, an experience which he would not voluntarily repeat. This was, that when but four years of age he was lost for one whole day and night in the woods, and when found was entirely unharmed, though the woods were full of wolves and other wild animals.

CHRISTOPHER F. BOLMAN, M. D., a prominent physician and postmaster of Cold Water, Mercer county, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., October 26, 1847. He is a son of Christopher and Charlotta (Bloom) Bolman, both of whom were born in Prussia, a kingdom embracing nearly the whole of north Germany. Christopher Bolman emigrated to the United States when he was twenty years old, locating in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he established the first merchant tailoring concern in that city. In Fort Wayne he continued to live and labor throughout the rest of his life, dying in 1859.

Charlotta Bloom came to the United States with her parents when she was seven years old. Their names were Henry and Elizabeth Bloom. Upon arriving in this country they located, first, in Philadelphia, where they remained four years, and then removed to Fort Wayne, where they remained up to the time of their death. To the marriage of Christopher and Charlotta Bolman there were born seven children, viz: Theodore Albert, Christopher F., Frederick, Bertha, Albert, Charlotta, who married D. Hart, and died in 1895, and Otto.

Christopher F. Bolman, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Fort Wayne, and received his preliminary education in the public schools of that city. Leaving these schools in his sixteenth year, he was apprenticed to the trade of machinist, which trade he learned and worked at for four years, or until he was twenty years of age. He then entered the office of W. H. Myers, M. D., at Fort Wayne, studied medicine for some time, and then entered Fort Wayne Medical college, from which institution he was graduated in 1880.

On March 7, 1881, he located at Cold Water, and has since been there engaged in the practice of medicine with unusual success, now having a very large practice, extending into other counties as well as Mercer, and being one of the most popular physicians in the county. In politics Dr. Bolman is a democrat and stands high among the party leaders. He is now postmaster at Cold Water, and has been for years a member of the democratic executive committee. He has also served one term as deputy state supervisor of elections, being the chief officer of the board, has served nine years as school director, and is now treasurer of the school board.

Dr. Bolman was married, August 22, 1872, to Susanna E. Lewis, of Bluffton, Ind., a daughter of Washington and Eliza (Mills) Lewis, both of whom are dead, the former dying July 6, 1874, the latter, February 2, 1891. To them there were born eight children, as follows: David M.; Martha Elizabeth; Mahlon, deceased; Jennie; Lydia; William V., deceased; Susanna E. and Eva. Susanna E. was the seventh child and was born January 6, 1848, in Warren county, Ohio, and received her education at Bluffton, Ind. Dr. Bolman and wife are the parents of four children, as follows: Elsa, born July 5, 1874, educated in the public schools and at Cold Water academy, from which latter institution she graduated in music and book-keeping, and is now deputy postmaster at Cold Water, under her father; Lydia, born December, 1876, was educated at Portland and also at normal schools, which she attended four years, and is now a teacher in the fourth grade of the public schools of Celina; Ralph M., born July 28, 1878, is now attending the law department of Ada university, from which he will soon graduate and will then be admitted to practice the legal profession; Susan, born July 2, 1881, is now attending the public schools of Cold Water. All these children are exceptionally intellectual and ambitious, and will, if favored with good health, doubtless make their mark in the world.

Dr. Bolman and wife maintain a high position in the social world and have a large circle of friends in Mercer and surrounding counties. Their moral and intellectual character is far above that of the ordinary man and woman, and their influence is felt to a corresponding degree.

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AUGUSTUS G. BORCHERS, a successful young business man of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of George Frederick and Sarah (States) Borchers, and was born November 9, 1864. His education was secured in the public schools of Rockford, and his natural talent for business was early developed. At the age of eighteen he entered the store of Burgess & Robinson as clerk, and remained there thus engaged for some five years. At the expiration of this time he established himself in the jewelry business, putting in a full line of jewelry, watches, etc., and was successfully engaged in this way for three years. For some four years afterward he was engaged in plastering, and then returned to his earliest occupation, that of clerking, this time for his brother, L. A. Burgess, the leading merchant of Rockford. He is thus engaged at the present time. He is one of the keen, shrewd business men of the place, is a master of his calling, is very popular as a salesman and has many friends.

Mr. Borchers owns a fine piece of property where he resides, and another valuable piece which he rents. The dwelling on the latter place he erected himself. He also owns a number of valuable village lots, all of which he has acquired through his own industry and economy, and judicious investment. He is a young man of broad and progressive ideas, is full of public spirit, and takes an active interest in all things pertaining to the public good. He is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., and at the present time is M. of F. Politically Mr. Borchers is a democrat, but is not taking as active a part in political affairs as some other members of that party in his town.

Mr. Borchers was married February 10, 1886, to Miss Martha Fostnaught, a daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Lyda) Fostnaught, who was born in Willshire, Ohio, December 24, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers are the parents of two children, viz: Glenn D., born January 10, 1889, and Hazel M., born December 24, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers are members of the Presbyterian church of Rockford, are true and faithful supporters of their church, and are among the most worthy people of the village. It may here be explained that L. A. Burgess, brother of subject, has modernized his name.

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LOUIS BRANDT, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Prussia, Germany, on November 30, 1839, and there received a fine education in the German language. His parents were John and Catherine Ann (Geisenhoener) Brandt. The father was born in the home place on May 29, 1810, passed his boyhood days on a farm, and married Catherine Ann Geisenhoener, who was born in 1812 in the same place in Prussia. Four children were born to them, viz: Charles, deceased; Anna Maria, the wife of William August, of Willshire, Ohio; Louis, the subject of our sketch, and Mary Louisa, the wife of William Wirrwille, a cigar manufacturer of Saint Mary's.

In 1855, when the subject of this sketch was but fifteen years old, his father, who was quite wealthy and had a fine home in the fatherland, brought his family to America and located in Mercer county. His son had come over two years before and located near Willshire, Van Wert county. The father, on seeing the country, was very much discouraged with the outlook—all forest of large timber, which would require some time to remove and get the land in good condition for cultivation—nevertheless, the father and one son bought forty acres of land and cleared it and put on many improvements, until now the elegant home of Louis Brandt shows that they made no mistake in coming here. The father and mother lived in prosperity and comfort until their death, he dying on March 16, 1864, and the mother on April 23, 1878. Both were prominent members in the Lutheran church. In politics he was a democrat, and among his neighbors he was much respected and honored, and was considered one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in that region.

Louis Brandt finished his schooling in Mercer county in the English language, so that he now has a fine education, both in English and German. In 1864 he went to California and there remained for two years, when he returned on account of his father's failing health. On June 9, 1866, he married Margaret Haffner, who was born in this county, December 9, 1842. Her parents were Conrad and Margaret (Miller) Haffner, both natives of Germany, and early settlers of Mercer county. Mrs. Haffner is still living, and is the mother of twelve children, viz: Margaret, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Gertrude, wife of Leonard Byer, of Washington township; John, of Liberty township; Matilda, wife of Philip Schillschott; George, of Celina, whose sketch may be found on another page; Sophia, the wife of Philip Germann; Jake, a traveling salesman of Dayton, Ohio; Anna, the wife of William Schmidt, a professor in the Lutheran college in Saint Paul, Minn.; Samuel, a saloonist in Van Wert, Ohio; Lewis, a barber in the same place; Augustus, a painter in Celina, and William, who lives on the home farm in Black Creek township.

After his marriage Mr. Brandt located on the farm where he now resides, which then consisted of virgin forest, only a few acres of which were cleared. Here he built a log cabin and commenced to clear up a farm, and ever since has continued to improve and add to it until he has now 200 acres of excellent land under a fine state of cultivation. In 1873 he built a fine barn, and in 1885 erected an elegant and commodious brick residence; he has a number of other good buildings on his farm, and it is considered one of the best improved in the county. The nine children born to his marriage are Matilda H., still living at home; Gustave Adolph, farming on his father's farm; Frederick William, who died in infancy; Otto Arthur, who still lives on the home farm; Henry Romeo, born 1873, and died March 30, 1893; Benjamin Franklin, now attending college in Saint Paul, Minn.; Mary Ann, who attends school at home; Samuel Clarence, still at home, and Carl Rudolph Walter, also still at home. The mother, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died June 21, 1889, and on the 5th day of December, 1895, Mr. Brandt married, for his second wife, Miss Maria Schultz, daughter of Ernest Schultz, who came from Hanover, Germany, in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Brandt are members of the Lutheran church, and she has a brother who is a minister in Celina.

Mr. Brandt's political affiliations are with the democratic party, and he has held the office of township trustee, township clerk, and several other local offices, besides being a member of the school-board, of which he has been a member for many years, and in which he takes a great interest. He was elected land appraiser in 1880, but was unable to serve on account of illness. He is a very active member of the Lutheran church, and donates liberally of his means to the support of this denomination. In all benefits intended for the community he is foremost, and his neighbors give him credit for having done more toward the making of good pikes and developing the oil territory than any other man in the township. He is progressive and practical in all his ideas, and never hesitates to aid in advancing anything for the profit of the neighborhood. He gives liberally, both of money and his valuable time, to all worthy objects, and is a most valuable citizen, as he possesses both the education and perspicuity to recognize a worthy object and the courage and resolution to stand by it.

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ANDREW J. BRICKER, a successful farmer of Center township, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, October 15, 1853. He is a son of Daniel and Susannah (Stager) Bricker, the former of whom was a son of Christian and Eva (Seary) Bricker, and was born in Lebanon county, Pa., January 16, 1818. He was one of a family of nine children born to his parents. Daniel and Susannah Bricker were married in October, 1840, and were the parents of nine children, as follows: John A., deceased; Mary Priscilla; Catherine Elizabeth; George Henry, deceased; Daniel S.; John Adam, deceased; Emma Susan, Andrew Jackson, and William Stephen.

Christian Bricker, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Lebanon county, Pa., and was a son of German parents. In early life he learned the trade of potter, became the owner of a plant. He continued to follow the manufacture of pottery up to the time of his death, which occurred in January, 1826. In politics he was a democrat, and in religion a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

Adam Stager, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a farmer, and became a man of great wealth and influence in the community in which he lived. But by becoming surety for a friend, or rather, a number of his friends, he lost considerable of his property, paying in one day for one friend that had failed to meet his obligations, fifteen thousand dollars.

Daniel Bricker was born in Lebanon county, Pa., in 1819, learned the trade of a cigar maker while yet a boy, and worked at that trade in the winter season until 1861. Previous to his removal to Ohio he followed burning lime through the summer season. His removal took place in 1848, and upon reaching this state he located in Richland county, where he remained a few months, engaged as a laborer. Early in 1849 he located with his family in Mercer county, and began the work of clearing a piece of land, which he had entered previously to removing his family thereto. This land lay in Jefferson township, and here he remained for some years, when he sold it and purchased a larger tract, containing 160 acres, in the same township, a mile and a half east, to which he removed and upon which he spent his last days, and upon which, during this latter portion of his life, he devoted himself wholly to farming. In religious matters he was a member of the Evangelical church, and in politics a democrat. He served as township trustee for several years, but was in no sense an office seeker. Susannah Bricker was a daughter of Adam Stager and was born in Lebanon county, Pa., December 31, 1815. She came to Mercer county with her husband, dying in Center township, September 22, 1883.

Andrew J. Bricker and Catharine Sealschott were united in marriage November 23, 1876. To them have been born the following children: Mary, Daniel E., Elnora, Della, Carl and Nellie. Andrew J. Bricker being reared on a farm, received his education in the common schools of the neighborhood, and became a member of the church of his fathers, the Evangelical Lutheran, of which he has ever since been a consistent and faithful supporter, both of the church itself, in the way of aiding it financially, and of its doctrines. He is at the present time serving in the capacity of trustee of his township, and takes an active interest in everything educational, material, religious and moral which tends to aid the progress of the race.

Mrs. Catharine Bricker, wife of our subject, is the daughter of Henry Sealschott and Catharine (Rhodert) Sealschott, and was born in Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, May 9, 1855. She has a daughter, Susannah Catharine, by her former husband, John Adam Bricker, a brother of her present husband. Mrs. Bricker's parents were German people, and came to America about 1844, and after a residence of two years at Cincinnati moved to Center township, Mercer county, where they both died, she at the age of seventy-three years, and he at fifty-five.

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DANIEL BROCK, a highly respected citizen, a substantial farmer, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, springs from sturdy German stock, and was born March 18, 1832, in Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio. He is a son of John and Margaret (Sharp) Brock, was reared a farmer's boy, received but a limited education, and when yet a child was taken by his parents to Darke county, where he was reared. July 31, 1859, he married Jemima A. Weaver, who was born April 6, 1839, in Darke county, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Harriman) Weaver. They were of excellent pioneer families and of sterling English descent.

After their marriage Daniel Brock and his wife settled on a farm in Darke county, where they resided five years, and while living there Mr. Brock enlisted at Arcanum in the Ohio national guard for five years, July 31, 1863, and was discharged April 2, 1866. He was mustered into the service of the United States for 100 days as a member of company A, One Hundred and Fifty-second regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and served therein nearly five months, being discharged from this service in September, 1864. His services in this regiment were rendered in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland. He performed guard duty at Cumberland Mountain, and marched from Martinsburg, Va., to Lexington, Va., and to Lynchburg, and was in a severe skirmish at Greenbrier Gap, where his regiment was guarding prisoners. He was also in a skirmish at Warren Springs, Va., and at Cumberland, Md. He was exposed greatly on Hunter's campaign in Virginia and Maryland, on a forced march of from 500 to 600 miles, and was sick with measles in hospital ten days at Clairsville, near Cumberland, Md. He was always an active soldier, performed all his duties promptly and cheerfully, and endured bravely all the hardships of a soldier's life. When he enlisted he left at home his wife and three small children, the youngest sixteen months old, and his faithful wife took good care of her family in his absence, and with true fortitude endured all the anxieties of a soldier's wife.

The war being over, Mr. Brock resumed farming, removing, in 1870, with his family to Gibson township, Mercer county, settling on 120 acres of land, which he had purchased, and which was all covered with timber. Here he erected a log cabin, moved into it, and by hard work and industrious and economical habits not only made a good farm, but accumulated a considerable amount of property, so that now he is in comfortable circumstances. Aided by his good wife, he has reared his children to habits of industry and good conduct. These children are seven in number, as follows: John W., Aaron C., Harvey M., Abraham L., Andrew J., Emma A. and Fannie R. Mr. Brock is an honest citizen, and is held in the highest esteem. He has held the offices of supervisor and member of the school board, and has given his children the best education his means and the public facilities would permit. Politically he is a republican and is a member of the G. A. R., Harrod-McDaniel post, of Fort Recovery. He has always been an industrious man, having cleared up his farm from the wilderness, and he is highly respected by all his friends and neighbors.

Frederick Brock, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Rockingham county, Va., and married Betsey Totweiler. They were the parents of the following children: Leonard, Jonathan, Frederick, Sallie, Rachael, Julia, Mary, Susan, Betsey, Nancy, Kate, Hydin and Julienne. Frederick Brock was one of the pioneers of Preble county, Ohio, and lived on a farm in that county to a ripe old age. His son, John, was the father of the subject of this sketch, and was born also in Rockingham county, Va., coming with his father to Preble county, Ohio. By occupation he was a farmer and a shoemaker, and he and his wife were the parents of the following children: Elizabeth; Rachael; Calvin, who was killed at the battle of Atlanta, aged twenty-three years; Allen, Laban, Levi and Daniel. Mr. Brock settled as a pioneer in Darke county, in the woods, and there reared his family. He had three sons in the late Civil war, viz: Calvin, Allen and Daniel. He was a most industrious and highly respected citizen, and lived to be sixty-three years of age, dying about 1869.

William Weaver, father of Mrs. Brock, was born about 1812 in Virginia, near Madison Court House, and was a son of Larkin and Susan (Cresswiler) Weaver. Larkin Weaver participated in one battle during the war of 1812-15. He was one of Ohio's early pioneers, and he and his wife were the parents of the following children: Mathias, Eliza A., Jane, Lucy and Maria. He at length removed to Darke county, Ohio, where he died at an advanced age. William Weaver, his son, and the father of Mrs. Brock, was seven years of age when he came with his parents to Ohio. He was married in Preble county and then removed to Darke county, at an early day in that county's history. He was the father of the following children: Daniel, Harvey, William A.; Mathias, who died when fourteen years of age; Eliza J., Samuel and Jemima A. Mr. Weaver became a substantial farmer of Darke county, and died there, aged seventy-one years and nine months, in 1883. He had three sons in the Civil war, viz: Daniel, in the three months' service; Harvey, who served four years, and William A., who was in the three months' service. Harvey was in the Sixty-ninth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and participated in many battles. Thus it will be seen that on both sides of the family there was manifested much patriotism, and for this, and many other noble qualities of head and heart, the family of Mr. Brock stand high in the estimation of all that know them.

HON. ELI BRYSON, mayor of Celina, and a representative citizen of the place, was born in Butler county, Pa., June 26, 1843. He is a son of Thomas and Hannah (Henshaw) Bryson, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Butler, the latter of Bucks, county. In 1854 they removed to Wells county, Ind., locating on a farm about three miles from Montpelier, where they are now leading a retired life, the father being in his eighty-fourth year, the mother also of the same age. The father was born July 26, 1812, and the mother February 25, 1812. They were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom four of the sons and the three daughters still survive.

Eli Bryson was in his eleventh year when his parents removed to Indiana. After reaching Wells county, he attended the public schools in the winter season and worked on his father's farm the rest of the year, thus securing a good education and at the same time health and strength of body. He remained at home until he enlisted in the army of the Union to fight for the government of the United States. This was September 21, 1861, and his enlistment was in company I, Thirty-fourth Indiana volunteer infantry. He was mustered in at Anderson, Ind., and remained with that company as a private soldier until May, 1862, when he was promoted captain of company H, Eighteenth regiment Indiana volunteers, being at that time in his nineteenth year. Of that company he served as captain until it was mustered out of service in February, 1864, when he veteranized and was transferred to the Sixth regiment United States infantry, and became a member of the staff of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, with the rank of captain. On the staff of Gen. Hancock he served until October 22, 1865, when he was mustered out of service at Washington, D. C.

While in the volunteer service he was in the western army, and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Champion Hills, and other important engagements. Two of his brothers served through the war, both in company I, Thirty-fourth Indiana volunteers—W. F. being captain of the company, and J. B. being sergeant of the same company. W. F. Bryson is now a resident of Fort Wayne, Ind., and J. B. is deceased. After the close of the war the subject of this sketch returned to the old farm in Indiana, where he remained until the spring of 1867, when he removed to Falls City, Nebr., and engaged in farming. In 1872 he returned to Indiana and engaged in the lumber business at Keystone, Wells county, remaining thus engaged until 1882, when he removed to Celina, Ohio, continuing the lumber business at this point. At Celina Mr. Bryson operates a saw-mill and handles hardwood lumber. Mr. Bryson has always been a republican, and while taking an active interest in public affairs, as all good citizens do, he has never been an aspirant for office. But in April, 1893, without any solicitation on his part, or any action taken by him, he was nominated by the republican party for mayor of Celina, and notwithstanding he had a democratic majority to overcome of about 100, he was elected by a majority of forty-six votes, and was re-elected mayor of Celina April 6, 1896, by a majority of 242—which fact tells its own story as to his efficiency and popularity.

Capt. Bryson was married August 23, 1866, to Miss Sarah A. Shields, of Wells county, Ind., born June 8, 1844, and a daughter of William Shields, deceased. To this marriage three sons and a daughter have been born: Elmer A. is a merchant of Celina; Edgar is a member of the well-known law firm of Raudabaugh & Bryson, of Celina, and Guy and Lela are at home. Captain Bryson is a member of Le Blond post, G. A. R., of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias, and is an excellent citizen in all respects.

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R. G. BURCH, one of the prominent and enterprising farmers of Butler township, and a veteran of the late war, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, July 17, 1844. He was reared a pioneer boy, and grew to manhood in his native county, with but limited opportunities for obtaining an education. The school he attended was a subscription school, and was of but little value. Mr. Burch is a son of Burton F. and

Catherine (Allen) Burch, the former of whom came from Broome county, in the state of New York, and the latter from Maryland. Barton F. Burch came to Ohio with his father, Zeblon Burch, when he was sixteen years of age, in 1821. His father first located in Cincinnati, remaining there a few years, and soon afterward rented a farm near that city. In a few years he removed to Mercer county, the entire family coming together, and entering 160 acres of land, which at that time was in Auglaize county, which land they cleared in part and converted into a good farm, upon which the grandfather of the subject died.

Barton F. Burch grew to manhood in Hamilton county, Ohio, before the removal to Auglaize county. He was married in Hamilton county, and two years after removing to Auglaize county he entered eighty acres of land in Mercer county, which he cleared and improved, and upon which he reared his family. At the time of their arrival in Mercer county the country was yet quite new, and to make a living for a family was a very different thing from what it is the present day. For flour and corn meal it was necessary for quite a number of years to go to Piqua, a distance of forty miles, the journey having to be made on horseback. There was some hunting to be done, in fact, a good deal of it, if a man were so inclined; but the subject was not very much in love with hunting. Though he did hunt coons occasionally, wading through the swamps covered with water, and having what he thought then was a good time; but the hunting was of practical value, because coon skins could be turned into the county treasury in payment for taxes. As time rolled on he had his farm cleared and lived upon it till his death. Besides farming, however, he did other kinds of work, assisting to make the great reservoir, which is the largest artificail lake in the world, containing 17,500 acres. He died in 1871, at the age of sixty-six years, and his wife died November 1, 1876, aged seventy-five years and eight months. They were both members of the Christian church. They were the parents of nine children, viz: Margaret, widow of Henry Bone; Joseph A., who married and died, leaving two children: Sarah, who married John Lang, and is now living in Jewell county, Kans.; Eunice, who died single; Anstus, who married George Bailey, of Jay county, Ind., but who is now a farmer of Mercer county, Ohio; William, a farmer of Butler township, Mercer county; R. G., the subject of this sketch; Wilson, who married and died, leaving a wife but no children, and Barton, deceased.

R. G. Burch remained with his father until he was of age, and then, on October 8, 1862, he enlisted in the Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, which regiment entered the army of the Tennessee. Hard service was its fortune, and Mr. Burch saw a great deal of hard fighting. His first battle was at Port Gibson, and he was in all the battles that then intervened until the siege of Vicksburg, which lasted forty-one days. During this siege he was wounded and was sent to Jefferson hospital, at Memphis, Tenn., where he remained two months. Then he was sent to Columbus, Ohio, and was there honorably discharged, on account of physical disability. Returning home, he began working on a farm by the month, as soon as he was able, and continued to work in this way for seven years, saving up his wages meanwhile, with the view of sooner or later owning a farm and home. His first purchase was of eighty acres of new land in Jay county, Ind., upon which he girdled and deadened the trees preparatory to clearing. This land he exchanged for forty acres where he now lives. This forty acres had upon it, at the time of making the exchange, a log house, and five acres were cleared. He at once began the work of clearing and improving his little farm, and later added eighty acres thereto, and now he has 120 acres, all cleared, ditched, underdrained, and all under a high state of cultivation. He has built a large and commodious frame dwelling house, good barns and other necessary outbuildings, has a fine orchard, and, in short, everything needed to make a pleasant home for himself and his family. His land is of good quality, and is situated four miles from Celina, near the grand reservoir. For the most part he has given his attention to general farming, but for the past three years he has been engaged in shipping fat cattle and hogs. He has raised such stock as was needed on his farm, but has made no specialty of the finest breeds. Like most of the pioneers in the olden time he did some hunting, saw plenty of deer, and some black bears, and all kinds of game.

About the time of exchanging his Indiana land for the forty acres in Mercer county, he was married to Miss Emeline Copsy, who was born in Auglaize county, and was a daughter of Cornelius Copsy, a farmer and carpenter. After living together thirteen years they separated. There were no children born to this marriage. In 1889 Mr. Burch married Miss Lestie Olive, who was born in Mercer county, December 8, 1859, and is a daughter of Robert and Eliza (Johnson) Olive, both of Ohio. Mr. Olive is of English descent, and a harness-maker by trade. For some years he followed teaming, but of late years has been a farmer. He is a republican in politics, but has never aspired to office. He and his wife had eight children, viz: Clinton, now deceased; Laura, who married Jacob Smith, a farmer; Katie, who died young; Mary, who married Louis Ireland, a farmer; Lestie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Robert, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, who died in 1894; Frank, a Methodist minister located at Ohio City; and Cora, yet single. The parents of these eight children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. To the second marriage of Mr. R. G. Burch there have been born no children. Mr. Burch has always been an industrious, honest and straightforward man, has accumulated his property by his own exertions, and is well and widely known to many hundreds of people, all of whom hold him in high esteem.

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L. A. BURGESS, the leading merchant of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of this village and was born April 1, 1858, a son of George F. Burgess, one of the oldest inhabitants of that place. He was educated in the public schools and entered upon his business life, in 1873, as a clerk, and was thus employed until he engaged in the manufacture of brick in 1880; in 1882 he succeeded Henry VanTilburg, of the firm of VanTilburg & Robinson, dry-goods merchants, and, under the firm name of D. H. Robinson & Co., the business was conducted for seven years, when Mr. Robinson withdrew in favor of Robert J. Wagers, and the business was carried on under the style of L. A. Burgess & Co., until 1893, when Mr. Burgess absorbed the entire business and has since carried it on in his individual name. He carries a full line of dry goods, cloaks, carpets, etc., well assorted and as complete as any to be found in a city store of similar character—his salesroom being 22 x 90 feet in dimensions. In 1890 Mr. Burgess, in partnership with F. A. Robinson, under the firm name of Burgess & Robinson, placed an up-to-date stock of gents' clothing, hats, caps, furnishing goods, etc., in a salesroom adjoining the dry-goods store, carrying the heaviest stock and doing the largest business in this line of any firm in the village. Of this clothing store, Mr. Burgess owns two-thirds interest; the dry-goods store is solely his own; he also retains his ownership of the brick-yards which, as has been stated, he founded in 1880, and which were transferred, in 1882, to Mr. Sickles, but the management of which was resumed by Mr. Burgess in 1895.

In June, 1882, Mr. Burgess married Miss Anna Baird, a native of Logan county, Ohio, and a daughter of T. W. Baird, now of Mercer county. This union has been crowned by the birth of six children, in the following order: Warren Freddie, who died at the age of two years; Mary May; Zulima, who died when three years old; Paul Arthur; Frank A., and one who died in infancy, unnamed. In 1883 Mr. Burgess erected the fine brick residence in which he now makes his home, and in 1884 the firm of which he was a member erected the two-story business block he at present occupies and of which he owns one-half. He is thoroughly and instinctively a business man, and as a merchant has made a wonderful success, having started with the bottom rung of the mercantile ladder without a dollar, and reaching, in a few years, its topmost height with a most comfortable competency.

In politics Mr. Burgess is a stanch democrat, and for eight years has been a councilman, being at present a member of the finance committee; always having been one of the foremost in the advocacy of public improvements, he is entitled to the credit of having, through his untiring efforts, carried to its culmination the movement to bond the village for the construction of waterworks, which will be completed in 1896; he is also treasurer of the school board, of which he is one of the most hard-working members. Fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed all the chairs and which he has represented in the grand lodge. With his wife, he is a member of the Presbyterian church, which he aids liberally with his means, and of which he was for years a deacon, has been for the past five years an elder, and for years a trustee. As a business man, a useful citizen and a Christian, few men stand as high in the esteem of the citizens of Rockford as L. A. Burgess. He has given much thought toward the promotion not only of the material interests of the village, but of its moral and religious and educational progress, and the whole township has felt his influence for good throughout its length and breadth, and it will be a sad day for Rockford when he withdraws from the active duties of life and retires to enjoy the competency he has so manfully secured to himself and family. But, being yet a young man, hardly in the full fructification of his mental endowments, it would seem that many a long year will elapse before he decides upon taking a step so fraught with and intimately combined with the interests of Rockford and its vicinity.

George Frederick Borchers, one of the most prominent and one of the most highly respected citizens of Rockford, Ohio, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1812. He is a son of Johann F. and Charlotte Borchers, the former of whom was a son of the duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a grand-duchy of north Germany, and bordering on the Baltic Sea. Johann F. Borchers fell in love with and married a peasant girl, who, though a peasant, was a woman of most excellent character, culture and refinement—a woman in every sense worthy of the name. But for having married a woman beneath him in social circles he was disinherited by his father, and was thus thrown upon his own resources, with the ban of disinheritance upon him. He therefore went to Hanover, where he engaged in trade and made himself a master tailor. This trade brought him in contact with the nobility and the higher classess, because he sought his patrons from among those classes of people. Thus he spent his years until his death, which occurred in

1815 or 1816, when in the prime of his life and the vigor of his manhood.

His widow, left thus alone to support herself and to rear her family, devoted herself to the task with the earnestness, spirit and intelligence belonging to and so becoming to her nature. In doing this, however, she was compelled to make many sacrifices and to undergo many hardships. As her sons became of age and approached the time in their lives when, under the laws of Germany, they could be forced into the army of the king, she would raise the means of their transportation to the United States, and thus most of them became citizens of this country. At that time five years was the length of compulsory service, and under the constitution of April 16, 1871, every German capable of bearing arms was obliged to serve from his twenty-first to his twenty-eighth year in the army—three years in active service, and the remainder in the army of the reserve. This severe requirement of the German constitution has done much to give the United States and other countries a magnificent class of citizens.

Mrs. Borchers has eight children, the most of whom she reared in the manner mentioned above, and died in 1848. Their names are as follows: Christian, who became a cooper and died in his native land: Lewis, who also learned the cooper's trade, came to the United States, married here and spent his days in Fairfield county, Ohio, his family being now scattered through the west; Conrad, who was a harness-maker by trade, came to the United States, spent a portion of his life in Amanda, Fairfield county, Ohio, and then removed his family to Andrews county, Mo.; Henry, a cabinent-maker by trade, came to the United States and located on a farm where he reared his family and where they now reside; George Frederick, mentioned above; William, who remained in Germany, and Dorothea, who married a Mr. Goldschmidt, a master tailor of Hanover, Germany.

George Frederick Borchers was reared in Hanover, and until his fourteenth year attended the academic schools of his native city, which, in Hanover, as well as throughout the Germine empire, are well known to be of a high grade. When young George Frederick reached the age last mentioned he entered a tailoring establishment to learn the tailor's trade, and served an apprenticeship of some three and a half years. At the expiration of this time he started out to travel as a journeyman tailor, taking in Hamburg, Berlin, Mecklenburg, Bremen, and other important points. This course he followed for a period of five years, and at the age of twenty-two started for the United States. He landed in New York and came direct to Ohio, making his first stop at Lancaster, his entire journey from Hanover to Lancaster having taken thirty-five days. In Lancaster he followed his trade of tailor for one year, and then went to Clear Port, Fairfield county, where he entered into partnership with Orrin Abbott, under the firm name of Abbott & Co., which firm conducted a mercantile and tailoring business, and continued in existence three years. Mr. Borchers then sold his interest in the business to his partner, Mr. Abbott, and opened an establishment of his own, which he conducted until 1849, in which year he sold his establishment and removed to Mercer county, locating at Shanesville, now Rockford, where he has since remained. Upon removing to Rockford his family consisted of himself, wife and four children, and them and his household goods he removed in a large covered wagon.

While residing in Fairfield county, Mr. Borchers took quite an active and prominent part in politics, and was one of the committee that formed an escort for Gen. William Henry Harrison's entrance into Lancaster, when he, as president-elect, was on his way to the capital of the nation to take his office. Mr. Borchers during his early life was a whig, but later, and for the greater part of his life, he has been a democrat. After locating in Rockford he established himself in the tailoring business, which he followed for some years. He then put in a stock of piece goods and also a stock of ready-made clothing, which, however, in 1860, on account of failing eyesight, he was compelled to sell, but continued on with tailoring. Afterward he kept hotel at Stane's Crossing for a number of years, and with great success. Being a man of recognized public spirit he was elected to office by his fellow-citizens for many years, holding that of justice of the peace twelve years, that of mayor of Shane's Crossing eight years, and postmaster of the village for seventeen years, beside holding most of the other township and village offices.

In religious matters Mr. Borchers was in his earlier life a member of the Lutheran church; but in later years, or from about 1875 down to the present time, he has been a Presbyterian. On August 16, 1839, he was married to Miss Sarah States, daughter of Abraham States, who removed his family from Bedford county, Pa., to Fairfield county, Ohio, at an early day. She was born in Bedford county, Pa., in 1823, and died May 4, 1889. She was the mother of ten children, as follows: Josephus, who died at the age of nine years; Rebecca, the wife of D. H. Robinson, of Rockford, Ohio; Charlotte Ellen, who married G. W. Smith, and died in Celina, Ohio, April 29, 1890; Clara, died when four years of age; Elliot, who died when one year old; Albert, a mechanic, residing at Rockford, Ohio; Florence, wife of W. F. Penn, of Van Wert, Ohio; Lewis Arthur, a merchant of Rockford, Ohio; Joseph L., a clothing salesman of Rockford, Ohio; Augustus G., a dry-goods salesman of Rockford, Ohio.

Mr. Borchers' family are all prominent in Mercer county, and especially in Rockford. They have done much toward the upbuilding of the village, and in sustaining its best interests, religious, educational, moral and social. Both Mr. Borchers and his wife have always been faithful in the performance of their religious duties, have stood by the church organization with which they are identified, and have rendered it much substantial aid; and it is sufficient to say that they are thoroughly worthy and highly respected citizens of the city of Rockford.

Joseph L. Borchers, one of the prominent young business men of Rockford, Ohio, is a son of George Frederick and Sarah (States) Borchers, and was born in Rockford, May 20, 1861. He was reared in this village and educated in its public schools, and at the age of sixteen began to take care of himself. Beginning thus early in life to make his own way in the world has given him an unusual amount of self-reliance and a larger amount of experience than as a general thing come to a man of his years. At first he was engaged in various callings, and when of proper age began to learn the trade of plasterer, at which thereafter he was engaged some eight or ten years, though in the meantime he was employed for some six months as a clerk in the mercantile establishment of J. P. Dysert. In 1886 he entered as clerk the establishment of D. H. Robinson & Co., general merchants, and continued on with L. A. Burgess & Co. In 1890 he naturally fell into the clothing establishment of Burgess & Robinson, where he has since been engaged. In 1895 he succeeded to the insurance business of W. F. Penn, which he now carries on in connection with his duties as clerk for Burgess & Robinson. He represents some of the best insurance companies, taking risks against fire, lightning and cyclones. He is also clerk of the corporation of Rockford, having been elected in 1894, and is giving entire satisfaction to the people of the place. Politically Mr. Borchers affiliates with the democratic party, and is an active and earnest supporter thereof and of its principles.

Mr. Borchers is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and he has been master of this lodge for two years. He also represented his lodge in the grand lodge at Springfield, Ohio, in 1895, and participated in the dedication of the Ohio Masonic home at that place. He was married, December 10, 1884, to Miss Florence Lysinger, daughter of Dewalt and Minerva Lysinger. She was born December 18, 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers are the parents of three children, viz: Nora L., born November 20, 1885; George D., born December 6, 1886, and Dana V., born November 17, 1894. The former two are being well educated in the public schools, and are making commendable progress in their studies. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers are faithful members of the Presbyterian church and active and zealous in its support. Mr. Borchers was one of the organizers of the Rockford Building & Loan association, and has ever since its organization been its secretary. He and his family are living in a pleasant and comfortable home on the southeast corner of Main and First streets, and enjoy the esteem and good wishes of a large circle of friends.

(The reader will notice the difference in the spelling of the names—Borchers and Burgess.)

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BENJAMIN F. CARPENTER, a most enterprising farmer of Jefferson township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Center township, of the same county, February 26, 1855. His education was received in the common schools, which he attended, however, only in the winter season. Plenty of work was found for him to do on the farm. He is a son of Noah and Rachel (Berry) Carpenter, both of whom are natives of Ohio, and of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. The father, Noah, was born and reared in Hocking county, but came to Mercer county at an early date, was here married, and settled on a tract of land entered by one of the older members of the family. Upon this farm he made his permanent home, dying thereon about 1870, his wife having died some two years previously. They had a family of seven children, two of whom died young, the rest living to be grown and married, viz: William, a farmer of Hopewell township; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch; Emmett, a farmer of Hopewell township; Francis, of Fairfield county, and Melinda (now deceased), wife of William Newcomb. She left two children—Lizzie and Ida. The mother of our subject was a member of the Church of God. The paternal grandfather of our subject was also a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and came to Ohio in an early day, settling in Hocking county, where he reared his family, and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their days. The maternal grandfather, Berry, also came to Ohio in an early day and entered a large tract of land in Mercer county, which land he divided among his children. The remains of this gentleman and his wife lie interred in the old Carpenter homestead, in Center township.

Benjamin F. Carpenter remained at home with his parents until he was about sixteen years of age, when they both died. He then had a guardian appointed, and was employed as a farm hand for a number of years, or up to the time of his marriage, which took place October 23, 1879. He then moved upon a 120-acre farm which belonged to his wife, and upon which he yet lives. This farm, although it had been improved, was yet run down, and he found it necessary to bring it up, improve it, and put it in good shape. He removed the house and remodeled it, and converted it into a comfortable home. He is now carrying on general farming, and raising stock, merely enough for the requirements of the farm. He leased out his lands for a time for the purpose of developing oil.

The lady whom Mr. Carpenter married was Miss Maria Staeger, daughter of Six and Margaret (Heckert) Staeger, who came with her parents from Dauphin county, Pa., to Ohio, when she was quite young. Frederick Staeger, the father of Six Staeger, married Anna Mary Six, by whom he had nine children, viz: Catherine, George, Susan, Six, Elizabeth, Mary, Priscilla, Leah and Lucetta. The father of Frederick Staeger, whose name was also Frederick, emigrated from Switzerland, and located in Lebanon county, Pa., before the Revolutionary war. He acquired a farm, and upon this farm some of the Staeger family lived for more than 100 years, or until 1846. Jacob Six, the father of Mary Six, came from Wurtemberg, Germany, settled in Lebanon county, Pa., and married a Miss Stout, by whom he had seven children, all of them girls.

Six Staeger was reared on the old Staeger homestead, and remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, when he became a clerk in a store in Lebanon county, and held this position for a short time, returning then to the farm, upon which he remained two years, and then came to Ohio, where he remained a short time, then went back to Pennsylvania, and again clerked in a store for a short time. Afterward he taught an English and German school near Lebanon, Pa., in 1844. His next move was to Richland county, Pa., where he remained until 1848, and in that year he went to Darke county, Ohio, and in 1849 settled permanently in Mercer county, where he at first entered eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved, making a good farm, upon which he lived the rest of his life. From the small start, which he made in Mercer county in 1849, as stated, he steadily increased his possessions until he had about 480 acres of land, 300 of which were under a high state of cultivation at the time of his death. Not long after settling in this county, he erected a log cabin, and married Miss Margaret Heckert, by whom he had four children, viz: Mary, wife of Jacob Mosier; Maria, wife of Benjamin F. Carpenter; James and John Calvin. James occupies the old homestead. Six Staeger was honored by the people of his county by being elected to several of the minor offices of trust in the township. He was a whig in early life, and afterward a democrat. His death occurred October 28, 1881, his wife surviving to the present day, and living on the old homestead.

By his marriage to Miss Staeger Mr. Carpenter has four children, viz: Charles, Gabrilla, Wilshire, and Annetta, all of whom are living at home. Both parents are members of the United Brethren church, and are members of society in high standing. Formerly Mr. Carpenter was a democrat, but in late years he has affiliated with the people's party. All through his life, however, he has supported the best man for local office, realizing that in these minor positions politics "cuts no figure." He is a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, of the encampment and subordinate lodges.

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MAJ. BYRON M. CLEN DENING.—The history of Ohio is full of the records of self-made men, and every county has numerous individuals among its citizens who are pre-eminently worthy of that designation. Among the self-made men of Mercer county, Ohio, is the subject of this sketch. Byron M. Clen Dening was born May 16, 1859, one mile west of the village of Shane's Crossing, now Rockford, Mercer county, and in September of the same year the family removed to Celina, where Mr. Clen Dening has spent his entire life.

His education was limited to what he could obtain in the public schools of Celina, and he did secure a fair common-school education. But the necessity of earning a living rendered it out of his power to obtain a finished literary or scientific education, which he would have been glad to obtain, and few men can be found who do not possess it who do not regret their inability or neglect to acquire it; and it is altogether likely that a stronger argument in its favor would be difficult to find. Left to take care of himself at an early age he worked on a farm in summer and went to school in the winter. So successfully did he pursue the studies usually taught in the common schools, that in his thirteenth year he made application for a teacher's certificate, and passing the examination he was presented with a certificate for eighteen months. He thereupon applied for the school three miles north of Celina, known as the Clutter school. His first term, which was a very satisfactory one to the patrons of the school, was completed a few months after he was thirteen years old, he being probably the youngest school-teacher in the history of Mercer county. After that, for nearly ten years, he taught school in country districts in the winter season, and in the summer season worked on the farm as a hired hand, or in lumber yards or in factories. During these years he was actively engaged in building up the teacher's institute of the county, organized the present system of holding township institutes throughout the county, under township vice-presidents, and was the first president elected under the township institute system.

In 1880, believing there was a wider field of usefulness for him than that of a country school-teacher, he entered the office of the Hon. T. J. Godfrey, and there began the study of law. In April, 1881, he was admitted to the practice of the law, but continued to teach school until the spring of 1884, when he concluded a term of school, and became a candidate before the democratic primary convention for the position of prosecuting attorney, and in the succeeding November was elected to the office to which he had been nominated by the almost unprecedented majority of 2,207. In the office to which he had thus been elected he served so satisfactorily that he was elected to a second term, in 1887, and served until 1890. In the spring of 1889 he was waited upon by a committee of voters of Celina, who requested him to be a candidate for member of the city council, on the issue of erecting a new city hall. He consented to be a candidate and to serve, if elected, on the condition that he be permitted to prepare the plans for the proposed new building. This condition was acceded to, and after his election he gave his entire attention to the project, and the present elegant city hall is the result of his labors. This new building stands on the corner of Main and Livingston streets, and was erected in 1890. Besides drawing the plans for this building he was the author of the ordinance dividing the city of Celina into four wards.

At the expiration of his term as councilman he declined re-election and was elected without opposition as city solicitor, which position he filled until 1893, and then declined to be a candidate for this office a second term, in order that he might be a candidate for representative. Having received the nomination, he was elected November 7, 1893, and having been nominated without opposition April 1, 1895, was re-elected to the seventy-second general assembly November 5, 1895, by a largely increased majority. His ability and experience made him recognized at once as a leader of the democratic minority, the members of which gave him their nomination as speaker pro tem. of the house. He was frequently called to the speaker's chair during the session and his wide knowledge of parliamentary law and ready rulings gave eminent satisfaction to the house. He was appointed as one of the democratic members of the finance committee, the most important committee in the house, and gave close attention to the affairs of the many state institutions, visiting them all to learn their needs, and was thus brought close to the many trustees and officers, all leading men of the state, whose acquaintance and friendship will be of value to him in the future. On the floor of the house he was ready and strong in debate, and was one of the few whose speeches were always given close attention by all members, regardless of politics. His valuable work as a member, his genial, social qualities, and marked abilities, were recognized by the governor, Asa S. Bushnell, who, on April 27, 1896, named Mr. Clen Dening one of the two democratic members of the commission of five, appointed to represent the state of Ohio at the Tennessee Centennial celebration, to be held in Nashville during the summer of 1897. This well merited selection thus rounded out a clean legislative record of four years, that will cause Mr. Clen Dening to be remembered favorably and kindly in Ohio's halls of legislation for many years to come.

In 1878 Mr. Clen Dening became interested in the Ohio national guard, and, receiving permission from the governor of the state, organized a company at Celina, which was assigned to the Eleventh regiment of infantry as company K. For four years thereafter he served as orderly sergeant, and the company would still be in existence but for the neglect of its commanding officer, in consequence of which it was mustered out of service in 1882. In 1884 Mr. Clen Dening obtained permission from Gov. Hoadly to organize another company, which he did, and of this company he was elected captain. It became company K, of the Seventh regiment of the Ohio national guard. In 1887 company K was transferred to the Second infantry under colonel, now adjutant-general, James C. Howe. On September 9, 1887, Capt. Clen Dening was elected major of the regiment, which position he now holds, and is the ranking major of the state of Ohio. During these years the regiment, beside its annual encampments in Ohio, has participated in several ceremonies outside the state, including six days at Fairmont Park, Philadelphia, in 1885, and ten days, in 1887, at Washington, D. C., eight days at New York in 1889, including one day at Niagara Falls, and twelve days at the World's fair, in 1893.

In 1888 Mr. Clen Dening was instrumental in organizing the Mercer County Building & Loan Association, located at Celina, was one of those who secured its charter, and was made its first attorney, continuing in that position for five years, or until his election to the legislature.

Mr. Clen Dening was married December 31, 1885, to Miss Lura Burnet Kelsey, with whom his home life has been an exceptionally happy one. A gread reader, he has one of the best libraries in Celina. A lover of travel, he has, even with his limited means, been able to pretty thoroughly explore the country between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Mr. Clen Dening possesses a large fund of general information, and is an unusually entertaining conversationalist upon the people, scenery, products, etc., of the different states of the Union.

In 1886, Mr. Clen Dening built a cozy cottage at the corner of Ash and Livingston streets, where he and his charming wife resided until April, 1895, when he sold his home and purchased the Milligan property, at the north end of Main street, where he expects to build a house, and to live in future years. It may be truly and justly said of Mr. Clen Dening that he is one of the most public-spirited men of his town and county. Every enterprise that is worthy of popular favor finds a supporter in him, and individuals needing assistance know that Mr. Clen Dening will, at any and all times, do what he reasonably can to aid them. Few men, if any, stand higher in the public estimation than does Maj. Clen Dening.

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LIEUT. JESSE S. CLUM, an honored citizen of Fort Recovery and an efficient officer of the late Civil war, who served his country faithfully more than three years, and who was in many battles, sprang from sturdy German and Scotch ancestry. He was born March 31, 1840, in Perry county, Ohio, on a farm, and is a son of George and Mary H. (Morrison) Clum. Lieut. Clum descends from good old pioneer and Revolutionary stock, his two great-grandfathers on the maternal side of the family having been soldiers in the Revolutionary war. One of these great-grandfathers was James Henthorne, and the other Timothy Fidler. The musket of the former of these two worthies is still preserved. Alexander Morrison, the maternal grandfather of the subject, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and Jacob I. Clum, an uncle of the subject, was a soldier in the Mexican war. Hiram L. Clum, a brother of the lieutenant, was killed at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain in the late war. The family have been patriots and soldiers for generations, and the subject of this sketch has an honorable record for gallant and patriotic service in the army of the Union, of which his friends and children will always be proud.

Jesse S. Clum received but a limited and indifferent education in the common schools, as he was brought by his parents to Recovery township, Mercer county, in the fall of 1847, before schools in this part of Ohio had passed beyond the crude condition of the pioneer stage of civilization. The country was yet in a wild state, families far apart, and money with which to pay school-teachers very scarce indeed. He was reared on and worked upon the farm until the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, enlisting April 17, 1861, in company I, Seventeenth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. W. D. Stone, for three months. This was under President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men, the first call for troops. Having served out his term of enlistment, he was honorably discharged, August 26, 1861, having been promoted to corporal.

On June 30, 1862, he re-enlisted at Fort Recovery and was mustered into the service of the United States September 15, 1862, at Cincinnati, Ohio, as a member of company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. W. D. Stone, as before. This company Mr. Clum entered as a sergeant; and the term of his enlistment was for three years, or during the war. He served until honorably discharged, July 12, 1865, at Cleveland, Ohio. He was in the battle of Glenville, Va., now West Virginia, and in many skirmishes. He was in the battle of Kingston, Tenn., Mossy Creek, Tenn., and participated in the famous Atlanta campaign under Gen. Sherman, the Union army being under fire for nearly four months continuously. He was in the battles of Dalton, Buzzard Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca, Dallas, Pumpkinvine Creek, and in the battle in front of Atlanta when Gen. McPherson was killed, and in the grand battle of Atlanta of July 28. He was at Jonesboro and Lovejoy station, and also at the battle of Columbia, Tenn., in the hardest-fought battle of the war (Franklin), and in the two days' battle of Nashville, when

Gen. Thomas defeated the rebel general, Hood, and sent his army flying and demoralized back to the south. After some little time spent in Tennessee the regiment in which Lieut. Clum was serving was sent with the rest of the division round by Washington, D. C., and Fortress Monroe, to Smithville, N. C., whence it marched up the valley of Cape Fear river to Fort Anderson, which it helped to capture, the regiment being on the skirmish line and the first into the fort. After this the Union forces captured Wilmington, N. C., on February 22, 1865, and fired a salute of 100 guns in honor both of the victory and of the birthday of Washington. On March 8, 1865, they made a forced march to Kingston, N. C., wading through the swamps for five days, the water being, some of the way, up to the hips of the soldiers. They captured Goldsboro, N. C., and were soon afterward joined by the army of Gen. Sherman.

Lieut Clum was always ready to perform his duty, and was an efficient officer. He was never wounded, nor taken prisoner, and was in the hospital only a short time. The hardest march he was ever on was that from Wilmington to Kingston, N. C., a distance of eighty miles, which was performed in four and a half days in the month of March, the troops suffering extremely. Another hard march was that from Loudon, Tenn., to Kingston, Tenn., a distance of twenty-eight miles, in the night time, through mud, snow, sleet and darkness. The hardest battle he was in was at Franklin, Tenn., where the rebels made thirteen separate charges.

Mr. Clum was promoted from duty sergeant to orderly sergeant and then to first lieutenent, in January, 1865, for meritorious services in the line of duty. After the battle of Resaca, May 14, 1864, he commanded his company in the absence of the captain. Mr. Clum married Miss Sarah M. McDaniel, who was born November 27, 1841, at Fort Recovery, and is a daughter of William and Sarah (Stone) McDaniel. To this marriage there have been born two children, viz: Ettie and Cora.

Since the war Lieut. Clum has been engaged in farming and as an insurance agent. He has served as mayor of Fort Recovery two terms by election, and by appointment a part of two other terms. He was justice of the peace three years, also notary public. In politics he is an independent democrat. He was one of the charter members of Fort Recovery lodge, No. 539, F. & A. M., is a past master, and is still a member of the lodge. He is also a charter member of Fort Recovery lodge, No. 458, I. O. O. F., and has filled all the chairs in the subordinate lodge and also those of noble grand and of past grand. He was one of the organizers of the Fort Recovery post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is an honored member of the post. Of this post he was the first adjutant, and has held all the offices. Taken all in all, Lieut. Clum is one of the most highly respected citizens of Fort Recovery, and well deserves all the honors that have been conferred upon him.

ABITHA D. COATE, an enterprising and successful farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the county in which he lives, and was born March 10, 1851. He was brought up to the honest and ennobling pursuit of agriculture, and has followed it all his life. He is a son of Benjamin and Mary (Yaney) Coate, a full biographical sketch of whom appears on another page in this volume.

Abitha D. Coate spent his boyhood and youthful days upon the farm, in the meantime, however, securing a good common-school education, attending during the winter months for several years, being more studious than many other boys of his age. When twenty-two years of age he began teaching school and taught for eleven successive winters, to the acceptance of the patrons of the schools. In 1879 he was married, and for a few winters afterward continued to teach. His father having assisted him to purchase eighty acres of heavily timbered land, he built, after his marriage, a two-room house and immediately thereafter began improving his land. Afterward he added forty acres to the eighty his father assisted him to buy, and he now has 120 acres of excellent farming land, ninety-five acres of which are cleared, ditched, underdrained with tile, highly cultivated, and thoroughly well improved in every way. His buildings are good, including a fine house, a large barn and other out-buildings. He has thus been in every way a success as a farmer and as a business man, for a farmer must be a business man if he would meet with the greatest measure of success. He has given his attention mostly to general farming, but he has also given more or less attention to stock raising, always raising enough stock to keep up his farm, and besides this has bought and sold stock to some extent. All, however, has not been smooth sailing with Mr. Coate. In 1889 he bought some stock in a joint stock company, organized for the purpose of manufacturing fruit jars and bottles at Celina, but the venture was not a success, and to forward the enterprise he engaged with a gas company. At length, however, he was obliged to abandon the entire scheme, and it cost him about $4,000 before he was entirely clear. Since then he has been satisfied to give his whole attention to the farm.

Mr. Coate married Miss Harriet Barker, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, November 15, 1850. She is a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Strait) Barker, the former of the state of New York, the latter of Pennsylvania. Samuel Barker came to Ohio with his parents and was married in Perry county. By occupation he was a farmer, and he became a prominent man. In politics he was a republican, and served as justice of the peace. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both died in Perry county, he in 1870, she in 1875. After the death of her parents Miss Barker removed to Mercer county, and joined some brothers and sisters who had gone there before. This was about 1879. Samuel and Elizabeth Barker were the parents of eleven children, two of whom died young, and nine grew to mature years. These nine are as follows: Mary, who married Paul Randolph, and remained in Perry county; William, a prominent farmer of Mercer county; John, who died in Mercer county in 1892, leaving a wife and three children; Christopher, who died in Iowa in 1893, leaving three children; Sophia, who has been married twice—first to James Wyatt, who died, and then to Charles Byers, a farmer of Butler township; James, who enlisted in the army, where he contracted disease from which he died six months after coming home; Joseph, who also served in the army of the Union and is now living in Illinois; Minerva, who married Leroy Cooper and is living in Iowa, and Harriet, wife of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Coate have had four children born to them, viz: Maggie P. and Ida B., both at home; Otto J., who died when two years age, and Homer N., at home. Beside these children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Coate have reared two orphan children, one of whom, Morris Offenhauer, has been with them six years, and his brother a shorter time. Mr. and Mrs. Coate are members of the German Baptist church, and Mr. Coate has been elected minister of his church. In politics he is a democrat, and though he does not care for public position, yet he has been elected to fill some of the most important township offices, such as trustee and others of equal importance. He and his wife are highly respected people, and are esteemed by the community for their kind and charitable dispositions. One of the principal objects of Mr. Coate is to do good to his fellow-men, and all appreciate him for the integrity of his motives and his conduct.

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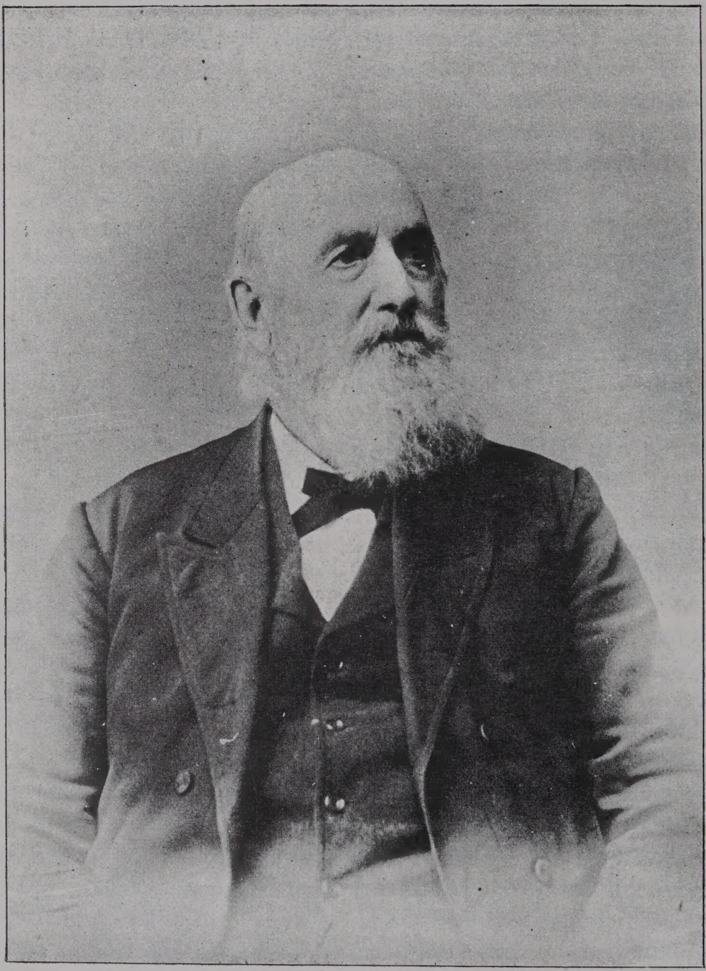
BENJAMIN COATE, an ancient pioneer and a prominent farmer of Butler township, Mercer county, was born in Miami county, Ohio, May 23, 1828. He is a son of Joseph and Lydia (Davis) Coate, both of whom were reared in Miami county.

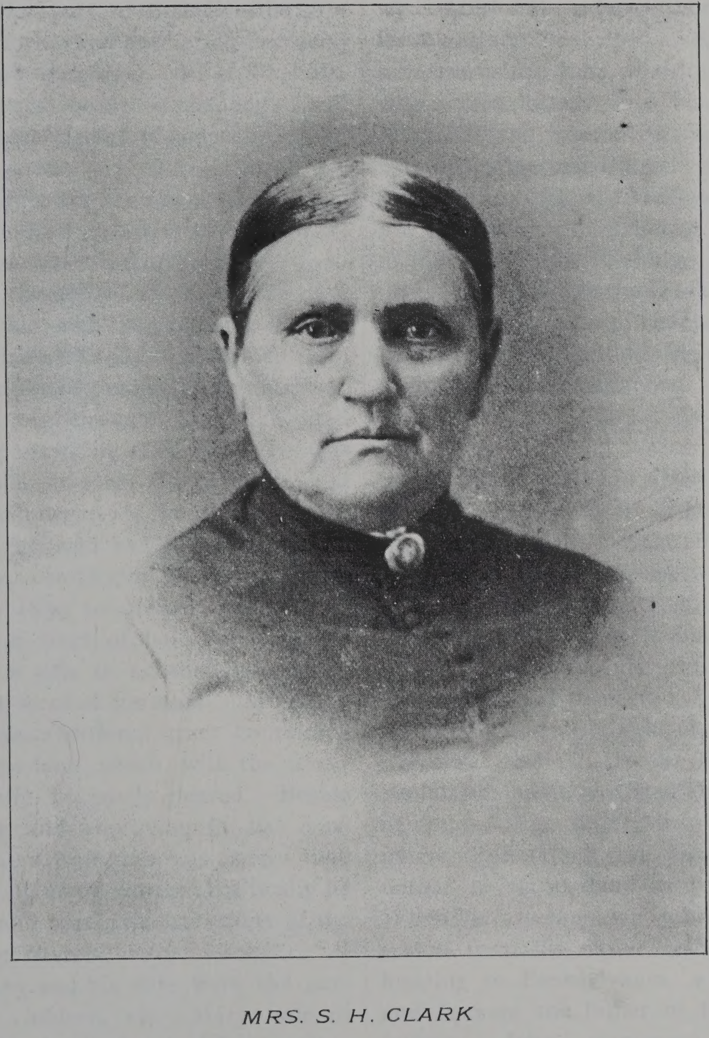
Moses Coate, the father of Joseph Coate, came to Ohio from South Carolina at a very early date, and being a Quaker in religion settled among those of his faith who had gone there before he arrived. He was a man of activity and enterprise, and, beside carrying on farming after he reached Miami county, he built a grist-mill, and ran that as well as his farm. There, on his father's farm and around the mill, Joseph Coate grew up and acquired habits of industry which served him well through life. He learned the carpenter trade and followed that a portion of his time. In 1837 he removed to Mercer county, entering a small tract of land, at a time when there were no improved farms anywhere in that part of the country. His first labor was to erect a log cabin for his family and himself to live in, and after that he began in earnest the task of subduing the forest. Upon this first purchase, although he afterward bought other lands in the vicinity, he continued to live all through his life. For many years after his arrival in Mercer county, life was anything but a pleasure. Deprivations and hardships were numerous. There was no mill nearer than Piqua, and to that place the pioneers had to go for their flour and corn meal; but there was a small store a few miles away, in which the principal stock was ammunition, that being in great demand among the settlers, for all kinds of game and wild beasts were abundant; and, beside, deer skins found ready sale and were thus a source of revenue.

Abitha Davis, the father of Mrs. Lydia Coate, was also from South Carolina, and after reaching Ohio lived the rest of his life in Miami county. In religion he was likewise a Quaker, and so settled in the immediate neighborhood of Mr. Coate. The mother of the subject of this sketch died in 1851, and the father about 1855. They reared a family of six children, viz: Delilah, who married George Black, who died, leaving his widow with three children, and she afterward married a Mr. Jones, and is now herself dead; Benjamin, the subject of this sketch; W. D., who died leaving a wife and nine children; Sarah J., who died young; Mary, who married Christian Platt, both of whom are dead and who left one child, and Elizabeth, who died single.

Benjamin Coate remained with his parents until he was twenty years of age, and he began working for himself as a boatman on the canal to Cincinnati. He was thus engaged three seasons, and in this way he earned his first money. With the money thus earned he entered the land upon which he yet lives, an eighty-acre tract. He hewed the logs himself for his house, which he lived in until 1863. As he prospered he purchased other lands, and has given each of his children eighty acres, still retaining the homestead of 162 acres. Beside clearing up his own farm he has assisted others to do the same, and has done much to aid in the way of improving the country. He has a fine, commodious house, where he lives, has good barns and a good orchard, and has ditched and drained his lands. His farm is in



Yours Truly
S. H. Clark



MRS. S. H. CLARK

a high state of cultivation, and he has everything about and around him that any farmer need wish for to make life worth living. All of this property he has accumulated by his own exertion, good management and foresight. Toward the latter part of their lives he supported both his father and mother, taking good care of them till they died. In politics Mr. Coate has always been independent, and though he has been elected to township offices he would never serve.

He and his wife are members of the German Baptist church. Previous to their marriage, Mrs. Coate was Miss Mary Yaney, born in Pennsylvania, December 17, 1826. In 1836 she came to Ohio with her parents, George and Barbara (Shafer) Yaney, the former from Germany, the latter of Pennsylvania ancestry. George Yaney was brought to the United States by his parents in 1818, when he was sixteen years old. George Yaney married in Pennsylvania, and began life there as a farmer, but in 1836 he removed to Ohio, and located in Miami county. In 1837 he moved to Shelby county, and in 1839 to Mercer county. At first he leased a tract of land, and cleared forty acres for a title to another forty acres, and in this way secured his start. Afterward he purchased an additional tract containing eighty acres, new land, which, with the assistance of his family, he partly cleared. Beside his own clearing and improving he has done much to aid others, and thus has been a help to the country in many ways. Politically he is a democrat, and in religion a member of the United Brethren church.

George Yaney and his wife were the parents of eleven children, viz: Mary, wife of the subject of this sketch; Jacob, John, George, Henry, Samuel, William, David, Christian, Elizabeth and Israel. Six of the sons served in the war of the Rebellion, a remarkable record for any family. The mother of these children died in 1862, and the father married a Mrs. Springer, by whom he had no children. He died July 1, 1887, in his eighty-sixth year.

Benjamin Coate, by his marriage to Miss Yaney, became the father of seven children, viz: Abitha D., a farmer and teacher of Butler township; Noah, prominent farmer of the same township; John, who died young; George, who was a farmer until his death in 1886; Mary E., who married Frank Cordier, a minister of the German Baptist church; Joseph B., who died in 1863, and William, a farmer. All the members of this family, but Joseph, are members of the German Baptist church, otherwise known as the Dunkard church. All are men and women of character, and are eminently respectable and highly respected by their friends and neighbors.

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CAPT. SMITH HART CLARK, one of the pioneers of Mercer county, and one of its most prominent and highly esteemed citizens, was born at Point Pleasant, Mason county, Va., December 11, 1817. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Beck) Clark, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, February 2, 1794, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Pierce) Clark. John Clark was also a native of Pennsylvania, and his father's name has been always supposed to be John. The latter, it is believed, was a native of Scotland, the name Clark being a noted one in Scotland as well as in England. When yet a young man John Clark, Sr., emigrated from his native country to America, locating in Pennsylvania, where he married and became the father of three children, as follows: John, mentioned above, and to whom further reference will be made; a son who was assassinated in South Carolina during the Revolutionary war, because of his adherence to the cause of the colonies; and a sister who married a Col. Harris, an early settler in Kentucky and the founder of the Harris family of that state. The mother of these three children married a second time, her second husband being a Mr. Owens, and by him had one son, known as Col. Owens, who ultimately settled in Jackson, Ohio, where he reared a family and died. His title of colonel was obtained through his Indian fighting, in which he was very successful and courageous. Thus it will be seen that Col. Owens was half brother to the grandfather of the subject.

John Clark, Jr., son of the above, was about twenty-four years of age at the beginning of the Revolutionary war, through which he served. He was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware, and was well acquainted with great men. He was also at Valley Forge during the severe winter in which the American troops suffered so severely, and was also at the battle of the Brandywine. He was also present at the execution of Maj. Andre, of which he could never speak without shedding tears, always remarking that the American troops would have been infinitely better satisfied if it had been Benedict Arnold that was executed instead of Maj. Andre. After the close of the Revolutionary war he married Elizabeth Pierce, a native of Pennsylvania, and by her had the following children: William, father of the subject of this sketch; John, a blacksmith of Charlestown, W. Va.; James, a bachelor of Vinton county, Ohio; George, Isaac, Andrew and Owens, all farmers of Vinton county, and the latter a justice of the peace for years; and three daughters, the two older of whom married brothers, named Childers, living in Jackson county, the youngest being Irena Speekman, living in Hocking county, Ohio, now Vinton county. John Clark emigrated with his family to Mason county, Va., where he was identified principally with the agricultural interests of the state, and where he lived until about 1825, when he removed to Vinton county, Ohio, whither his children had for the most part preceded him, and with whom he passed the remainder of his life. He was a strong Andrew Jackson democrat, a good man, and died about 1835.

William Clark, father of the subject, was reared on a farm and received but a limited education. He served in the war of 1812, first with the army of the northwest, and passed through Ohio on his way to the defense of Fort Meigs, now Defiance, which he helped to build, where he was discharged. Returning to Point Pleasant, in Virginia, he re-enlisted in the cavalry and started on the way to Norfolk, but before reaching that point the war was over and peace declared. Returning again to Point Pleasant, he was there married, February 1, 1816, to Elizabeth Beck, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Peck) Beck, and to this marriage there were born the following children: Mahala, deceased wife of Samuel Dodd, a farmer of Missouri; Smith Hart, the subject of this sketch; Eliza, who married Daniel Davidson, of Illinois, both of whom are now deceased; William, formerly a farmer of Mishawaka, Ind., now deceased; Mary, who died in young girlhood; Martha Frances, who lives with the subject, and Sarah, who died in infancy.

Elizabeth Beck was born in Staunton, Va., in 1797, her father being of German ancestry, a farmer and a weaver by occupation, and finally an early settler in Hocking county—that portion which is now included in Vinton county. He was too much crippled to permit of his being a soldier, was a democrat, a member of the Lutheran church and died about 1833. William Clark settled first in Point Pleasant, Va., and then, in 1826, removed to Hocking county, in 1832 to Union county, and in 1837 to Mercer county. The next year he removed to Kosciusko county, Ind., purchased a tract of woodland, began to clear it up and make a home. His wife died there in 1843 and he died in 1846. In politics he was a Jacksonian democrat until 1840, when he became a whig. He was a Mason, and was buried in the faith of the Protestant Episcopal church.

Smith Hart Clark was educated in Virginia and Ohio, receiving in all fifteen months' schooling, three of which were received after he was twenty-one years of age, having to walk, in some instances, from three to four miles to school. Realizing, however, the importance of an education, he applied himself to study at home, sitting beside his mother and pursuing his studies far into the night. The captain states that it was his rule for a long time to continue his studies long after his mother had retired to rest, no matter what the character of the branch of knowledge he was pursuing. By purchasing what books he could afford and by borrowing such as he could not buy, he acquired a thorough knowledge, not only of the rudimentary sciences, but also of civil engineering and the higher mathematics in general, this being his favorite study. Civil engineering he practiced in connection with farming for many years, and in 1852 and 1853 he was deputy surveyor of Mercer county, to which county he had removed with his parents in 1837. In 1838 he began teaching school, and in 1839 he taught in Deep Cut, now Kossuth, Auglaize county, where there had never before been a school. He thought, at the close of his term of school there, that he would never teach again, and began teaming for a steam saw-mill where Celina now stands, but late in the fall of 1839 he began teaching in Mercer, this county, and in the spring of 1840 went to Pickaway county, where he attended school three months, and the next fall taught again in Mercer county. In the spring of 1841 he went to Kosciusko county, Ind., and taught a summer school in Leesburg, as well as the winter following. In the winter of 1843-44 he taught a term of school at Warsaw, where the boys had tried to break up the school by drowning the teacher. Returning to Mercer county in January, 1844, he was married, in the same month and year, to Nancy Archer Greer, a daughter of Judge Joseph and Catherine (Bird) Greer, and by this marriage became the father of ten children, as follows: Francis Marion, died in infancy; Lemen Taylor, died at the age of thirty-two, his death occurring at Perrysburg, Wood county, Ohio, he being at the time a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife surviving him in Delaware county, where she is educating her two sons; two children deceased; Rosalus; Guynn, a farmer and teacher of Hopewell township; two children deceased; and Bertha Edna, wife of John S. Ketchum, living on the home place.

Judge Greer and his wife in 1821 emigrated from Clarke county and settled in Mercer county on the farm now occupied by the subject of this sketch. On this farm their daughter Nancy was born January 2, 1824, and on this farm she lived until November 1, 1895, when she died after a three years' illness of paralysis. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was a good woman, and exercised a wholesome influence not only in her home but also in the neighborhood. After his marriage Capt. Clark located on the farm on which he still lives, and which Judge Greer entered in 1821. He has long been a prominent man in many ways, served as justice of the peace one term, as postmaster from 1850 to 1860, the post-office being in his own house, and as enumerator for Dublin township in 1880.

In October, 1861, he enlisted in the cause of his country, and recruited company D, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, of which he was elected captain. This regiment at once took the field and participated in the battle at Shiloh. At Clarksville, Tenn., Capt. Clark was captured, and, owing to some difficulty in his regiment over the question of his colonel's bravery, he taking sides with his colonel, he was dismissed; but afterward, when the charge against the colonel was more fully investigated, Capt. Clark was re-instated in his rank, but he refused again to take the field. Returning to his home after thus serving his country he again engaged in farming and in surveying. He is a stanch republican in politics and is a prominent and active Mason. In 1852 he joined the Masonic lodge at Saint Mary's, Ohio, and assisted to establish a lodge in Celina, in 1855. Of this lodge he was the first master, and remained a member until 1868. He organized a lodge in Rockford, was the first master there, and served in that capacity as long as he would, and he has his membership in Rockford to the present time. He was a regular attendant of the grand lodge for nearly thirty sessions, missing only two or three from 1856 to 1884. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1842, and always taken an active part in the Sunday-school. Everything designed to benefit the community at large has always found in him a ready and willing support. To him is due the credit for securing graded schools in Rockford and also in Mercer, and these are to-day among the best schools in the county. For forty years he served as member of the board of education, thus evincing in a striking manner his interest in the cause.

Lemen Taylor Clark, one of Capt. Clark's children, was born September 21, 1846. He served as commissary of the One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, until the close of the war, graduated at the Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware, Ohio, in 1871. and took pastoral charge at Perrysburg station, where he died in 1878. Mrs. Clark died on November 1, 1895, and was buried in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she had led a consistent membership for nearly fifty years, beloved and respected by all who knew her.

* * *

WESLEY COPELAND, one of the older and more substantial farmers of Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Greene county, November 20, 1825, a son of Abner and Margaret (Morgan) Copeland, who were the parents of eleven children, named as follows: Joseph (deceased), Madison, James, Mary (deceased), Wesley, John F., William, Sarah (deceased), Eliza, Louesa and Margaret, the latter also deceased.

John Copeland, the grandfather of Wesley Copeland, the subject of this memoir, was probably a descendant of a German family who settled in North Carolina in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and long were residents of the Old North state. John Copeland, in 1815, being an opponent of slavery, came to Ohio, and in this state he followed his calling of farming until his death. Abner Copeland, father of Wesley Copeland, was born in Surry county, N. C., June 15, 1790, and was one of the nine children born to John Copeland, and who were named as follows: Richard, Elisha, John, William, Sarah, Abner, Rebecca, Joseph and Mary. Abner Copeland came to Ohio with his father in 1815, as noted, and in 1817 was united in marriage, in Greene county, with Margaret Morgan, a native of Frederick county, Va., the result being the eleven children enumerated above. For about twenty years Mr. Copeland tilled a farm in Greene county and then removed to that part of Allen county, Ohio, afterward known as Auglaize county, where, besides following the useful and honorable calling of tiller of the soil, he was also honored by his fellow-citizens with the office of justice of the peace, as well as with several minor offices, he being in his politics a whig. In his religion he was a Baptist, and in that faith died, in Auglaize county, May 2, 1874, at the extreme age of eighty-three years, a justly respected gentleman.

Wesley Copeland, with whom this biographical record has in reality most to do, came to Mercer county from Greene county, Ohio, in 1854, and settled in Center township, on his present farm, which he had purchased with his savings from his wages as a farm hand and as a school-teacher. For the latter profession he was prepared by an attendance in the schools of Allen and Auglaize counties, following his graduation therefrom by a continuous course of over seven years, during the school seasons, from the year of 1847, onward. One of the first terms he taught was in the last school through which he had passed the curriculum, and while thus employed received as compensation seventy-five cents per day. During his incumbency of this position his school house caught fire and was entirely destroyed, together with the greater part of the books belonging to the pupils. Mr. Copeland has always taken a lively interest in the republican party, but has never sought office, although he has frequently been urged to become a candidate. He was a member of the Ohio national or home guard and was called into active service, at Camp Dennison, Ohio, May 2, 1864, as a private of company K, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served until the end of the term for which he enlisted.

Wesley Copeland was united in marriage, April 8, 1847, with Miss Mary Ann Perkins, a native of Richland county, Ohio, and a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Young) Perkins. This union has been blessed with seven children, named as follows: Louesa Jane (deceased), Elsina, Eli (of whom an extended notice will be found on another page), Sylvester K., William Alpheus, Thirsa and Edith Florence. Since Mr. Copeland has had his home in Center township he has been prominently identified with the development of Mercer county, and has in every way shown himself to be a true and worthy citizen.

* * *

THOMAS J. COURTRIGHT, a prominent merchant of Rockford, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, October 9, 1853, and is a son of Jesse D. and Phebe (Lusk) Courtright, who came from Fairfield county to Mercer county about 1849, and settled on a farm in Black Creek township.

Jesse D. Courtright followed his vocation in Mercer county until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry (zouaves), and after a service of about one year came home on furlough, but, while on his way to rejoin his regiment, met with an untimely death from drowning in the Ohio river. He was ever a public-spirited man, and thus was early cut off in his devotion to the cause of his country. His parents, who were of Pennsylvania-German birth, were both early settlers of Fairfield county, Ohio, and their offspring are prominent throughout the country as members of the learned professions as well as in mercantile circles. The mother of our subject survived her husband until 1879. To Jesse D. Courtwright and his wife were born six children, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of our subject. Of these six, John, the eldest, was a soldier of company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio (zouave) infantry, with his father, and had served nearly three years when he was killed at the battle of Cloyd Mountain, Va.; Milton D. served in the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteers, company F, and died at Van Wert, Ohio, on his way home from the war; Sarah, twin of Milton D., married Jackson Hayes, now being also deceased; William W., also a member of company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, as a substitute for one year, and another year as a volunteer, returned home, but afterward went west, and, it is supposed, there died; Angeline, who was married to L. T. Johnson, of Rockford, died about the year 1874.

Thomas J. Courtright, our subject, passed his childhood on the home farm until eight years old, when the family moved to Rockford, where he was educated in the public schools and reared to manhood. He engaged in sundry callings until 1876, when, September 20, he married Miss Anna Circle, a native of Mercer county, and a daughter of Emanual and Alvina Circle. In 1878 Mr. Courtright entered into the grocery and provision business in Rockford, and carried on a prosperous trade for about nine years, when he sold out his stock of groceries, etc., and replaced it with a choice selection of dry goods and notions, in which line he has since done a most successful business, carrying, as he does, one of the best assorted and most complete stocks in his line to be found in the village. Although he began his career as a merchant with but a very small cash capital, his excellent business habits, his civility and straightforward dealing, have brought him an unprecedented success for so short a period, and he now owns two good residence properties as well as his store, which latter covers 21 x 90 feet of ground at the corner of Main and Market streets, and is of two stories, filled with merchandise valued at $6,000. To Thomas J. and Anna Courtright have been born two children—Earle and Leo—who are the delight of the household. The parents are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Courtright is one of the trustees. Fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, and socially he and Mrs. Courtright are counted among the most respectable of Rockford's residents. He is an entirely self-made man, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, and well deserves the success which has crowned his business career.

* * *

JOHN CRON, deceased, was born in Germany, in the perilous times of the year 1813. Born and reared on a farm, while still a young man he came to America, landing in New York city. Being in good circumstances, financially, he came west at once, settling in Marion township at Cassella, Mercer county, Ohio, where he bought eighty acres of timber land, which he cleared with his own hands, and later bought ten acres, which he also cleared. He lived always on the farm, and intermitted his farm labors with blacksmithing, which trade he learned after coming to Marion township. His first wife was Theresa Mayer, and as a result of this union the following children were born: John, Jacob, William, Adam and Mary, all married. His wife died in 1855, and he was next married to Louisa Walter, a native of Germany, to whom the following children were born: Katie, who married and has since died; Lizzie; Henry; Minnie; and Ankella. John Cron was a devout member of the Catholic church, an uncompromising democrat, a good, liberal-minded and public-spirited citizen. He left his family in comfortable circumstances at his death. His second wife is still living, and is now married to Charles Hamburger.

Henry Cron, the subject proper of our history, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio. He received his education in the country schools of his locality, was reared on his father's farm, and when but six years of age his father died. but he continued to work on the farm until it was sold; when thirteen years old he began to work as a hired hand; then for two years he worked for his step-father in a store; afterward, for his brother-in-law for two years; afterward he managed business for his mother; then for a year he worked at carpentering. In the year 1877 he began a general merchandise business, and has continued in this line with unvarying success. He was married in 1882 to Miss Lena Stelser, who was born August 2, 1861; to this union were born six children, as follows: Lula; Anna; Katie; Albert; John, deceased; August, deceased. Mr. Cron is a leading member of the Catholic church of Cassella, and politically he is a democrat. He was appointed postmaster of Cassella in 1886, and is still the incumbent of this office. He is a progressive and liberal-minded citizen, greatly respected by his neighbors.

August Stelser, the father of Mrs. Cron, was a native of Germany, and came to this country while still a young man, landing in New York city, and thence going direct to Piqua, Ohio, where he worked for a time on the canal, later going into business on his own account in the same place; this business he sold and moved to Cassella, where he again went into business. He bought 160 acres of land, which he cleared with his own hands. He was married to Elizabeth Doll, and to this union were born the following children: Caroline, deceased; Lena, wife of our subject; Anna, married; August, Lizzie and Katie. Mr. Stelser left a considerable estate at his demise, which occurred in 1891. Mrs. Stelser died in 1893, and both were devout believers in the Catholic religion. Lena Cron, the wife of the subject of this memoir, lived at home with her mother until her marriage, and she learned the vocation of milliner while yet a young woman. Mrs. Cron is a devout member of the Catholic church, and is greatly respected by her friends and neighbors.

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WILLIAM CRON, a leading citizen of Celina and the largest manufacturer of wagons, buggies and carriages in Mercer county, with works on Fayette street, between Main and Ash streets, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, in December, 1848. He is a son of John and Theresa (Mayer) Cron, both of whom were natives of Germany, but who were married in Mercer county. When John Cron first came to the United States he located in Stark county, Ohio, and after some time removed to Mercer county. After his marriage he returned Germany on a visit, and came back to his adopted country, where he died in 1863, his wife having died previously, in 1852, when the subject of this sketch was only four years of age. John Cron was a farmer and a blacksmith, and an honest, industrious man.

William Cron remained on the farm until after his father's death, and then went to Cincinnati, in search of employment; but not being successful there he then went to Sidney, Ohio, where he remained six or seven months, working in a brewery and on a farm. From Sidney he went to Indianapolis, where he served an apprenticeship to the trade of blacksmith, and to the trades of wagon and buggy-making. He remained in Indianapolis until 1868, when he returned to Mercer county, and worked a year for his brother, John, who had a shop at Cassella. In the fall of 1869 he located in Celina, and bought a shop from Frederick Schwaberon, and since that time has been permanently settled in Celina. At the time of his purchase of this shop the business consisted merely of horseshoeing and repairing wagons, etc. During the first year he built a few new wagons and also had his share of the horseshoeing business. From year to year he increased his capacity for business as that business extended, enlarging his buildings as his necessities required. In 1871 he erected his present workshop, which is a two-story, frame building, 28 x 54 feet in size. A few years later he erected another large building, 34 x 50 feet in size, to which he afterward added a part thirty feet in length, making it in all 34 x 80 feet in size. This latter building Mr. Cron uses as his wareroom and paint shop. His work consists of the building of wagons, buggies and carriages, and doing the repairing for all classes of vehicles. In 1895 he erected a single-story frame store room, 40 x 90 feet in size. Beside all the above buildings he has one, 18 x 92 feet in size, for storing lumber, and still another one, 18 x 30 feet, for iron. At the present time his business is larger than it has ever been before, and it is larger than that of any other man or firm in Mercer county. He employs from fourteen to seventeen hands, and has the reputation of doing good, straightforward, honest work, and for dealing squarely with all men. This reputation extends not only throughout Mercer county, but also into the surrounding counties, and is worth to him as much as a mine of gold.

In 1878 he erected a two-story brick residence on the corner of Fayette and Ash streets, which he remodeled in 1895. Now he has one of the finest and largest residences in the city of Celina, and this, together with its well kept lawn and grounds, is an ornament to the city.

Mr. Cron was married in 1871 to Miss Elizabeth Hierholtzer, sister of C. D. Hierholtzer, one of the leading merchants of Celina. To this marriage there have been born nine children, seven of whom are still living, viz: John A.; F. J.; Flora, Ada, H. F.; Carl C., and Hilda; Joseph E. and Hubert G. are deceased. Mr. Cron and family are members of the Catholic church.

The history of Mr. Cron, thus briefly related, proves one thing beyond a doubt, and that is that he is a self-made man. Starting with only a few hundred dollars from his father's estate, he was without other assistance made his own way in life, and has met with unusual success only because he has attended strictly to his business and has done honest work. As a reward for all this, he now is one of the most substantial business men of a prosperous city, and is highly respected and esteemed by all that know him.

JAMES W. DAVIDSON, proprietor of the popular bakery and confectionary at Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born on a farm in the southeastern part of Jay county, Ind., June 7, 1862, a son of William and Julia (Baughmyer) Davidson, but lost his mother when he was seven days old, and was but three years of age when his father died.

William Davidson was born in Dublin, Ireland, and at the age of eighteen years came to America with his mother, three sisters and a brother, the last of whom, named Joseph, was killed in our late Civil war. William Davidson, who was a grocer, first began business in the state of New Jersey, but later came to Ohio and continued his business at Fort Recovery, Mercer county, whence he removed to Jay county, Ind., and still later went to Iowa, where he shortly afterward died at about the age of forty-seven years. Mrs. Julia Davidson was a native of Germany, but was brought to America when a child. The only offspring of this couple is the subject of this sketch.

James W. Davidson passed his boyhood on a farm in Mercer county with his grandmother, and received a very good common-school education. At his majority he began work on his own account, and for two years was employed on public work, and then came to Rockford and for five years found employment with the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company, and then succeeded Ed More in the proprietorship of the confectionery and lunch counter at that place, and this business he successfully conducted, on its own merits, for two years, when his increasing trade induced him to add a bakery, and the concern now comprises the bakery, confectionery and restaurant. He is a gentleman thoroughly posted in his business, and is enterprising and progressive. He started his trade without a dollar, and now owns a business room and a good dwelling on Market street—all gained through his fair dealing, courteous treatment of his patrons and a careful study of the details of his business.

In September, 1884, Mr. Davidson married Miss Josephine Graham, a native of Laurel, Ind., and this union has resulted in the birth of three children—Ralph D., Goldie and Eva. In politics Mr. Davidson is a democrat, but satisfies himself with exercising his franchise at the polls, never seeking office. He is a member of Rockford lodge, No. 790, I. O. O. F., and with his wife is a member of Rebekah lodge. He has made hosts of friends in Rockford, and is popular not only with his customers, but with the public in general.

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ANDREW J. DELLINGER, one of the prosperous farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, was born April 1, 1849, in Butler county, Ohio, and is a son of George and Catherine (Hoffman) Dellinger, both of whom were natives of Germany.

George Dellinger was born in Bavaria, November 15, 1816. There he was reared on a farm, and there he received his education, which was thorough until the time of his leaving school. Having been brought up on a farm he naturally adopted farming as his occupation for life, and followed it in his native country until 1845, when he emigrated to the United States. His prospective bride, Catherine Hoffman, came to this country in the same ship with him, the time occupied in the voyage being thirteen weeks. In the spring of the next year they were married, and located in Butler county, where they remained until 1851, when they removed to Mercer county, where Mr. Dellinger purchased eighty acres of land. This land was at the time mostly covered over with timber, but he soon began the arduous task of clearing away the timber, and improving the cleared portions, and at length he had a very valuable and pretty farm. He was for many years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of the county in which he resided, and was to an unusual degree an influential man. Politically he belonged to the democratic party and was always a consistent supporter of its principles. He was a consistent and true member of the Lutheran church; his wife was a member of the United Brethren church. His death occurred July 28, 1872, and she died April 25, 1876. George and Catherine Dellinger were the parents of eight children, as follows: John, a prosperous farmer of Black Creek township; Andrew J., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Phillip Deitsch, formerly of Black Creek township; Martin, who died in 1873; Joseph, a farmer of Black Creek township; Mary, wife of John W. Stetler, now deceased, she dying in 1890; George, a farmer of Mercer county, and Henry, a huckster of Willshire. The mother of these children was born September 2, 1828, and was a daughter of John Hoffman.

Andrew J. Dellinger was reared on a farm and educated in the Mercer county public schools. At the age of thirteen he went to Willshire, and there learned the trade of shoemaking, at which trade he worked some years. During this time he worked three months in Aurora, Ind., and upon his return to Ohio worked at the carpenter trade until 1892, from which time he has devoted his energies to farming with great success.

February 8, 1872, he was married to Miss Effina Warwick, daughter of Charles Warwick, and to this marriage there were three children, as follows: John William, working in the railroad shops at Lima, Ohio; Thomas, a farmer of Liberty township, and Mary, wife of John Bolenbach, a famer of Black Creek township. Effina Warwick was born September 30, 1850, and died July 12, 1879. Mr. Dellinger was married, the second time, March 28, 1881, to Miss Barbara Sheller, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Beam) Sheller, and to them there have been born six children, who are living, as follows: Lydia, born June 15, 1883; Louisa, born September 15, 1884; George, born April 4, 1886; Nancy, born February 3, 1890; Samuel, born February 10, 1894, and Clarence, born January 10, 1896. Also three children who are dead. Barbara Sheller, the second wife of of Mr. Dellinger, was born in Bavaria, March 28, 1857, her parents being both natives and residents of Germany. She came to the United States in 1880.

After his first marriage, Mr. Dellinger removed to his present farm, which he had previously purchased. This farm he cleared from the woods, has greatly improved it and made it a good farm. In 1882 he erected a fine, large barn, and has other out-buildings necessary to the carrying on of farm work with comfort and economy. Financially Mr. Dellinger has been a success, and all the property he now possesses he has accumulated by his own exertions and by his careful management. Politically Mr. Dellinger is a democrat, and has served the public one term as township trustee, and he is at the present time justice of the peace. He is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and of the United Brethren church, in which he has held several offices, such as steward and class-leader. Mr. Dellinger is one of the public-spirited men of his township, and is well known to all as being a straightforward and honest and good man.

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**EDWARD A. DIBBLE**, a prominent farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born in Essex county, N. Y., December 1, 1831. He is the eldest son of Lyman and Eliza Jane (Smart) Dibble, the former of whom was born in the state of New York, March 2, 1804.

Lyman Dibble was a son of Levi Dibble, who was born in Vermont of French parents, who emigrated to America in the eighteenth century, and settled in New England. The name Dibble, it should be noted, was originally spelled "De Bell," but was changed after the original American founder of the family emigrated from his native country. Eliza Jane Smart, mother of the subject, was born in Vermont February 7, 1813, and was married to Lyman Dibble February 17, 1831, and to this marriage there were born four children, as follows: Edward A., Charles F., Rebecca and Frances M. Lyman Dibble was reared in the state of New York, but received his education in the schools of his native state. By occupation he became a farmer, and after his marriage resided upon the farm of his brother. With his family he removed to Champaign county, Ohio, about 1837, and there resided about seven years. While living in that county he purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, Mercer county, of his brother, Luman, this purchase being part of the tract originally entered by the latter. To this new farm he removed in 1844, and subsequently purchased forty acres adjoining the same, upon which he resided until his death, which occurred July 24, 1869, aged sixty-five years. Upon this farm his widow still resides, in the full possession of her mental faculties, and, in spite of her eighty-three years, as bright as a June morning. For many years prior to his death, Lyman Dibble was a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he was a life-long adherent of the democratic party, although he was not an active participant in the councils of that party. He was everywhere recognized, however, as a man of sound judgment, and of the most honorable character and career.

Edward A. Dibble grew to manhood on his father's farm, a part of which he now owns. He was educated in the country schools of the neighborhood in which he lived, and November 30, 1854, married Miss Mary Kumpf, eldest daughter of George J. and Catherine Kumpf, he a native of Germany and she of France. To this marriage there have been born ten children, as follows: Alton, Anna M., Susan Jane (deceased), Levi (deceased), George Stephen, Ida Belle, William Henry, an infant that died unnamed, Le Roy S. and Catherine (deceased).

Edward A. Dibble enlisted in the service of his country in company F, Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, October 8, 1862. While serving in that capacity he participated in the following battles: Port Gibson, Champion Hills and the siege of Vicksburg, passing through them all without receiving serious injury. As a result, however, of the exposure to which he was subjected, he incurred rheumatism and scurvy, and from these diseases he has suffered more or less ever since being discharged. As a consequence of his sufferings he is a pensioner on the bounty of the government to the extent of $8 per month.

Mr. Dibble is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and ever since his early manhood has been a zealous worker for the interests of the democratic party. As a partial reward for his zeal in this direction he has been elected as a member of the board of county infirmary directors; he has also served as township trustee, as supervisor, as school director, as clerk of the township board of education, and in other minor offices. He is thus recognized as a man of affairs, and as worthy of confidence and trust. His record thus appears to be a most enviable one and one worthy of emulation by all younger men.

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JOHN DILBONE, a farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, was born in Miami county, Ohio, January 16, 1834. He is a son of William and Lydia (Baltzell) Dilbone, the former of whom was born in Miami county, January 28, 1813, and was a son of Henry and Priscilla (Millhouse) Dilbone. Henry Dilbone's father was a resident of Pennsylvania, and a teamster. He was shot to death from ambush by robbers while returning home after receiving his pay; but his four-horse team ran away and the mercenary assassins failed to secure the money they were after.

Henry Dilbone was a native of Pennsylvania and was married in that state. He and his wife were the parents of four children, as follows: John, deceased; Margaret, wife of Samuel Lindsay; Priscilla, deceased, all of whom died on the home place, and William, father of the subject of this sketch. Henry Dilbone early removed to Miami county and there settled on a farm. In August, 1813, he and his family were in the field pulling flax, the children being left on a quilt in the shade of a tree, Mrs. Dilbone having taken them through the cornfield and arrived first at this place. Her husband went round past the spring to get a jug of water, and as soon as he reached his wife and children he was shot down by Indians, who immediately afterward tomahawked his wife. A consultation was then held among the Indians as to what should be done with the children, the conclusion arrived at being to spare them. Mr. Dilbone was only severely wounded and managed to conceal himself in the field near by, but he died the next day, being found shortly afterward by neighbors. The eldest of the four children was then but six years old, but he took the younger ones to the house and barred the door, where, in the evening, a neighbor-woman, who lived a mile away and who went to the house on an errand, found them and also found that a horrible tragedy had been committed. Returning home she sent her husband for the children, aroused the three or four families that lived in the neighborhood, and started for the fort at Troy, which they reached the next morning. There they remained until the excitement had quieted down. It was learned afterward that another man, named Girard, was murdered at the same hour which witnessed the death of Mr. and Mrs. Dilbone, and the neighbors naturally expected they would all be killed.

The four orphan children were then taken by the pioneer families, and William Dilbone, son of John, still resides on the home place. Grandfather Millhouse reared William Dilbone, the father of the subject, on his farm, and the latter received his education in Miami county, his old slate being kept in the family as a kind of heirloom. In March, 1831, he married Lydia Baltzell, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Benim) Baltzell, and to them there were born ten children, as follows: Priscilla, wife of Bird Methena, a mechanic of Carey, Ohio; John, the subject of this sketch; Henry, deceased; Jane and Margaret, twins, the former the wife of Josiah Dull, a farmer of Dublin township, and the latter deceased; Eliza, wife of John Dull, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; Isaac, a saw-mill man of Dublin township; David, a farmer of Mason county, Ill.; Wesley, a farmer of Dublin township, and William, a butcher of Bluffton, Ind.

Lydia Baltzell was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, March 26, 1813, her father being also a native of Hamilton county, and an early settler of Mercer county, removing to the latter county in 1836, where he entered eighty acres of land, upon which Charles Frisinger, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume, now lives. Henry Baltzell lived on the farm until about 1846, when he sold it and removed to Shelby county, where his wife died. He then returned to Mercer county and lived among his children until his death, in 1867. He was a soldier in the war of 1812 and a democrat in politics. A full history of the Baltzell family may be found in the biography of J. B. Tingley and in that of Aaron T. Sutton. The mother of the subject has living two brothers and one sister, viz: Elias, of Wisconsin; Benjamin, of Kansas, and Saville Clay, wife of John Clay, of Union township.

William Dilbone, after his marriage, lived in Shelby county about two years, removed then to Miami county, and in 1843 removed to Mercer county, entering forty acres in each of Van Wert and Mercer counties, locating in the latter county, and lived there four years. He then sold out and purchased an uncleared piece of land near where the subject of this sketch now lives, upon which he passed the remainder of his life. In politics he was a democrat and held the office of constable for several years and was justice of the peace for twelve years or more. He was a good man in all respects, prominent and public spirited, and highly esteemed by all as a worthy citizen.

His death occurred January 13, 1879. His wife still lives among her children, and is a member of the Lutheran church.

John Dilbone, the subject of this sketch, was educated in Mercer county and was married October 10, 1858, to Almira Roebuck, a daughter of Garrison and Caroline (Everett) Roebuck. To them four children have been born, as follows: Helen, wife of Allison Near; Alonzo, deceased, dying February 17, 1892; Owen, who married Malinda Miller, of Dublin township, and Alwilda, who died at the age of one year and ten days. Almira Roebuck was born in Mercer county, January 5, 1840, her father being the third son of Reuel and Sarah (Jones) Roebuck.

Garrison Roebuck was born June 23, 1811, and came with his parents to Mercer county in 1819, was reared on the farm and married in March, 1839, to Miss Carolina Everett, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Taylor) Everett. The Taylor family is of Scotch descent, great-grandfather Taylor having been born in Scotland. Grandmother Everett was born in North Carolina, and grandmother Roebuck was born in Wales, or at least was of Welsh descent. To Garrison and Caroline Roebuck, there were born four children, as follows: Almira, wife of the subject; Warren, deceased; Angeline, widow of Thornton Mullon, of Van Wert, Ohio, and Byron, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, January 6, 1820, and in 1838 she removed with her parents to Mercer county, where she was married. She was a member of the United Brethren church, and died in September, 1867. Her father, John Everett, was a native of Pennsylvania, was an early settler of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he lived until he removed to Mercer county. Not long afterward he went to Decatur, Ind., remained one year, returned to Mercer county, and bought a farm, upon which he lived until his death. Garrison Roebuck, after his marriage, bought a farm which was known as Old Town, cleared it of its timber, and lived upon it until his death, April 10, 1852. After his death his widow lived one year on the farm, then moved to Delphos, where she lived seven months, returned to the homestead upon which she lived a few years, then sold it and went to Van Wert to live with her brother, and there she died.

After living on his uncle Branson Roebuck's farm one year after marriage, the subject of this sketch then lived on his wife's farm about six years. Then, buying forty acres of land partially cleared adjoining his present farm, he lived on that one year, and then returned to his wife's farm. In 1880 he purchased seventy-two acres of uncleared land, where he lives at the present time. This he cultivated and improved, and now has an excellent farm. In 1881 he erected the house in which he has lived ever since. He has always been a farmer and stock raiser, draft horses having been for some time with him a specialty. In politics Mr. Dilbone is a democrat and in religion a member of the Church of God, in which he has held several of the offices, as deacon and director. He is a wide-awake, public-spirited man, and is highly respected by all who know him as a good man, a good citizen, and a good and obliging neighbor.

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HENRY DORSTEN, Jr., one of the most successful farmers of Franklin township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of one of the earliest settlers, was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, October 5, 1852, received a good education, in both English and German, in the public schools, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Osterfelt) Dorsten, both from Germany.

Henry Dorsten, Sr., came with his parents to this country when he was nine years of age, they settling at Minster, Ohio. There he grew to manhood, and married. He settled on a piece of land, cleared off the timber, and thus got his start in the world. In 1863 he sold out and removed to Mercer county, where he bought 150 acres of land, of which about seventy acres were cleared, and there had been erected on it a house and a log stable. He cleared forty acres additional, and erected a substantial brick residence, and a good barn, making such other improvements as were needed from time to time. After getting a good start in this way, he began reaching out after more land. At first he bought forty acres in the woods; then eighty acres adjoining the forty, all timber land; then he bought the eighty acres upon which the subject now lives, which had on it a house and a log stable, and of which forty acres were cleared. Soon after this he bought a farm of 143 acres, eighty acres of which were cleared, and upon which there was a house and barn. This farm he gave to a son. Then he bought a sixty-three acre farm, having about forty acres cleared and a small house upon it, which he gave to a daughter. Soon afterward, he bought a ninety-five acre farm, with sixty-five acres cleared, and with a house and barn upon it, and this he gave to another son. Since then the estate has been divided up among the children. While he gave his particular attention to farming, yet he raised considerable stock. Thus it will be seen that he has been an unusually active man, and it should be said that in getting his start he had to work on the construction of the grand reservoir in order to earn ready money. He and his wife are both living at the old homestead, of which the youngest son has charge. They are both members of the Catholic church, as also are all their living children. They are the parents of ten children, viz: William, who died at the age of eight years; Henry, Jr., the subject of this sketch; John, who resides at Celina; August and Frank, both farmers; Annie, wife of Joseph Schroeder; Josephine, who died young; Benjamin, at home; Katie, died young, and Eddie, on the homestead. The father of these children is a democrat in politics, but has never had official cravings or aspirations.

Henry Dorsten, Jr., came to Mercer county with his parents when he was eleven years of age, and grew up under the instruction and advice of his father. In clearing land and in assisting to improve the farm he found plenty of work, and he lived at home with his parents until he was married, which was in 1876, when he settled on the farm where he now lives. It was at the time of his marriage an eighty-acre tract; but since then he has added forty acres, so that he now owns there 120 acres, of which 100 acres are cleared. He has erected a commodious frame house and a good barn, beside other buildings, and his farm is in every way in good shape and under a high state of cultivation. His father's example has not been lost upon him, and that was to stick to his farming and to increase his possessions as fast as possible. He has since bought another piece of land, containing fifty acres, all cleared and well tiled, though there are no buildings upon it. General farming has been his preference, and he raises enough stock for the use of the farm.

Mr. Dorsten married Miss Emily Dabbelt, who was born in Germany, April 16, 1856, and who came to the United States with her parents when she was two years of age. Their names were Bernard and Gertrude (Schuelty) Dabbelt, and they bought a tract of land containing eighty acres, began improving, and had secured a good start in life in this country, when Mr. Dabbelt died, in 1873. His wife had died about 1863. At the time of his death he had about fifty acres cleared, and had a log house and barn. The eldest son then took charge of the farm, under an agreement between himself and his father that he should have the farm, after paying each of the other children a certain amount. The children were six in number, viz: Gerrard, deceased; Annie, wife of John Neacamp; Hubert, who now owns the homestead; Ignatz, agent for farm implements; Emily, wife of the subject of this sketch; and August, a farm laborer. All the children are Catholics, as were their parents.

Henry Dorsten, Jr., and his wife have had seven children born to them, viz: Eddie, born March 18, 1877, at home; Charles, born March 11, 1880, also at home; Tilla, born September 1, 1883; George, born November 27, 1887; Lizzie, born June 5, 1890; Ida, born May 4, 1893, and Theodore, born May 27, 1895. Mr. Dorsten and his family are all members of the Catholic church, and he is a democrat in politics. He has filled some important positions, such as township trustee six years, and other minor offices. During the time of his incumbency of the office of township trustee he secured the construction of some of the turnpikes, which are being built so rapidly in this part of the state, and which are so great an improvement. Taking him, all in all, Mr. Dorsten is a most useful member of society and an honorable citizen, worthy the honor that has been bestowed upon him.

G. M. COUNTERMAN, a rising and progressive young farmer of Dublin township, was born in Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, December 20, 1863, and is a son of A. M. and Ann E. (Bolenbaucher) Counterman, now residents of Willshire, Van Wert county. Our subject was reared on the homestead in Black Creek township until eighteen years of age, and in the meantime was educated in the public schools. At the age mentioned he embarked on the uncertain voyage of business life for himself, and for five years worked out by the month, doing well. He then returned to his father, who had during the interval removed to Van Wert county, and for four years had the sole management of the home farm, which he conducted admirably, well and very profitably.

October 30, 1890, he married Miss Fannie Sutton, born in Dublin township, Mercer county, in July, 1861, and a daughter of J. M. and Rosanna (Harmon) Sutton. After his marriage, Mr. Counterman located on the Sutton homestead in Dublin township, which consists of seventy-eight acres, and of which he has ever since had the management, doing general farming and making excellent crops. To his marriage with Miss Sutton have been born two interesting children—Leah B. and Jesse M. The parents are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they contribute quite liberally of their means, and in his political affiliations Mr. Counterman is a democrat. J. M. Sutton, the father of Mrs. Counterman, was one of the early settlers of Mercer county, and here died; his widow, Mrs. Rosana Sutton, now lives on the old place with her daughter, Fannie, and her husband, Mr. Counterman.

In 1894, Mr. Counterman erected on the Sutton farm a fine frame residence, and he has otherwise so improved it as to make it one of the most pleasant homes and profitable farms of its size in the township. He is certainly a progressive young man as well as a successful one, and it would seem that there is a bright future in store for him. He takes much interest in the promotion of the welfare of his township and county, and has won the full confidence and respect of all the residents of the township and county.

JACOB COUNTERMAN, a solid farmer and business man of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, came here in the spring of 1838, with his father and a company of about twenty-five others, from Richland county, Ohio, but now, of this entire colony, two only are still living—our subject and his brother Alexander, who resides in Willshire, Van Wert county.

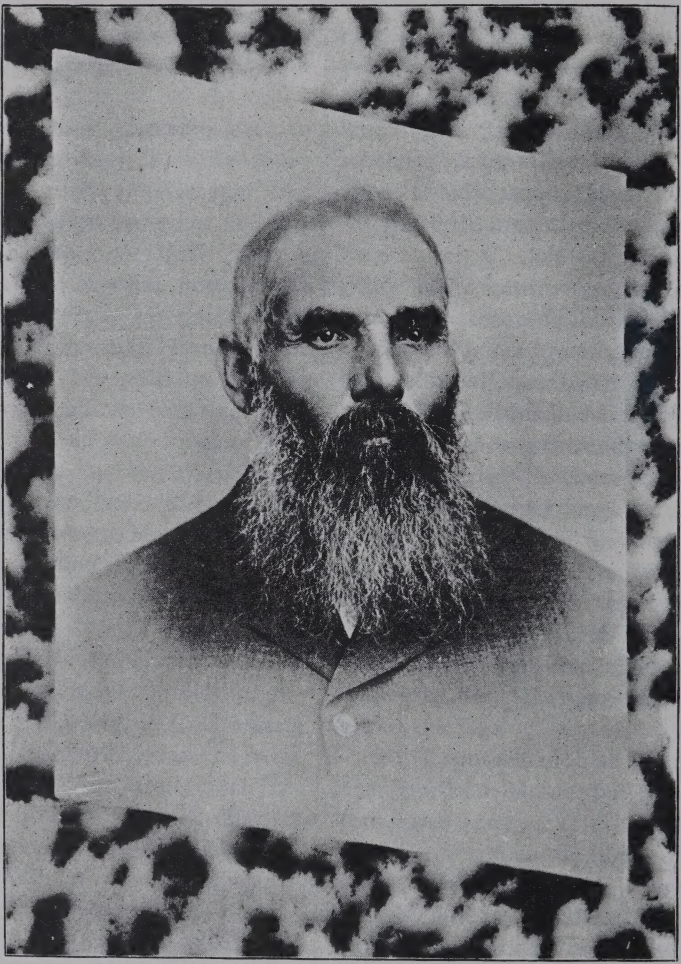
The Counterman family is traced back to the grandfather of our subject, Christian Counterman, who was a Pennsylvania German, and whose wife bore the maiden name of Wilson, and was of Revolutionary descent. These grandparents, on coming to Ohio, first located in Columbiana county, where they made their home several years, but later removed to Wayne county. where they died at the advanced ages of ninety and 100 years respectively, leaving four children, viz: Jacob, who died near Willshire, Van Wert county; David, father of our subject, who died in Mercer county; Peggy, who was married to Mr. Gause, and, with her husband, also died in Mercer county, and Dossy, who died in Richland county, the wife of Mr. Kidwell.

David Counterman, father of our subject, was reared a farmer and made agriculture his life pursuit. He first married, in Columbiana county, Miss Anna Gant, who died in the same county, the mother of four children, viz: Hilsey Ann, who was married to John M. Harper, who died in 1881, her own death taking place in Dublin township, Mercer county, August 28, 1894; Reason, who also died in Dublin township, at the home of our subject; Jacob, the subject of this notice, and Alexander, who lives near Willshire, Van Wert county. The second marriage of David Counterman was with Miss Hannah Rosswell, who bore several children, of whom the following reached maturity: Rachel, a resident of Indiana; George, who died in the late Civil war; Wilson, killed by a runaway team, and Cynthia, wife of Jacob Adams, of Mercer county. In 1838, David Counterman entered 440 acres of land, all in one body, in Black Creek township, Mercer county, and exhausted his funds in making the entries and in reaching the property. He erected a small round-log cabin, however, and made some other improvements. Shortly after his arrival in Mercer county, he divided the land among his children, Jacob, our subject, receiving as his share 120 acres, he being then about twenty years of age.

Jacob Counterman, our subject, who was born March 6, 1818, in Columbiana county, Ohio, began improving his 120 acres in Mercer county on reaching his majority, erecting a hewed-log house, with puncheon floor, clapboard and loft, and mud and stick chimney; he constructed his bedstead by boring holes in the wall, inserting the ends of poles in the holes and supporting the other ends on upright forked sticks of the proper height, and using bark for a mattress; his table he made of split boards or hewed-out puncheons, and this article of household furniture he still retains as a relic of his pioneer days. His house was the first hewn-log structure for miles around, and was erected by himself alone, he having also alone hewed the logs.

Mr. Counterman married, March 4, 1841, Miss Elizabeth Moore, but this lady was called from earth January 1, 1843, and after the sad event he moved to the home of his brother-in-law, Elijah Moore, near Mercer, with whom he farmed in partnership one season; he then married Miss Jane Wood, November 26, 1843; this lady survived until June 24, 1871, having borne several children, all of whom died in infancy, excepting one, Sarah Eva, born August 15, 1862, and now the wife of W. S. A. Bowman, teller of the Citizens' bank, of Celina.

After his second marriage Mr. Counterman traded his Black Creek township land for a



J. Counterman

MRS. JACOB COUNTERMAN.

portion of the farm he now occupies in Dublin township, in section No. 25; later, he purchased a number of additional acres to the place, which now comprises 410 acres in one body; he also owns sixty-six acres on the pike between Mercer and Rockford, and 160 acres in sections Nos. 13 and 17, Dublin township, and likewise a small tract of some fifteen acres in section No. 36, Dublin township. He had, n addition, owned 160 acres in Hopewell township, which he has given to his son-in-law. Mr. Counterman is now probably the wealthiest man in Mercer county, and all this wealth he has gained through his industry and shrewd business foresight. His taxes average over $1,000 annually. In 1885 he became a stockholder in the Citizens' bank, of Celina, and is now one-fourth owner of that prosperous institution.

December 15, 1892, Mr. Counterman was married the third time, his life-companion on this occosion being Miss Mary E. Green, a native of Hamilton county, born in November, 1851, and daughter of William Green, who was lost in the Civil war. Mr. Counterman has labored hard since settling in Mercer county, and has always sacredly kept his faith in all his business transactions—at times borrowing money to repay borrowed money. Honesty is his chief characteristic, and he would ever sacrifice property in order to keep an obligation. He began life with nothing but his 120 acres of timber land, and with an education that was covered by a schooling of about nine months. He has made all the improvements on his home farm and has always devoted his attention to agriculture and stock raising, and probably has at present the finest farm in the county. In politics he was a democrat, and as such filled the office of township trustee for over twenty years, but of late years he has been a prohibitionist. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since he was twenty-two years of age, and he has always been very liberal in church matters, having generously contributed to the erection of all the church edifices, irrespective of creed, throughout the surrounding country. He has always had the courage to avow his convictions and to faithfully live up to them, being a man of the highest and purest moral rectitude. He is one whose course through life is well worthy of the emulation of the rising generation and a citizen in whom the people of Mercer county may well take solid pride.

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J. J. DUES, proprietor of the J. J. Dues Machine works, at Chickasaw, Ohio, was born March 29, 1864. His father, George Dues, was born in Germany in 1823, and was reared in his native country on a farm. When still quite young, he came to the United States, landing in New York and going immediately to Cincinnati, where he learned the business of distiller, and worked at that business until 1858, when he removed to Mercer county, and there bought a tract of wooded land, containing eighty acres. This he partially cleared, and later added to his first purchase forty acres, making his farm consist of 120 acres.

George Dues was married to Mrs. Shaffer, a widow, who died, leaving two children—George, who married Miss Kittie Hagedon, and Barney, who married Miss E. Winker. Mrs. Shaffer was a member of the Catholic church. After her death Mr. Dues then married Miss Anna Vogelsong, a native of Germany, and by this marriage became the father of the following children: Henry, who married Miss Mary Tesloth; John, who married Katie Will; Catherine, who married John Schach; J. J., the subject of this sketch; Harmon, who died single in June, 1891; William, who was married twice—first to Pollina

Wenker, and, after her death, to Miss Bessie Coughlin; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Kemper, and Frank, who died in infancy.

J. J. Dues was born at Flothe, received an excellent common-school education, and at an early age began to learn the carpenter's trade. At this trade he worked five years, and then, on account of failing health, began to sell machinery, for which work he is well adapted as well as quite noted. He also erected a machine shop on January 5, 1895, where he now manufactures traction and portable engines, boilers, etc., and is agent for threshing machines, clover hullers, saw-mills, and all kinds of machine supplies. He makes a specialty of repairing engines and all kinds of machinery, and of buying and selling all kinds of new and second.hand machinery. Mr. Dues is in every way a successful and self-made man.

He was maaried January 24, 1888, to Miss Anna Kemper, by whom he has the following children: Dinah, born July 15, 1889; John, born March 30, 1891; Mamie, born October 17, 1893, and Frederick, born July 20, 1895. Mr. Dues is a stanch democrat, and in religion is a member of the Catholic church. He has always lived in Mercer county, is well known throughout the county and in other counties, as not only a successful and reliable business man, but also as a public-spirited citizen and genial friend.

Miss Anna Kemper, who married Mr. J. J. Dues, was born May 30, 1872. Her father, John Kemper, was born in Switzerland, in 1800, and was reared there on a farm, coming to the United states when yet a young man, and landing in New York. From the latter city he went direct to Dayton, Ohio, and thence soon afterward to Minster, Auglaize county, near which latter place he purchased 120 acres of land, all in the woods. This farm he cleared of its surplus timber, improved it, erected the necessary buildings, and made for himself and his family a most comfortable home. In 1837 he married Miss Dinah Rack, who was at the time of the marriage just eighteen years old. By this marriage John Kemper became the father of the following children: Christopher, Mary, Barney Anton, Elizabeth, Joseph, Agnes, Anna, Rosa, Frank and Henry, all married excepting the last two, and all living. Mr. Kemper is a democrat and a member of the Catholic church, his wife also being a Catholic.

Mr. Dues is a man of broad and catholic views, liberal with his means, and ready to aid all worthy enterprises. Mrs. Dues was born at Minster and lived at home with her parents until her marriage, which event took place when she was in her seventeenth year. She is a member of the Catholic church, and a most worthy woman in every way.

**VERY REV. FRANCIS SALESIUS BRUNNER, First American Provincial C. PP. S.***—As the subjects of these sketches are so intimately connected with the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, it is but meet and just to give a succinct history of said community with which these men have become identical, both as to their high standing and eminent service. Caspar Del Bufalo, an Italian priest, who died in 1837, in the odor of sanctity, founded the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, in the year 1815, for the purpose of venerating the great price of our redemption in a special manner, and of uniting zealous missionaries who would devote their lives to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Having been approved by popes Pius VII and Gregory XVI the Congregation spread rapidly over the Italian peninsula. In 1838 the Very Rev.

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* C. PP. S. are the abbreviations for Congregatio Preciosissimi Sanguinis (Congregation of the Most Precious Blood).

Father Brunner introduced it into Switzerland, and in 1843 into the United States.

Francis Salesius Brunner was born in Switzerland January 10, 1795. He received his higher education in the monasteries of Einsiedeln and Maria Stein, Switzerland, and was ordained priest in 1819. Being appointed professor in the Monastery of Maria Stein, for which he was ordained, Father Brunner spent his first years of the holy ministry in the classroom, also in giving missions in the neighboring parishes. In 1838 he joined the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, that he might apply himself exclusively to missionary labors, which talents and spiritual guides pointed out to him. On the 29th of September, 1843, he bade farewell to the land of his birth, emigrating to America, accompanied by seven priests and a few lay brothers, all of whom have since died. The little band reached New Orleans in December of the same year, from whence the started for Cincinnati to offer their service to Bishop Purcell, who had invited them to come into his extensive diocese.

The bishop received them very kindly and dispatched them at once to the northern part of Ohio. Saint Alphonse, near Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, became the center of their missionary operations; from that place these pioneer missionaries administered to the wants of the Catholics who were scattered over a vast portion of territory, from Dayton to Cleveland over to Toledo, along the western boundaries of Ohio to Union City—a grand territorial parish.

A small grain of mustard seed, in the beginning the Congregation PP. S. increased wonderfully; new mission houses were successively opened at Thompsona nd New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio, Glandorf and Maria Camp, Putnam county, Ohio; Minster and Egypt, in Auglaize county, Ohio; Maria Stein, Gruenwald and Himmelgarten, in Mercer county, Ohio. There are several houses in the states of Indiana, Tennessee, and Missouri; beside the numerous stations which were either attended to from larger missions houses or by a resident missionary.

Father Brunner, appointed superior of the entire American province, had no fixed home. He traveled from one mission place to the other, directing the community and assisting the priests in the extensive field of labor. Mercer and Auglaize counties owe him no little gratitude for the work of civilization which he enhanced by his untiring zeal.

In the interests of the congregation he traveled four times to Europe—the last time in 1858—from which visit he did not return. For many years he had suffered already from an incurable sore on his foot, beside weakness of body; toil and hardships, and especially a malignant fever which he contracted during the sojourn at Rome, added greatly to consume the last sparks of his life. He retired to the Convent of Schellenberg, near Switzerland, which convent he had founded but a few years before, and, having received the last sacraments in perfect dispositions of resignation and piety, happily exchanged this mortal life for immortality, on the 29th of December, 1859. His remains were interred in the convent chapel of Schellenberg, where they are still honored by the devout Catholics of the surrounding country.

At present the congregation numbers about ninety priests and 100 brothers. Both priests and brothers owe obedience to the provincial, who is again subject to a higher authority—to the superior general at Rome. Subjects and superiors live according to a common rule or constitution, whilst the temporal affairs are administered by a board of incorporation.

The priests, with the brothers, are dispersed all over the Union and attend to parishes, hospitals and missions. The Congregation PP. S. possesses three schools, a theological seminary, a college, and a normal school for the education of Indians.

Situated near Rensselaer, Ind., about ninety miles south of Chicago, the college is a most beautiful structure, having a frontage of 228 feet, thus affording ample accommodation for about 200 students. An artificial lake and extensive play-grounds near the institution offer every facility for athletic and health-giving sports and exercises, such as boating and fishing in summer, skating in winter, base-ball, foot-ball, etc. Rensselaer, the railroad station for Collegeville P. O., where the college is located, is the county seat of Jasper county, and is connected with the rest of the world by the main line of the popular "Monon Route." The college offers to young men all inducements for a thorough education in the branches of a normal course. Hence there are three different departments, viz: Classical, commercial and normal.

Prior to the establishment of Saint Charles seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, the alumni of the congregation received their theological training under Father Brunner and some other priests of the community at Thompson, Seneca county, and afterward at Himmelgarten, Mercer county, Ohio.

In 1860 Rev. Joseph Dwenger, member of the congregation, was commissioned by Very Rev. Andrew Kunkler, second provincial, to select a suitable locality for the erection of a seminary. In May of the same year he visited Carthagena, a settlement of colored people, and at once purchased a farm of 200 acres belonging at the time to John Schmidt. It was an old possession of a certain August Wattles, a colored philanthropist, who arrived in this county as early as 1835, establishing homes and erecting schools for the friends of his race. With the same purpose in view, he bought at Carthagena a farm of 190 acres, upon which he had a brick building of two stories erected. It served as a manual labor school for colored boys until 1842, when financial troubles compelled Mr. Wattles to close it again. Samuel Emlen, however, a wealthy colored philanthropist of New Jersey and a friend of Mr. Wattles, bequeathed $20,000 for the education of colored people. The trustees, therefore, of Mr. Emlen's estate, learning the difficulties of Mr. Wattles, divided the money among the different schools, which the latter had established for the free slaves. At the same time they purchased the manual labor school of Carthagena, with all appurtenances, appointing Mr. Wattles as superintendent of the establishment, which they called henceforth Emlen Institute. Having served its purpose for a number of years, the Emlen property was conveyed (August 17, 1858) to John Schmidt, of Greenville, for the sum of $4,500, and in May, 1860, it passed into the hands of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood. Rev. J. Dwenger, commonly called Father Joseph, had no sooner been commissioned to make the purchase of the old institute for the accommodation of priests, students and brothers, than he set to work in arranging the house for the requirements of its great aim.

Right Rev. Joseph Dwenger, C. PP. S., late bishop of Fort Wayne, was born in 1837, near Saint John's, Mercer county, Ohio, of parents who had but a few years before emigrated from Ankum, in Hanover. They were among the first settlers in this part of the state, and, though poor in the goods of this world, they were rich in spiritual things, in virtue and in christian faith. Scarcely three years old, Joseph had to feel the loss of his father, and go with his sorrow-stricken mother to Cincinnati, where he entered the parochial school of Holy Trinity. At the age of twelve he mourned the death of his pious mother, who, having returned again to Saint John's, was seized with the cholera and died after a few hour's suffering. This cruel affliction left him an orphan, but it was a thorn which supported a rose, a blessing in disguise, as Father Dwenger acknowledged in later years; for he drew to him the attention of Rev. Andrew Kunkler, pastor of Minster and Saint John's. "I will be to him a father," said the good priest; "I will take care of him and I will make a man of him." Never was a promise more faithfully fulfilled than in the case of Father Joseph.

He was taken to the Convent of Maria Stein to work with the brothers, but as he showed eminent qualities for the priesthood, all the advantages of a classical education were offered to him; fist in the Congregation PP. S. itself, of which he became a member; afterward, in Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West, Cincinnati, under Drs. Quinlan aud Rosecrans, and Father Barry. Having finished the theological course with high distinction, he was ordained priest in the seminary, September 4, 1859.

After the ordination, Father Joseph assisted his reverend confreres in the sacred ministry, and as soon as the Congregation PP. S. had purchased them Emlen institute, Father Joseph was appointed professor; at the same time he filled the office of secretary provincial—a fact which proves how highly the superiors esteemed the abilities of the young priest. His energies, however, were soon to be exerted on a broader field. In 1863, Father Joseph received charge of Saint Mary's and Wapakoneta's congregation, together with the mission places of Glynnwood and Celina. In such an extensive field he labored most zealously until 1866, when he accompanied Archbishop Purcel to the second plenary council of Baltimore, as the representative of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, and in the capacity of theologian to the archbishop. From 1867 to 1872 he was engaged in mission, for which he was admirably gifted. His strong physique, his tender heart, and indomitable will, his pure and noble intentions, his great eloquence, rendered him indeed a renowned missionary in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

Bishop Luers, of Fort Wayne, having passed (29th of June, 1871) to his eternal reward, Father Joseph was chosen to succeed him in the exalted dignity. The consecration took place in the cathedral of Cincinnati April 14, 1872, being performed by the venerable pioneer, Archbishop Purcel, assisted by Bishops Toeble, of Covington, and Borges, of Detroit. Bishop Dwenger was the youngest prelate in the American hierarchy, counting but thirty-five winters. Full of animation for his new station of life, he immediately departed for his diocese, where, notwithstanding the zeal and industry of his predecessor, he found the words which were addressed to him, very true: "Much remains to be done." In 1874 Bishop Dwenger went to Europe with the first American pilgrimage, of which he was the superior; their objects in view were Rome and Lourdes.

Having learned by experience the pitiable condition of orphans, he showed himself an efficient father of this part of his flock. He purchased fifty acres of land adjoining the city of Lafayette, upon which he erected a commodious four-story building at the cost of $30,000. It is known as the Saint Joseph's Orphan Asylum and Manual Labor School sheltering on the average 120 boys. Ten Sisters of Charity, three Brothers of the Holy Cross Community, and a chaplain, superintend the institution. It was also his cherished plan to erect a similar house for the girls, and he did not desist from his noble purpose until sufficient funds were raised for the enterprise. In 1886 his plan found its realization in a beautiful and costly structure upon twenty-five acres of ground, situated within the limits of Fort Wayne. Saint Vincent is the patron of the asylum, of its 130 orphans, and of the good sisters, who devote their lives to the education of these poor children.

Bishop Dwenger labored not less zealously for the schools of his diocese. In 1879 he appointed a diocesan school board, consisting of ten clergymen, who have the supervision of all parochial schools of the diocese. The members of the board are bound to visit and examine the schools of their respective districts at least once a year. A pamphlet, called the "Diocesan School Report," submits in its annual reports to the public the true status of these schools. A uniform system of grading and teaching, as well as a uniform series of text books, is the happy result of this arrangement. It is a rule of the church that every bishop, archbishop or cardinal, that has actual charge of a diocese, visit Rome every ten years in order to submit to the Pope an accurate statement of the condition of their dioceses. Accordingly Bishop Dwenger undertook his second journey to the Eternal City in 1883.

The next year he gathered all his priests around him to celebrate his silver jubilee in the cathedral of this city. In November and December of the same year (1884) we find him at Baltimore attending the third national council. In March of 1885 he again left for Rome in the interests of the council, as the representative of the American hierarchy.

The Amercan college, where he was the guest for seven months, authorized at the time the following incident, which we are pleased to reproduce again in these pages: The 4th of July was at hand. The authorities of the college were somewhat timid, and hence very reluctant about hoisting the American colors in such close proximity to the Quirinal palace, almost in sight of King Humbert's residence. Bishop Dwenger came forward and, as an American citizen, commanded the flag sent to the top of the staff, amid the joy and patriotic exuberance of the students, who, though beneath the Italian skies, were still proud of their native land. This very college is under lasting obligation toward our bishop; for when the Italian government coveted, in her financial embarrassment, also the property of this institution and was about to seize upon it, Bishop Dwenger at once went to Washington, where he pleaded his cause in behalf of the college. Indeed, he succeeded. Mr. Blaine, secretary of state, sent a cable message to Rome demanding immunity for a college which was built by American energy and means.

Bishop Dwenger's fourth and last official visit to Rome took place in 1888. During all the time of his episcopacy he toiled incessantly in order to reduce the immense debt that rested on the diocese. Thousands of dollars passed through his hands to meet the demands made upon him in the first years of his regime. Vast amounts of money were intrusted to him, but all found their way into channels that provided bread for the needy and charity for the destitute and homeless. With an apostolic spirit he traveled from one part of his large diocese to the other, administering to the wants of his flock—preaching as often as three to five times a day.

At the time of his death the diocese, comprising about one-half of the state of Indiana, numbered 130 priests, 135 churches, twenty-five chapels, one university, one college, sixty-five parochial schools with about 9,000 pupils, two orphan asylums and five hospitals. His frame, already enfeebled by his exertions, readily succumbed to an attack of heart trouble. Leaving his charge in the hands of his vicar general, he repaired to New Mexico, that he might seek the restoration of his shattered health in a more salubrious climate, and under the care of able physicians. Enjoying but a short respite he returned to his city to prepare himself for the eternal home. He died, calmly and peacefully, January 23, 1893, after a lingering illness of three years. The funeral obsequies took place January 26, solemn high mass being celebrated by Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati, attended by eight bishops, as well as all of the priestly co-laborers of the diocese, and a vast concourse of people. Bishop Rademacher, who pronounced the eloquent funeral oration, took for his text: "How is the mighty man fallen that saved the people of Israel." In the analysis of the character of the deceased prelate, the speaker said: "Bishop Dwenger, as all who have had the pleasure of knowing him will admit, was cast by nature in what we may call a grand heroic mold. Physically he was, at least, in the prime of his life—a perfect specimen of vigorous manhood. His powers of endurance and his capacity for hard work were simply marvelous. Even when, by the labors of his long ministry, his powers began to wane, the long sickness which he endured also attested the wonderful strength and vitality of his constitution. In that vigorous body there dwelt, also, a soul equally vigorous and highly gifted; and we may truly say that his strong constitution, and especially his strong and expressive face, were a faithful index to the strong soul that dwelt within and ruled that body. His mind was clear and logical, and he was eminently practical. His memory was prodigious—both faithful and retentive. His will was strong and unbending, when he believed himself in the right, and especially when he defended what he considered right and justice. As for his heart, it was true as steel, and noble, world wide and generous in its sympathies as his holy church itself. As for his love of the country, it is strange that it should ever have been called in question. As he said, himself, he was born under an oak tree, that is to say in poverty; but the roots of that oak tree were not struck deeper and more firmly into the soil than the love of his country had struck its roots into the heart of the great bishop. As for his love of the church, it amounted simply to loyalty and chivalry. He was, indeed, in every sense a most devoted son of the church, as he was a most true and model son of his country." All that is mortal of the late Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Dwenger now rests in the silent tomb beneath the church for which he labored so incessantly, and beside his predecessor and late worker, Bishop Luers.

Rev. Bernard Dickmann, C. PP. S., second rector of Saint Charles seminary, was born October 3, 1839, at Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio. Father Dickman spent his early life amid the Catholic surroundings of his birthplace, where he imbibed that zealous, truly genuine spirit which characterizes his subsequent labors of a long ministry. Still in the bloom of life Father Dickmann, following the inclinations to piety and the sacred ministry, entered the Community of the Precious Blood. The seminary of Saint Charles had not been opened yet, hence the young aspirant commenced his classical education at Himmelgarten, and completed both the classical and theological studies under Father Dwenger at Carthagena. On the 17th of August, 1863, he was ordained priest, at Minster, by Right Rev. Rosecrans, late bishop of Columbus.

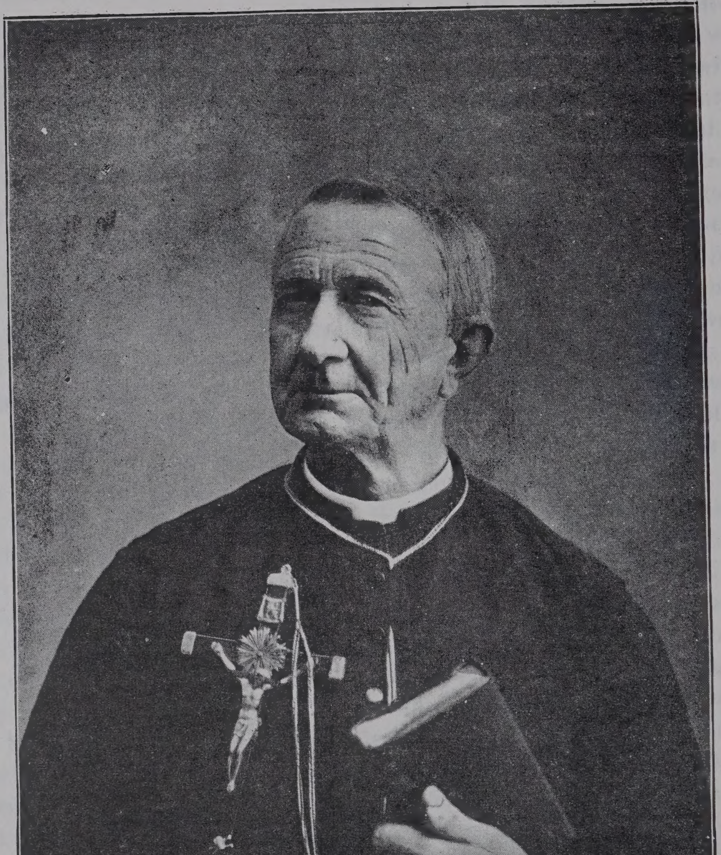
Recognizing the sterling qnalities of the young Levite, the superiors appointed him, in fall of 1863, to succeed Father Dwenger as second rector of Saint Charles seminary. Henceforth Father Dickmann proved himself to be not only an able professor, but also an efficient worker in the vineyard of our Lord. Whilst he poured over the classical lore and prepared the lessons for dogmatic theology, he had also the care of those Catholics who began to settle at Celina. Indeed, it was Father Dickmann who ushered the dawn for the Catholic church at Celina, for in the spring of 1864 he gathered for the first time the members of his creed in the house of Mr. Zenders for the celebration of divine service. In the same year he even succeeded in establishing the present congregation of Celina, so that on the 3d of August, 1864, Archbishop Purcell could bless the corner-stone for the new church. Father Dickmann labored assiduously both in the seminary and at Celina, which place he visited every Sunday, and many a time the good father had to saddle the horse for a week-day's call of nine miles of mud road.

In 1866 his health began to fail, a fact which prompted the superiors to relieve him from his onerous charges and intrust them into more vigorous hands—into those of Father Drees. As the condition of Father Dickmann's health did not improve, the provincial, Very Rev. Father Kunkler, chose him, in 1867, as companion for the journey to Europe. Upon his return he was assigned to the rectorship of Saint Joseph's college, C. PP. S., Humboldt county, Cal., a position which he held from 1869 to 1874. In April, 1874, Father Dickmann was again transferred to Ohio and placed in charge of Saint John's congregation, Glandorf, Putnam county, where he was no sooner appointed pastor of the congregation, when he conceived the idea of building a large church. His plan being favorably received and approved by the ordinary, he at once set to work with an idomitable will, such as did surmount all difficulties as are generally met with in similar enterprises. A beautiful church, in Gothic style, 175 x 86 feet, with a spire 225 feet high, the whole costing about $60,000, is the result of Father Dickmann's energy and financial abilities, which he so clearly showed during his administration of Glandorf.

After a few months' stay at Nashville, Tenn., in the latter part of 1880, Father Dickmann was commissioned to organize the German congregation at Sedalia, Mo. Here, again, the reverend father went to work with his well known forecast and predetermination in a manner that he not only established one of the finest parishes of Kansas City diocese, to which Sedalia belongs, but also built one of the grandest churches of the west—a church which, after its completion, will surpass the one of Glandorf in size and beauty. As Father Dickmann is still at the head of his beloved congregation, filling at the same time the office of a consulter of the community of the Most Precious Blood, we beg leave to tender to him a most cordial wish *ad multos annos*.

Very Rev. Henry Drees, Provincial C. PP. S., or Father Henry, as we are fond to call the good father provincial, is a native of Oldenburg, Germany, where he was born in the village of Garel the 15th of March, 1830. In 1836 his parents, having emigrated to America, settled at Minster, where young Henry visited the school of his new home. On the 17th of January, 1858, Father Henry entered the Congregation PP. S., and, having finished the necessary studies, was ordained priest on the 9th of November, 1861. His first field of labor was at Cassella, Mercer, county, Ohio, where the following places preserve still a grateful rememberance of their kind pastor, viz: Upper Sandusky, McCutchenville, Saint Joseph's, Saint Patrick, and Kenton.

After the resignation of Father Dickman, P. Henry was assigned to the rectorship of Saint Charles seminary. At the same time he was pastor of the Saint Aloysius parish, Carthagena, and also of Holy Trinity, Cold Water, Ohio. Both congregations were of course rather small, still it was no easy position which our new rector had to fill. Carthagena was greatly in need of a separate church, for the seminary chapel could not accommodate, any longer, both inmates and parish people, and



Henry Drees C.PP.S.

the seminary itself had to be enlarged. Father Henry, therefore, labored hard to accomplish both. The brick church and the seminary building owe to him their realization (1877); beside this, Father Henry never tired and performed also the duties of a professor in the seminary.

At the new election of a provincial in 1880, Father Henry was raised to this honor by ballot. From that epoch dates for him a time of the utmost toil and self-sacrifice for the welfare of the community. Although Carthagena remained his home, yet the alma mater could offer him very little comfort, as he was henceforth constantly traveling. Indeed, there are but a few states which Father Henry did not traverse in visiting the members of the community. Twice he was in Rome, Italy—the first time accompanying Rt. Rev. Joseph Dwenger, in 1883; the second time, 1896, as member of the general chapter. After the expiration of the term, which lasts six years, the superior general of Rome reaffirmed him in office for another term, and after the lapse of this he was again elected by ballot. Thus Father Henry fills the high office of a provincial for sixteen years, a time which says more than a book can tell about about the rare abilities of Father Henry; nay, the three terms of provincial will remain a strong index to his singular piety, proverbial meekness and prudence, which have rendered his regime most successful. May Heaven prolong his life for the prosperity of the society.

Rev. Godfrey Schlachter.—Beyond the Atlantic, in the Black Forest of Baden, at Herishried, near Sackingen, we find the cradle of the celebrated missionary, Father Schlachter. Born January 3, 1848, when still a boy he embarked with his parents for America and came to Saint Wendelin, Mercer county, Ohio. Having gone through the ordinary course of elementary education, he manifested a desire to prosecute higher studies and to devote himself to God in the sacred ministry. Accordingly, he entered the college of the Brothers of Mary, at Dayton. A year after, 1866, having become member of the Congregation PP. S., he continued the classics in Saint Charles' seminary far three years, and completed them, together with the theological gtudies, in the college of Rohnerville, Cal., where Fathers O'Neil, Guggenberger, Dr. F. Dade and Dr. Grilli were his eminent teachers. Thus, after a long and severe course in profane and sacred sciences, he received holy orders at the hands of Archbishop Alemany, of San Francisco, June 15, 1876. After his elevation to the priesthood, Father Schlachter was attached to the college of Rohnerville, whilst he assisted on missions and in parochial duties. In the summer of 1877 he visited Ohio, but not to return any more to his beloved Rohnerville, for he was chosen pastor of Saint Aloysius congregation at Carthagena, as assistant professor to Father Henry, a position for which he was eminently qualified, as he masters not only a number of modern languages, with all the classical lore and polish, but he is especially known for his erudition in theological sciences, a fact which renders him beloved in the class-room, and renowned in the pulpit. Indeed, Father Godfrey is one of those pulpit orators that do not merely dazzle by a wonderful gift of speech and a rare elegance of language, but who also instruct their audience thoroughly in the precepts of the gospel.

In 1880, upon the promotion of Father Henry to the rank of provincial, Father Schlachter succeeded him in the rectorship of Saint Charles. Three years later, Saint Mary's congregation, of Celina, welcomed him as pastor—to stay, however, for a short time only, for in 1886 the care of missions was intrusted to him. Ever since, Father Godfrey has labored all over the Union, in numberless places and parishes. His zeal knows no limits; he knows of no rest and has no regard for his person. Although a master on the pulpit, an orator of established fame, he is averse to publicity; a devout prayer is for him a desired acknowledgment of his labors. May God preserve him for many years !

Rev. Theopistus Wittmer.—Switzerland, so well known to the lover of scenes of grandeur, is the native conntry of Father Wittmer. Born the 9th of July, 1848, at Erlinsbach, in the canton of Solothern, he passed the days of his boyhood under the parental roof, attending the schools of the village. In 1861, his parents, having bidden farewell to kindred and country, arrived in Auglaize county, Ohio, settling with their son at Egypt. Young Wittmer, being very eager to learn the language of his new home, was again a diligent pupil in the school of Minster. Being received into the Community PP. S. in 1864, he devoted his time to a classical and theological education in Saint Charles Seminary, under the rectorship of Father Drees. On completing his divinity course, he was ordained priest by Archbishop Purcell in the chapel of Mount Saint Mary's of the West, the 25th of January, 1872. Soon after, he was appointed pastor of Celina, Ohio, where he began his career in the ministry, marked by zeal, kindness and prudence. In September, 1873, he was placed in charge of the congregation at Winamac, Pulaski county, Ind. At the same time, he had to provide for the Catholics in the neighboring mission places. Winamac has reason to remember their pastor most gratefully, for he introduced the sisters C. PP. S., superintended the erection of the academy for young ladies, and built a commodious parochial school. Yes, Father Wittmer became identical with his people of Winamac; yet he was taken away in August, 1876, to the more important parish of Celina, Ohio, where he was, indeed, no stranger, as we have seen. Through his zeal, energy and perseverance, the church was enlarged and repaired, the parochial school, which serves now as priest-house, was erected, and the sisters received a fine brick building, which they still inhabit.

In September, 1883, Father Wittmer succeeded Rev. Godfrey Schlachter as fifth rector of Saint Charles seminary and as pastor of Saint Aloysius congregation, despite his well known modesty and retiring character. Ever since, the good reverend father has worked in the spirit of his predecessors most assiduously, both for the parish and the seminary. The parish church was embellished by three beautiful altars, and in the seminary grounds a gas well was sunk, and the house itself fitted up for the lighting and burning of gas; the houses and premises are kept in constant repair; above all, the library received efficient attention in being enriched by excellent works. During all this time Father Wittmer was secretary provincial of the order, an office of great responsibilities; whilst the care of the house, with its numerous inmates, is alone a burden for one man's shoulders. From 1860 to 74 there was from sixteen to twenty-five students attached to the house and about ten or fifteen lay-brothers; from 1874 to 1883 the number of students and brothers varied from thirty to fifty students and fifteen to twenty brothers. From 1883 to 1890 there were as many as sixty or seventy students, whilst the number of brothers did not increase. When the college was finished, the number of students decreased, because the classical studies are not taught any longer in the seminary, which is exclusively for the theological sciences. Hence, the scholastics who formerly received their classical education at Saint Charles, receive it now with the secular students at Collegeville, Ind. The curriculum, therefore, of the students of the Precious Blood is the following: Young men, who feel themselves called for the holy priesthood and wish to devote their lives in the community PP. S., and who have all necessary qualifications of age, health, talents, blameless character and love for the ministry, will be received free of charge, though with a positive understanding, that, in case of separation from the community, no demands can be made for any service whatsoever. The novice will have to pass a year of probation in the novitiate, especially built, at great cost, near the village of Burkettsville, Mercer county, Ohio. During the time of probation he receives a preparatory instruction at the hands of instructors who are members of the community. If the novice is found worthy and able to be promoted, he is sent to the college at Collegeville, Ind., where he has to undergo a rigid education.—a course commercial and classical—of no less than five years. If the student passes the required examination and no objections are raised against further promotion, he will return to Ohio and enter Saint Charles seminary, to begin the philosophical course of two years—that is, the study of mental philosophy, ecclesiastical history, pulpit oratory, church law, etc. Completing this course, that of divinity begins—a course of three years—namely, dogmatic, moral and pastoral theology, sacred scripture, liturgy and sacred chant. Having passed for many a time semi-annual and annual examinations, the student is once more subjected to a final examination, which is conducted by the three learned priests of the diocese, men, generally doctors of divinity, especially appointed for the task. Ordination follows, and the student is now a reverend father of the Community PP. S.

The Library, being an integral part of Saint Charles seminary, is a collection of many years, containing about 8,000 volumes, written in various tongues, and on different topics or subjects. These books comprise the classics of the ancient and modern languages, and all the profane and sacred sciences. There the visitor will admire the old codices of scripture and theology, as also the books of modern binding and form which treat on civil law, mathematics, engineering, medicine and all the natural sciences. There are dictionaries, encyclopedias, occasional belletristic and historical works of enormous size and extent. There you find, beside other works, those of SS. Austin, the Martyr, 167, a folio printed in 1686; Irenaeus, 202; Cyprianus, 258; Athanasius, 373; Hilary, 368, an old codex printed at Venice in 1749; Chrysostom, 407; Jerome, 420; his well known Vulgate in two volumes, printed 1483; Augustine, 430, forty volumes; Leo the Great, 461; John Damascene, 760, a folio printed 1584; Alcuin, 804, printed 1524; Theophilact, 1077, printed 1524; Anselm, 1088; Bernard, 1153; Thomas Aquinas, 1274, his Summa and another old work, printed 1492; Bonaventure, 1274, a folio printed 1493; also the works of ecclesiastical writers, among whom we mention the works of Origen, 254, it is of 1685, in Latin and Greek; Alexander of Hales, 1245, a folio from the year 1482; Lessius, 1623; Bellarmin, 1621; Baronius, 1607; a precious set of ten folios, on ecclesiastical history, printed in 1608; Suarez, 1607; the works of Bossuet, 1704; Fenelon, 1715, and Alphonse de Liguori, 1787. There are the indispensable works on history in different languages, in German: Cantu Cesare, thirteen volumes; Damberger, fifteen volumes; Doellinger, several sets; Jansen, etc.; in English: John Lingard, twelve volumes; George Bancroft, eight volumes; Prescott, several sets; also a number of modern writers; in French: Claude Fleury, thirty-six volumes; A. Godeau, thirty-eight volumes; Alex. Natalis, twenty volumes; Baron Henrion, thirteen volumes; the same in Italian. The works on biblical sciences are unusually numerous. but nevertheless priceless, on account of their antiquity and extent. There are bibles, one printed at Nuremberg, 1480, others 1483, 1490, etc. For reference sake there are the bibles of Erasmus, 1536; of Martin Luther, printed at Wittenberg, 1565; of Theod. Beza, printed 1588; bibles, with commentaries of Calmet, nineteen volumes; Cornel a Lapide, ten folios, printed 1649; Migne, 28 volumes. There is the Protestant historian as well as the Jewish, Josephus Flavius; the doctrine of Mohamet in the Koran, as also the theology of Swedenborg and of other Protestant divines. A grand work executed by the French publisher, Migne, It comprised over 222 large folios, written in Latin, costing as a second hand work, $700. Like most libraries, its beginnings were humble; but by solicitous care and unwearied energy the volumes have steadily increased in numbers and value, until now it takes a prominent place among the libraries of scientific institutions.

Whilst we close this article, Father Wittmer is still at the head of Saint Charles institution, a kind father to all his subjects, a wise rector of the seminary, and, to use the words of a former biographer in the History of Mercer County, "as a man of culture he stands high, adorns his profession, and is beloved by his church and esteemed by his fellow-citizens;" hence we say with the poet :

> Rare gracious gift of God, the priest is, who
> Example is to man; with conscience pure,
> Void of offense, he makes his calling sure.
> Just man and faithful, fearing God and true,
> One care is his, the Master's will to do;
> Honor, wealth, pleasures, him all vainly lure;
> Not his! he seeks but Christ's; asks no rich cure!

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HENRY J. CORDIER, M. D., of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, although a resident of the place since January, 2, 1894, only, has already achieved a fine reputation as a physician and surgeon, and has built up a large and lucrative practice. He was born in Mercer county, June 26, 1851, a son of Christian and Barbara (Hulzer) Cordier, of whom we give the following biography before offering that of the doctor.

Christian Cordier was of French parentage, although he himself was born in Bavaria, Germany, where he passed his boyhood until twelve years of age, when he was brought by his parents to America. They located in Stark county, Ohio, where Christian grew to manhood and resided until the beginning of the work on the reservoir at Saint Mary's, Auglaize county, Ohio, when he, in company with Jacob Fennig, started on foot for Mercer county, each with a shovel on his shoulder and one dollar in his pocket, and assisted in the construction of the reservoir, after which they returned to Stark county and married sisters—Barbara Hulzer becoming the bride of Christian Cordier and Catherine Hulzer that of Mr. Fennig. After marriage, all four came in a wagon to Mercer county, and each husband purchased eighty acres of land in the wild woods of Marion township, where they lived a number of years and made many improvements. Mr. Cordier eventually sold his farm in Marion and removed to Washington township, where he purchased a tract of 160 acres, and later made additions until he owned 480 acres. He was very successful as a farmer and became a leader in the affairs of his township. Although self-educated, he became master of the English language as well as his vernacular, and it was his custom to read the news from the German papers and translate it into English for the benefit of his non-German speaking neighbors. He was one of the first republicans of Mercer county and was very active in behalf of his party; as a Lutheran he never tired of doing good, and when still a youth at Massillon, Stark county, then a small place, he organized a Sabbath-school, gathered the young people together, and gave them such instruction that redowned to their lasting benefit. After settling in Washington township, Mercer county, he founded a Sabbath-school at his own house, and always made his presence felt for good. He was a man of great determination and force of character, and, as has been seen, made his fortune through his own industry and good management. To Mr. and Mrs. Cordier were born seven children, viz: Christian, a soldier during the Civil war in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, who died at Bowling Green, Ky.; Daniel H., a farmer of Mercer county, Ohio; Lydia, deceased; Henry J., our subject; David, deceased; Catherine, wife of Philip Stienbaur, of Washington township, Mercer county, and Joseph, deceased. The honored father of this respected family died in 1868, at the age of fifty-one years.

Dr. Henry J. Cordier, subject of this sketch, was reared to the age of ten on his father's farm, when, his mother dying, the family was divided, and he virtually began caring for himself, and at the age of twenty really began the task of self-education, having received some little preliminary instruction at Ridgeville college. At the age of twenty-one he began teaching school, at which he found employment for about eight years, and in the meanwhile studied medicine. His first term of medical college life was passed in the Long Island hospital and College of Medicine at Brooklyn, N. Y., in the spring of 1877, and the spring of 1878 he attended the College of Physicians & Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa; the fall of 1878 he passed at the medical department of the university of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he graduated June 26, 1879, and in the spring of 1880 located for practice at Chattanooga, Mercer county, Ohio, where he met with great favor and a flattering success, and continued in active practice there until 1891. After a short hiatus, he decided to make Rockford his home, and January 2, 1894, here took up his residence, and in an incredibly short time has secured a clientele of which he may well feel proud.

The marriage of Dr. Cordier was solemnized at Chattanooga, Ohio, January 4, 1882, with Miss Louisa Deitsch, a native of Mercer county and a daughter of Jacob Deitsch. This union has been blessed by the birth of six children, of whom two died in infancy; the four living are named Myrtle C., Louetta Louisa and Lewella Elizabeth (twins) and Alberta. The doctor is an honest, frank and out-spoken gentleman and conscientious practitioner, whose skill and research have placed him among the foremost physicians of the county, and whose social relations are of the most pleasant character imaginable.

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JOHN H. DYSERT, of Dublin township, one of the oldest settlers of Mercer county and one of its oldest inhabitants, was born in Ross county, Ohio, October 30, 1810, and is a son of Stephen and Susannah (Hannaman) Dysert, both natives of Westmoreland county, Pa.

Joseph Dysert, the grandfather of our subject, came from the north of Ireland, settled in Westmoreland county, Pa., and died in 1813, while on his way home from his service in the war of 1812, in which war he also had two patriot-sons, Joseph and Stephen. Joseph, the grandfather, was a man of powerful frame and great agility, was a carpenter and woodworker, and was the father of seven children: Joseph, Stephen, John, Solomon, David, Polly and Rachael. The father of our subject, Stephen Dysert, was but twelve years of age when the family came to Ohio and located in Scioto county, near Portsmouth, but afterward moved to Ross county; thence they moved to

Fayette county, and later to Union county, where Stephen died July 5, 1852, a Universalist in religion, a republican in politics, and in paternity the father of ten children, viz: John H., Polly, Susannah, Rachael, Priscilla, Nancy, Euphemia, Juliann, Joseph and Betsey, all now deceased with the exception of John H., Rachael and Juliann.

John H. Dysert, the venerable subject of this mention, was reared a thorough farmer and was educated in the subscription schools. He filially remained with his parents until he had passed his twenty-first year, and then began life on his own account by farming and stock-raising on rented land in Union county; he later purchased ninety-six acres of land, which he occupied about two years, and in 1837 came to Mercer county, entered 160 acres of land in March, worked it during the summer and fall, then brought his family, permanently settled on it and still owns it. This farm, now highly improved, lies in section No. 33, Dublin township, which was then a vast wilderness, through which he had to cut his way two miles from the nearest road to reach. He at once built a round-log cabin, 16x18 feet, with a puncheon floor, and otherwise constructed in the backwoods style of that early day, and then set to work clearing off the forest. But, being a lover of the chase, he would often take his dog and gun and go off hunting deer, of which he has killed as many as seven in one day, and one season killed 115 head—encountering, during his hunting expeditions, many thrilling experiences and desperate adventures. He also endured all the privations, tribulations and perplexities of pioneer life, but he was a man of brawn and muscle, patience, perseverance and indomitable will, that overcame all obstacles, and he now owns one of the largest and best farms in the country, consisting of 435 acres in one body, all well ditched and otherwise thoroughly improved; he also owns 100 acres in Black Creek township, and has owned considerable quantities of other lands, which he has disposed of—all this property being the outcome of his own industry and good management. He has been phenomenally successful in all his undertakings, but the merit is all his own, as he full well knew how to engineer his affairs, as may well be illustrated by the relation of the following incident:

One fall, in the early life of Mr. Dysert in Mercer county, he had seventeen hogs to carry through the approaching winter, but had no corn, and there was a scarcity of mast in the forest. The problem was: How were the hogs to be safely and profitably kept? Here Mr. Dysert's qualifications as a huntsman came into play, and he came to the decision to feed the animals deer meat that season, so went a-hunting. The hams of the deer that fell before his rifle he reserved for his family—the remainder of the carcasses he fed to the hogs, the result being that in the spring the swine all turned out in fine and healthy condition. Could an epicure desire anything better than pork fattened on deer meat?

The marriage of J. H. Dysert took place in October, 1833, with Miss Mary Longbrake, who was born in Clarke county, Ohio, March 15, 1815, and who died April 8, 1876. There were born to this union the large family of thirteen children, as follows: Samantha J., widow of Elias Deal, of Dublin township; Euphemia, wife of William Rutledge, of Dublin township; Levi L., an attorney at law, of Dayton; Stephen N., farmer of Dublin township; John P., of Rockford; George W., clothing merchant of Rockford; Joseph W., farmer of Dublin township; Mary, widow of Milton Yocum, of Union township; Sarah, widow of Frank Black, of Dodge City, Kans.; Matilda, wife of Jacob Eicher, both deceased; William, farmer of Black Creek township; Annis, wife of Mathias right, of Hopewell township; and James V., n the homestead with his father. Mr. Dysert a member of the Friends' church, or a uaker, and in politics has been a stanch re- ublican ever since the formation of that party, nd no more public-spirited gentleman can be und within the bounds of Mercer county.

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STEPHEN N. DYSERT, a leading citizen of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of John H. Dysert (whose biographical memoir ppears above), was born in Dublin township, ebruary 1, 1840, was reared on the home rm, and was educated in the common and bscription schools of his neighborhood.

Mr. Dysert, on reaching his majority, orked out by the month on a farm, for one ear, then rented land and began farming. eptember 25, 1864, he married, and in Feb- ary, 1865, moved upon the farm he now oc- upies, having erected a log cabin, 18 x 20 et, near the site of his present dwelling. The abin was covered by clapboards made by him- lf, and in this he lived until 1870, when he oved upon an adjoining tract of land he had urchased, now owning a body of 107 acres in ections Nos. 21 and 28, Dublin township, the ost of which he has cleared up and placed nder cultivation, having erected his present eat frame residence in 1875. Mr. Dysert also wns eighty acres in section No. 21, detached om his home place, and of which he has forty cres cleared. His farm is now as well tilled nd presents as attractive an appearance as ny farm of similar dimensions in any part of he county. He has devoted his attention to eneral farming and stock-raising, and in the atter has introduced some of the best blood of mported horses to be found in northwest hio. He owns two fine imported French raft stallions, one of which he purchased in October, 1885, and the other in February, 1887—Leon, a bright bay, weighing 1,740 pounds, and Louis Phillippe, a dark strawberry roan, that now tips the beam at 1,800, but has weighed 2,060 pounds. Both horses are premium stock, and have never been entered in an exhibition without carrying off the ribbons. Mr. Dysert has raised many fine animals on his place, and to him is due the credit for the fine appearance of the horses of the neighborhood. He has also reared some large herds of fine hogs, and as a stock-breeder is one of the most experienced and skillful in the county, while he is no less successful as an agriculturist. He is also progressive and liberal in his aid to all public improvements, and does all in his power to promote the material interests of his township.

Mr. Dysert married Miss Eliza J. Roebuck, who was born in Dublin township, March 20, 1847, and is a daughter of Ishmael and Margaret (Kiggins) Roebuck, and this happy union has been blessed by the birth of five children, viz: George H., a liveryman of Rockford; William C., farmer of Black Creek township; Harry and Raymond, with their father on the home farm, and Clifford, who died in infancy. The family are members of the Friends' church, and are among the county's most respected and reliable citizens. In politics Mr. Dysert is a republican, and is a decided friend and advocate of temperance.

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JOHN P. DYSERT, a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and a substantial farmer and retired business man, was born about three miles from Rockford, May 1, 1841, and is a son of John H. and Mary (Longbrake) Dysert. He was reared to farming and educated partly in the district schools and partly in the subscription schools of his neighborhood, but the greater part of his information was acquired by study at night in front of the old fire-place at home. Before he had passed his minority he became a school-teacher, and soon after reaching his majority he enlisted, in August, 1862, in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until honorably discharged, on account of disability, March 4, 1863, after having laid in hospital two months under treatment for a crushed breast. On his return home he resumed school-teaching in the fall of 1863, and for eleven years (including his ante-bellum professional life) followed the profession in Rockford and that vicinity, but not to the neglect of any other business advantage that might present itself—gathering together some live stock in the interval. In 1872 he retired permanently from his school teaching and succeeded G. Laukart in the dry-goods business at Rockford, and this he carried on for sixteen years, for two years of the time having a partner. For fourteen years of this time he carried a full stock of dry goods and clothing, then disposed of the dry-goods department and carried clothing only. In the interval, also, in 1878, he erected an elevator of 1,500 bushels capacity, and in 1882 erected his present elevator, with a capacity of 25,000 bushels; in 1890 he built and still owns an elevator at Tama, and for a time owned the elevators at the village of Mercer, and controlled the trade in grain at Mendon. He has now leased his two original elevators, and in May, 1895, retired from active business. Mr. Dysert has handled immense quantities of grain—probably as much as any other two elevator men in Mercer county in the same space of time. In 1894 upward of 300,000 bushels passed through his hands, and for two years during the period he was engaged in this business he also had control of the live stock shipments from Rockford. In addition to these multifarious business employments, Mr. Dysert has done a great deal of contracting on the country roads, not so much for the profit to be derived therefrom, but for the reason that he was a friend and promoter of improvements and well knew the enhancement in value of surrounding property wherever good roads were built. Against much prejudice he secured the passage of the petition granting the privilege to build the Dysert pike, on which he has finished eleven miles of stone work as well as a great deal of stone work on the Saint Mary's river—and what he was then abused for, he is now applauded for by the entire community. For many years Mr. Dysert owned and conducted four farms, and still operates three in Mercer county, in section No. 21, Dublin township, and section No. 24, in Black Creek township. For eight years Mr. Dysert also owned and carried on the brick-yards at Rockford, and in connection therewith engaged for one year in the manufacturing of tiling. He has handled much realty in the county and has erected four business rooms in Rockford, beside several residences for rental, while his own mansion is unequaled by any other in the village.

In politics Mr. Dysert is at heart a republican, but through a feeling of patriotism he has served in various official capacities in a democratic township—evidently not for the sake of emolument. For fourteen years consecutively he filled the office of township treasurer, and for twenty years that of corporation treasurer, and as a candidate for representative in the state legislature reduced the democratic majority from 2,200 to 1,400. Mr. Dysert is not a church member, but he is a strictly moral man, and for twenty-three years has been a Sabbath-school teacher. Fraternally, he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., of which for twelve years he presided as worshipful master; he is a charter member of the Celina chapter; member of Lima council; charter member of Ivanhoe commandery, No. 54, of Van Wert; of the Cincinnati consistory; and of the Syrian temple, of Cincinnati. Brother Dysert has twelve times represented the blue lodge of Masons in the grand lodge, and once represented the chapter. In 1889 he went with his commandery to the Masonic conclave at Washington, D. C., and in 1895 to that in Boston, when he availed himself of the opportunity, and, with his family, made an extended trip through the states of the east. As a Knight of Pythias, he was the first representative of his lodge, at Rockford, to the grand lodge of the state. He became one of the first members of that order here, and as an Odd Fellow he is past grand of Rockford lodge, No. 790; as a member of Dolph Graves post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Rockford, he has represented it at the state encampment, serving as post delegate to the state encampment on many occasions, and as alternate to the national encampment on two occasions. He is this year (1896) alternate to Saint Paul national encampment, and alternate delegate to the national republican convention at Saint Louis.

For years Mr. Dysert has been an earnest worker in the cause of temperance, and as a Good Templar does good and strenuous work in both the subordinate and grand lodges; he also is active as a Son of Temperance, thus extending his usefulness in the effective promotion of this grand and virtuous cause.

Mr. Dysert was most happily united in marriage, April 25, 1872, with Miss Amanda McFarland, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and a daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Mooreheart) McFarland. This union has been blessed by the birth of one child, Fannie E. Dysert. After the relation of so successful a career as that here recorded in regard to Mr. Dysert, any attempt at compliment or laudation would be simalar to the task of "painting the lily."

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GEORGE W. DYSERT, of the popular clothing firm of Dysert & Pixler, of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Dublin township, of the county named, January 20, 1843, and is a son of the old pioneer, John H. Dysert, whose biography is given in full in a preceding sketch, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully invited.

George W. Dysert was reared on his father's farm amd received the usual school facilities afforded farm lads of his day. Several times before he had attained his majority he had requested permission of his father to enter the Union army, the Civil war being then fiercely waged, but, possibly from religious scruples, this permission was refused; but on becoming of age, Mr. Dysert, acting for himself, bade his relatives good bye, and announced his intention of taking up arms in defense of his country's flag. He attended church one evening and then walked sixteen miles to Van Wert city, took a train next morning for Lima, and there enlisted, in February, 1864, in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, served until mustered out in Septembar, 1865, on account of the cessation of hostilities, at Wheeling, Va., and was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio. He participated in many engagements, including the battles of Cloyd Mountain, Cedar Creek, and many skirmishes, numbering twenty in all, and at Cedar Creek was wounded in the left fore-arm by a fragment of shell.

On his discharge he returned to his father's farm and managed it for two years, then worked out one summer, and then, in October, 1868, married Miss Sarah Ellen Roebuck, a native of Mercer county, and daughter of Ishmael Roebuck. After marriage Mr. Dysert settled down to farming on an eighty-acre tract, which he afterward increased to 200 acres, erected a good dwelling, cleared a large portion of the land and ditched it considerably, and cultivated it until 1877, when he disposed of the property and went to Fremont, Ohio, where he passed six months as a clerk; he then came to Rockford and worked at various callings for about a year, and then entered the employ of his brother, J. P. Dysert, in whose warehouse and store he was engaged until 1884 as clerk, etc., when he bought a half interest in the establishment, and in 1887 purchased the entire concern, of which he gave two-fifths interest to his son, J. F. Dysert, now county clerk of Mercer county. The father and son continued in partnership; together, doing a thriving trade, until August, 1894, when the son sold his interest to W. F. Pixler (whose biography appears elsewhere) and the business is now conducted under the firm name of Dysert & Pixler, as mentioned at the opening of this sketch. In politics Mr. Dysert is a stanch republican. Fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and is a charter member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., and is also a member of the Dolf Graves post, G. A. R.

To Mr. Dysert's marriage with Miss Roebuck, alluded to above, were born three children—an infant that died unnamed; Margaret Ellen, who died in early childhood, and Joseph F., already mentioned. The mother of these, Mrs. Sarah E. (Roebuck) Dysert, died in 1874, and in March, 1886, Mr. Dysert was joined in wedlock with Miss Celia Lockhart, a daughter of Matthias Lockhart. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dysert are members of the Presbyterian church and strictly live up to its teachings. During the past year, 1895, Mr. Dysert erected one of the finest residences in Rockford. He is recognized as one of the most enterprising men of the village and is an ardent friend of public improvements, contributing liberally to all projects designed for the benefit of the public and for the promotion of the best interests of the village, and both school and church find in him their warmest friend.

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JOSEPH W. DYSERT, one of the representative farmers and business men of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of J. H. Dysert, and was born February 25, 1845, on the homestead in Dublin township, on which he passed his youth and early manhood in assisting in farm work; he was educated in the Celina public schools and after finishing his studies engaged in school-teaching during the winter season and farming on his own account during the summer for five years. He then turned his entire attention toward agriculture, locating on a farm of forty acres east of and adjoining his father's place, to which he added, as his industry won him the means, until he owned 120 acres in one body. On this farm he remained until 1882, having made of it one of the most valuable farms of its size in the township; he then sold his place and purchased his present farm of 160 acres, it being the southeast quarter of section No. 29, Dublin township. This farm then had upon it an old log house and one or two other structures of a corresponding character; it now is improved with a fine modern frame residence, erected in 1893, and all other buildings constructed to match; the fences have been put in good order and the fields are well drained, and the farm in itself is a model. Mr. Dysert has given much attention to general farming, making a specialty of hay, and since 1890 has been engaged in partnership with a brother in baling and shipping the latter. During the first and second years his shipments averaged about fifty-five car-loads each year, but in 1894 aggregated 900 car-loads, shipped over five different railroads and from twenty-four separate stations. He collects the hay for bailing from the counties of Van Wert, Mercer and Darke, Ohio, and Jay and Adams, Ind. He employs four buyers and operates five presses, each press requiring the attendance of five men and two teams; he also employs four loaders. In the busy season, he not only keeps his own five presses in operation, but hires a number of other presses. The firm style is known as J. W. Dysert & Bro., wholesale dealers in, and shippers of, hay and straw. Mr. Dysert is a republican, has filled several public local offices, and has been a member of the school board for eighteen years.

The marriage of Mr. Dysert took place in March, 1869, with Miss Mary L. Jones, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Rev. J. P. Jones. The five children that have blessed this union are named Flora, wife of A. D. Behymer, a farmer of Hopewell township; John, William, Bessie S. and Robert L., all at home with their parents. Mrs. Behymer (the eldest of these children), prior to her marriage, was engaged in educational work and was looked upon as a most competent teacher—as she certainly was a successful one. The family are members of the Society of Friends, and, as is usual with the members of that church, are staid, industrious, kindly and pious, enjoying the esteem of all with whom they come in contact. Mr. Dysert has ever shown himself to be a competent business man as well as a skillful farmer, and is self-made.

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J. V. DYSERT, a leading young farmer and citizen of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, is the youngest child of the thirteen born to the venerable J. H. Dysert, whose biography will be found on another page of this volume. A native of Dublin township, J. V. Dysert was born on the old homestead, so long one of the conspicuous landmarks of the township and county, on the first day of February, 1858, and was reared on the farm on which he still resides, and on which still stands the old log cabin in which he first saw the light of day, and in which he began keeping house after his marriage, October 12, 1883. He attended the common, or public, schools of his township, acquiring a very good education, remained on the home farm until he attained his majority, when he took charge of the farm belonging to his sister, Mrs. Mary Yocum, which he prosperously managed for two years, when he returned to the home place, which comprises 320 acres, and of which he assumed the management. He has since carried on general farming, but has made a specialty of hay, having since 1890 been interested in the business of baling hay and straw, and in shipping the same, in partnership with his brother, J. W. Dysert, in whose memoir, on another page, will be found a full account of the plant. Our subject attends chiefly to the local buying as well as baling and shipping, and keeps himself quite busy in attending to this specialty and in guarding the successful management of the farm; but he is energetic and tireless, and is competent to perform whatever he undertakes, be his hands never so full, and, being independent in politics, never permits party affairs to interfere with his business.

Mr. Dysert married Miss Mollie Baucher, a daughter of George and Betsey (Fenstemaker) Baucher, and born in Wyandot county, Ohio, February 12, 1865; and this happy union has been blessed by the birth of two children—Amanda E. and John W. The reader will be rewarded by a perusal of the biographies of the members of the Dysert family, which will be found in these pages.

JOSEPH F. DYSERT, county clerk and one of the most prominent young men of Mercer county, was born in Dublin township, January 23, 1869, and is a son of George W. and Ellen (Roebuck) Dysert, both of whom are also natives of Mercer county. George W. Dysert was born January 20, 1844, and is a son of John H. Dysert, one of the pioneers of Mercer county. The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch was a native of Ireland. The maternal grandfather was Ishmael Roebuck, and was also one of the pioneers of Mercer county. The mother of Mr. Dysert died when he was four years of age, leaving two children, one of whom died a short time after her death. The father is now a merchant of Rockford, Mercer county

Joseph F. Dysert was reared on a farm until he was fifteen years of age, and received his primary education in the public schools of Rockford. In 1888 he entered into partnership with his father in the clothing business, and continued thus engaged until August 6, 1894. In 1893 he became the nominee on the inependent ticket for county clerk, and as the general ticket was elected that year by a majority of 333, he overcame a nominal democratic majority of 2,100. In his native township of Dublin, where there are usually about 600 votes polled, with an average democratic majority of seventy-five, he polled 423 votes, and had a majority of 245. He took possession of his office August 6, 1894, and the term is for three years.

Mr. Dysert was married March 14, 1893, to Miss Laura A., daughter of William Pontius, of Dublin township. Mr. Pontius was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, and is an eminently respectable citizen. Mr. Dysert is a member of the order of Knights of Pythias, and is, as this brief sketch shows, one of the rising young men of Mercer county, equaling in his business capabilities the older members of his family.

GEORGE P. DURBIN, postmaster at Durbin and a prosperous farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Muskingum county March 16, 1850, and is a son of Basil and Eliza (Axe) Durbin. Basil Durbin was born in Maryland, near Baltimore, June 22, 1812, and was a son of Daniel Durbin, who was born near Baltimore in 1778. Daniel's father, Thomas Durbin, was a native of the same locality. The American progenitor of the Durbin family came to this country with the colony brought over by Lord Baitimore, in 1638, and settled on the spot where each of the ancestors of the subject, in a direct line, was born and reared.

Daniel Durbin was reared on a farm, educated in Maryland, and was married in that state, his son, Basil, the father of the subject, being the youngest of thirteen children born to him. Daniel located on the home farm in Maryland, removed thence to Pennsylvania in 1814, where he bought a farm and remained until 1819. Then, selling his Pennsylvania farm, he emigrated to Knox county, Ohio, purchased a farm there, and lived upon it for many years, during the first part of his residence there not being a neighbor within forty miles in either direction, north or west. About 1830 he sold out and moved to Muskingum county, where he purchased 160 acres of land which was sold for taxes. This land he improved and lived upon for twenty years, and then lost it all because the tax title proved worthless, all, at least, but sixteen acres, which he sold for $100 per acre. He lived in Muskingum county the rest of his life. His first wife having died in 1814, he was married, the second time, to Nancy Aikenrode, by whom he had three children, none of whom survive. Mr. Durbin lived to be eighty-eight years old, dying in 1856. Politically he was an old-line whig; in religion he was a member of the Catholic church, and died highly respected.

Basil Durbin, father of the subject, was reared on a farm, was educated in Knox county, Ohio, and had no educational privileges until, at the age of seventeen, he was apprenticed to the cabinet-maker's trade, with the stipulation that he should be permitted to attend school six months of his time. He remained at work under this agreement for three years, attending school a few months only, at odd times, but after the expiration of his apprenticeship, acquired considerable knowledge by his own efforts and private study. In 1833 he was married to his first wife, by whom he had three children, all of whom died of consumption. In 1842 he married, for his second wife, Eliza Axe, a daughter of George and Margaret Axe, by whom he had nine children, as follows: Mary (Mrs. John McFarland), deceased; Samuel, a farmer and worker in a glass manufactory; George Patrick, the subject of this sketch; John, who works in the same glass factory with his brother, Samuel, in Muncie, Ind.; William, a huckster of Lima; Margaret, deceased wife of James Schultz; Theresa, wife of Henry Dipmore, of Muncie, Ind.; Eliza, wife of B. Bencree, of Lima; and Susanna, who died in infancy. The mother of the children was born in Lancaster county, Pa., February 4, 1821, her parents, who were of Dutch descent, having been born in the same place. In 1833 they removed to Muskingum county, Ohio, and in 1856 to Auglaize county, where her father purchased a tract of woodland, upon which he lived and labored until 1874, when he died at the age of seventy-five. His wife died one year later at the same age, she having been born in 1800. He was a democrat in politics, and both were members of the Roman Catholic church.

After his marriage Basil Durbin located first in Cincinnati, where he remained two years, and then removed to Muskingum county, settling in Zanesville, where his first wife died, and where he was married the second time. From the time of his settling in Zanesville he worked at the capenter's trade until 1857, and then removed to Auglaize county, living there until 1862. In this latter county he purchased ninety-two acres of woodland, upon which he lived and which he cleared up from its timber, and improved, making it a good farm. Selling out this farm in 1879, he then removed to Mercer county, where he purchased forty acres of woodland, upon which he lived the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1889, his wife dying in 1890, both being members of the Catholic church, and he, though in early life a whig, being a democrat during his latter years.

George Patrick Durbin, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and educated in Saint Mary's township, most of the knowledge he now possesses being acquired by his own private study. He was married November 6, 1873, to Bridget McIlvoy, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Loague) McIlvoy, and to this marriage there have been born ten children: Thomas, living at home; Elizabeth, deceased; William, at home; Mary, James, Angeline, Catherine, Edgar, Theresa, and George Russell. The mother of these children was born in Perry county, April 16, 1854, her father having been born and reared in Ireland, and having emigrated to Perry county, Ohio, when he was yet a young man. In Perry county he married his wife, who was of Pennsylvania-Dutch and Irish descent, and in that county he died. She moved to Mercer county in 1867 and still lives in Center township.

George Patrick Durbin, for three years after his marriage, carried on farming on the farm belonging to his mother-in-law, and then, removing to Franklin township, began manufacturing draining tile, and continued thus engaged for two years. Then, selling out his tile business, he bought eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved, and afterward added to it fifty acres more, and in 1881 removed to Liberty township and again went in the business of making tile, and also into contracting, which he continued for three years. Then he sold out, and in 1891 established himself in general merchandising, the post-office being established by him four months later and named after him. All this time he has managed his farm, as well as attending to other business, his farm being a good one and under a high state of cultivation. Upon this farm there are two dwellings, one good barn, a store and a blacksmith shop, and all well managed.

In politics Mr. Durbin was a democrat until the organization of the populist party, since which time he has affiliated with this new organization. One half-brother of his, Daniel, served in the late Civil war. Mr. Durbin, since becoming a populist, has served as township trustee and has also served on the township school board. He is a member of the Catholic church, is a highly respected citizen, an usually intelligent man, is a leading citizen, and well known for his probity and integrity of character for many miles around.

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**JOHN W. DEFORD**, cashier of the Citizens' Bank of Celina, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, September 13, 1841, and is a son of John and Matilda (Littell) DeFord, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The great-grandparents of Mr. DeFord, on his father's side of the family, were natives of France, and left the city of Paris for America during the French revolution. A short time after arriving in this country the great-grandfather died, leaving one son, John, then a mere lad. At the age of twenty-one John DeFord married and settled near Uniontown, Fayette county, Pa., and there he resided the remainder of his long life, reaching the extreme age of 103 years. He was the father of four sons and two daughters, of whom John, the eldest son, was born on the old homestead in Fayette county, Pa., in 1805. After receiving a fair common-school education he was sent to Madison college, in his native county, where he received a liberal and classical education, with the view of entering the ministry, but, on account of ill health, he was compelled to abandon the hope and intention of entering the ministry, and to devote himself to agriculture. When he was twenty-three years old he married Matilda Littell, and removed to Carroll county, Ohio, and in 1848 he removed to Columbiana county, where he remained until 1860, when he finally removed to Mercer county, located in Celina and lived there six years, then returned to Carroll county and there spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1892, when in his eighty-seventh year; his widow died in January, 1893, in her eightieth year. They had lived together sixty-three happy years. From the foregoing it is plain that the DeFord family is noted for longevity, if for nothing more.

John W. DeFord, the subject of this sketch, attended the common schools during his boyhood days, and finished his education at Mount Union college, at which institution he studied during three terms. He afterward taught school three terms in the country in Mercer county, two terms in Hopewell, and one in Center township. In 1862 he was elected by the board of directors superintendent of the public schools at Fort Recovery, which position he held for five years. In the meantime, in 1863, he was appointed school examiner for Mercer county, which position he held for six years; in 1866 he was elected clerk of the court of common pleas of Mercer county, and served in all six years in that office. While serving the public in the above-named offices he at the same time read law with the Hon.

T. J. Godfrey, and in 1872 was admitted to practice before the supreme court of the state of Ohio. In the spring of 1873 Mr. DeFord organized the Citizen's Banking company of Celina, of which he is now the cashier, and which enjoys the confidence of the people to a high degree. He is a royal arch Mason and K. of P. He is a democrat and subscribes to the Methodist creed, and donates liberally of his means to the support of the church. Mr. DeFord gave $1,500 toward the railroads entering Celina, and has built several prominent business buildings of the town; also several fine residences, etc., and has donated money and assistance to every worthy enterprise which had a tendency toward the advancement of the town and county.

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GEORGE J. EICHLER, a prominent citizen of Celina and a member of the city council from the Third ward, was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 9, 1850. He is a son of Andrew and Barbara (Eichler) Eichler, both of whom were born in Bayern, Germany. In 1847 they came to the United States in the same vessel, but were not married at the time. They came direct to Ohio, and located in Hamilton, where they were married a short time after their arrival there. Mr. Eichler was a farmer in his native land, and he naturally followed that occupation after his arrival in this country. He followed farming in Butler county until January, 1876, when he removed to Mercer county, and purchased a farm in Black Creek township, and there followed farming until his death, which occurred September 5, 1894. He was born September 2, 1818, so that at the time of his death he was seventy-six years of age. His widow, still living, is residing on the home farm in Black Creek township. She was born May 11, 1827. To them there were born twelve children, eleven sons and one daughter. All the children are living but two of the sons.

George J. Eichler is the eldest of those children that still live, born to his parents. He was reared on the farm and received a good common-school education, both in English and German. He remained on the farm with his parents until he was twenty-three years of age, when he was married and began life on his own account. On February 18, 1886, he removed to Celina and there engaged in the agricultural implement business, selling the Milwaukee harvester, and has continued to sell this implement ever since. He also sells the Russell Company's threshing outfit, and the Hoosier Drill Company's drills. He has also been largely engaged in the stock business, buying and selling all kinds of stock and shipping to the different markets. He owns his residence property, which is situated on Logan street, near the Cincinnati, Dayton & Chicago railroad depot in Celina, and he also owns a small farm in Black Creek township, Mercer county.

Mr. Eichler was married October 2, 1872, to Alice Snyder, who was born in Butler county, Ohio. He was married, the second time, to Miss Eliza R. McAfee, December 25, 1881. She was born in Hardin county, Ohio. Mr. Eichler is a democrat in politics, and has taken quite an active part in local affairs. In the spring of 1892 he was elected to the city council, by the democratic party, from the Third ward, and was re-elected in the spring of 1895. As a member of the council he is serving on the committee on streets, on sidewalks, on street lighting and on city hall. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, and are most excellent people, honest and faithful to their church and to their social duties of every kind.

PRESTON ADELBERT ELLIS, of Celina, Ohio, owner of the Ellis House and livery barn connected therewith, and who was for a period of eighteen years previously proprietor of the Ellis House, was born in Rockford, Ohio, November 11, 1844. He is a son of Oliver and Eleanor (Stannard) Ellis, both of whom were natives of Genesee county, N. Y., and who came to Ohio in 1838, locating on a section of land in Dublin township, Mercer county. There they lived until 1853, when they removed to Celina and here died. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Lyman K., John P., James O., Roseltha, all deceased; Susan R., wife of H. C. Mack, of Mercer county; Amelia, wife of J. M. Davidson, of Marion, Ohio; Catherine, wife of V. N. Estry, of Celina, Ohio; Mahala, wife of G. E. Nungester, of Celina, and Preston Adelbert, the subject of this sketch. Oliver and Eleanor Ellis were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church; he was a republican in politics, and at his death left but a small estate.

Preston Adelbert Ellis was educated at the public schools in Celina, having removed with his parents to this city when about eight years old. Upon arriving at the proper age he became engaged in business in Celina, having up to this time, when he was twenty-four years old, remained with his father, who had been keeping hotel. In 1868 Mr. Ellis started a livery stable, which he managed one year; in 1869 he sold out and engaged in the hotel business, keeping the Ellis House from that time on until 1887, when he sold it to the Ellis Bros., who are now the proprietors of the business. For two years he lived retired from active business, and then purchased a half-interest in the present business, and in 1893 became the proprietor of one of the finest livery stables and livery stocks in Celina. He has thirteen horses, seven buggies, two carriages, two cabs, two wagons, and numerous other livery stable appurtenances necessary to a successful business.

Mr. Ellis was married in Celina, June 14, 1874, to Miss Harriet Fetters, who was born in Greenville, Ohio. To this marriage there has been born one child—Frank L. Mrs. Ellis is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in political affairs Mr. Ellis is a democrat. Fraternally he is a Mason, an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias, in Masonry being a knight templar. As a democrat he served in the city council of Celina several terms. Mr. Ellis owns forty-four acres of land in Center township, beside valuable property in Celina. In his business affairs he has been successful, and in social circles he is recognized as a potent factor, always ready to aid the needy and to perform an act of charity or kindness, whether or not there is any prospect of their being reciprocated and recompensed.

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JOHN ESSER, one of the substantial farmers of Gibson township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a highly respected citizen, was born in the Rhine province, Prussia, March 1, 1828. He is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Frederick) Esser, the former of whom was born in the Rhine province, in 1787. Nicholas owned twenty-five acres of land, and carried on farming and the manufacture of tile. By industry and thrift he became a man well to do. He was married in Prussia, and he and his wife became the parents of the following children: Valentine, Clara, John, Henry, Conrad, Elizabeth, and Nicholas. Nicholas Esser, father of these children, came to the United States with his family, sailing from Antwerp, an historic city on the Scheldt, and capital of the province of Antwerp, Belgium, and landed in New York. Upon reaching this country he came direct to Ohio and settled in Mercer county, at Chickasaw, on ninety-five acres of land, partly cleared. Here he lived until 1860, when he died. He was an industrious and honest man, a devout Catholic and everywhere respected.

John Esser received a common-school education until he was fourteen years of age, and at that time began working on the farm. In 1847, when he was nineteeen years of age, he came to the United States, sailing from Antwerp in the good ship, Catherine, and landing in New York, after a voyage of forty-two days, on July 3, 1847. Coming direct to Mercer county, he here remained until his father came the next year, and then he worked on the farm for his father for eight years. He married Catherine Honeng, by whom he had but one child, a son, which died with its mother, immediately after its birth, in May, 1857. For his second wife Mr. Esser married Agnes Bechler in the fall of 1857, and to them there were born three children, all of whom died young, Mrs. Esser dying about two years after her marriage. For his third wife Mr. Esser married Elizabeth Sweble, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and was a daughter of John Sweble. To his third marriage there were born twelve children, as follows: Clarissa, Caroline, John, Adam, August, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Godfrey, Ignatius, Agy, and one that died young. In 1856 Mr. Esser moved to his present farm, then all woods, with the exception of a small clearing. This land contained forty acres, and to this, by hard work, industry and thrift, he has added until at the present time he owns 280 acres of excellent land. This farm he has cleared and improved, and upon it has erected one of the finest houses, and also one of the best barns, anywhere in the township. Mr. Esser is a Catholic and has reared his family in that faith. As a member of his church he has held the office of trustee and of councilman, and has also been treasurer for several years. Politically he is a democrat, has held the office of township trustee three terms, and has been a member of the school board.

In 1895 Mr. Esser had five wells drilled on his farm, four of which proved to be the best oil wells in the field, and in less than one year they produced over 25,000 barrels of oil, from which Mr. Esser realized $2,100. These wells now yield about twenty-five barrels per day. Mr. Esser is in most comfortable circumstances, and is one of the most substantial citizens of the county. Toward his church he has always been liberal, and assisted to build the first Catholic church in Wendelin, and he also helped to erect the present substantial brick church, in 1868. His wife died in 1887, a devout member of the Catholic church and a woman of many virtues. Mr. Esser is a man that has made his own fortune, has always been a hard-working and honest citizen, and is held in high esteem by his neighbors.

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**WILLIAM WILLSHIRE ELLIS**, one of the proprietors of the Ellis House in Celina, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, January 8, 1862. He is a son of Lyman K. and Lydia S. (Ross) Ellis, the former of whom was a brother of Preston Adelbert Ellis, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Lydia S. Ross was born in New Jersey, August 4, 1833, and is a daughter of Daniel Ross. She married Lyman K. Ellis December 25, 1856, in Mercer county, Ohio, and with him located on a farm six miles north of Celina. Here they lived until Mr. Ellis died, November 27, 1873, and then she moved to Celina, and has lived there ever since. Lyman K. Ellis and his wife were the parents of two children, viz: James O. and William Willshire, who, now under the firm name Ellis Bros., are proprietors of the Ellis House in Celina. Lyman K. Ellis was a prominent man in his day, a business man of correct principles, a man of honest methods, and one highly respected by all that knew him. His widow is now living with her two sons, James O. and William Willshire.

William Willshire Ellis was but eleven years of age when his father died. Upon removing to Celina he attended the public school until he was seventeen years of age, in the meantime working for his uncle, Preston Adelbert Ellis, in the hotel, and remaining with him until 1886. Then, going to Fostoria, he was clerk in the Hayes house for a short time, returning to Celina in 1887, and then, in partnership with his brother, bought the furniture of and leased the hotel building of his uncle, which the two brothers have since conducted as the Ellis House.

William Willshire Ellis was married October 24, 1887, in Celina, to Fannie Ashbaugh, who was born in Celina, October 7, 1863, and was a daughter of George and Annie (Lorimer Ashbaugh, both natives of Mercer county, Ohio, the former being now a retired mechanic. To this marriage there was born one child, Charles Oliver, born May 13, 1890. The mother of this child died June 26, 1890, and the son is now a bright little fellow of great promise. Mr. Ellis is a republican in politics and a man in whom all place the highest degree of confidence and respect.

James Oliver Ellis, senior member of the firm of Ellis Bros., was born in Mercer county, Ohio, March 17, 1859. He was educated in the public schools of Celina, and when fourteen years of age began working for his uncle, Preston Adelbert Ellis, in the hotel at Celina. He remained thus employed until he was nineteen years of age, and then engaged as a clerk with John Manor, in his grocery, remaining with Mr. Manor three years. For one year after this he was engaged in a similar capacity with E. M. Shepherd. Returning then to the hotel, he there remained until he and his brother, William Willshire Ellis, became the proprietors, in 1887, and has been engaged in the hotel business ever since. Politically Mr. Ellis is a republican, and is a genial, pleasant gentleman, qualities that are needed, if anywhere, in the management of a hotel. The Ellis House contains thirty rooms, runs a free 'bus to all trains, and charges transients $2 per day. It is well kept and is popular with the traveling public.

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GEORGE FELVER, a prominent farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, and at one time one of the trustees of the township, is a son of Isaac and Sarah (Hines) Felver, and was born in Black Creek township, Mercer county, December 18, 1858.

Isaac Felver was born in New Jersey in 1826, and was a son of Moses Felver, a native of New Jersey and of Dutch descent. In 1846 he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, and bought 160 acres of land, upon which he lived the rest of his life, dying, in 1887, at the age of sixty-one. His wife had died in 1883. One of the patriotic men of the country when the war of the Rebellion came on, he enlisted and served his country faithfully, and afterward was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a Knight of Pythias, and in politics a democrat. He and his wife, Sarah Hines, were the parents of fourteen children, as follows: Theodore, of Van Wert county; Mary (Mrs. Nimrod Johnson), of Kansas; George, the subject of this sketch; Amos, of Dublin township; Ida, who married Samuel Faus, of Ohio City; Harriet, who married Joseph Hinkle of Rockford, Ohio; Cyrus, of Decatur, Ind.; Silas, of Black Creek township; Moses and

Della, at home; Martha, who married James Andrews, of Rockford, Ohio; Maud O. and Lucy, both at home, and an infant deceased. The mother of these children was born in Black Creek township in 1840 and still lives. Her brother, Amos Hines, served in the army of the Union four years.

From the time of his marriage until the spring of 1862 Isaac Felver lived on the home place and followed farming. Then he enlisted in company H, Twenty-second regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the close of the war. He saw a good deal of hard service, and participated in many hard-fought battles; among the battle of Chickamauga, all those of the famous Atlanta campaign, and the second battle of Nashville. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war, and, returning to Mercer county, lived four years in Black Creek township, six years in Liberty township, then five years in Black Creek township again, and the remainder of his life in Dublin township, where he died. Politically he was a democrat, and religiously a member of the United Brethren church, as is his widow, who still lives on the home farm. His death occurred in 1881.

George Felver, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and educated in Dublin township. At the age of twenty-one he began working for himself, and in 1883 he went west, worked in Iowa one year and then returned home. November 8, 1886, he was married to Caroline Buck, a daughter of Leonard and Mary (Liebuck) Buck. To this marriage there have been born five children, as follows: Charles, who was born October 5, 1887; Earle Fidellus, who died at the age of six months; George Anderson, born January 18, 1891; Darthy Amos, born February 6, 1893, and Floyd, born March 21, 1895. Caroline Buck was born in Black Creek township, Mercer county, June 15, 1864, her father having been born in Germany and her mother in Hamilton county, Ohio. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Ann, who married Lon McDonald, of Liberty township; Caroline, wife of the subject; William, of Liberty township; Henry, living at home, and Lizetta, also living at home.

From the time of his marriage until the present time George Felver and his wife have lived on their present farm, which he purchased three years before marriage, and which consisted of forty acres of woodland. In 1886 he built a house, which he has since remodeled and much improved. All his land is now cleared, and thirty-six acres are under a high state of cultivation. In 1890 he built a barn and all the improvements on his land he has placed and made himself. As a democrat he was elected township trustee in April, 1890, and served two terms, and he has also served on the school board nine years. As a member of the Protestant Methodist church, he, as well as his wife, is an active worker in the cause of religion. He follows general farming and stock raising with success, and is a man of great public spirit and is highly respected by all who know him.

O. B. FISHBAUGH, M. D., a successful physician of Cold Water, was born in Washington township, Mercer county, April 29, 1866, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth R. (Morton) Fishbaugh.

Samuel Fishbaugh was reared in Fairfield county, Ohio, and received an education superior to that usually obtained. At first he attended the common country schools, and, making most encouraging progress, he was afterward sent to the normal school at Northwood, Ohio, which he attended a few terms. Becoming thus well qualified to teach school, he was engaged for several years as teacher. At the age of thirty years he located in Washington township, Mercer county, where he still lives.

Mr. Fishbaugh was married twice—first to Miss Elizabeth R. Morton, by whom he had the following children: Emma M., who married Samuel J. Carmack, and is now living in Erasmus, Mercer county, Ohio; Anthony W., who is now practicing law in Celina, and is married to Miss Carrie Snyder; Laura J., who is married to M. McMillen, and is living at Macedon, Mercer county; Preston W., a practicing physician of Mendon, Mercer county, and is married to Miss Ida Shank; M. B., the subject of this sketch; Francis M., a pharmacist of Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, and is married to Miss Anna Ege, and Anna I., who died at the age of seven years. For his second wife Mr. Fishbaugh married Miss Rebecca Mitchell, by whom he has no children.

M. B. Fishbaugh, M. D., received his preliminary education in the common schools, and afterward this education was supplemented by an attendance of four terms at the normal school of Portland, Ind. Having thus become thoroughly familiar with the principles of pedagogy, he taught school successfully for three terms in Washington township. In the meantime, and afterward, having determined to follow the practice of medicine as his life work, he read medicine with Dr. L. R. Pence, of Celina, Ohio. Leaving the office as a student under Dr. Pence, he attended the college of Physicians & Surgeons at Baltimore, Md., graduating from that institution in the spring of 1893, in a class containing 106 members. On the 8th of May succeeding his graduation he located in Cold Water, and has since been practicing there with eminent success. He has become known for many miles around as a most skillful physician, especially in cases of typhoid fever, which in recent years has become clearly distinguished by physicians from typhus fever, both as to its origin and treatment.

Dr. Fishbaugh was married January 11, 1894, to Miss Sophia M. Kester, of Butler townsnip, who was born February 18, 1872, and who is a daughter of George W. and Sarah J. (Snyder) Kester. She is the youngest of a family of three children born to her parents, viz: William, who died in infancy; Fannie, living at home with her parents, and Mrs. Fishbaugh. Dr. and Mrs. Fishbaugh are the parents of one child, Charles B., born December 10, 1894.

The art of medicine is a very ancient one, its origin being involved in the obscurity of prehistoric legends; its history is extremely interesting and useful as a study, even to laymen, and its field of usefulness is illimitable, especially to the good Samaritan, for there are always many sick who are too poor to pay for the best medical skill, of which, by a strange irony of nature, they are in much more frequent need than those who are rich; for the reason that they can not keep their bodies in a state of health and vigor, which is frequently necessary to resist infectious disease. It is not too much to say of Dr. Fishbaugh that he is at least as willing to play the part of the good Samaritan in such cases as is any man in his profession, and the mere fact that many physicians do restore to health and in some cases save the lives of their patients, without hope of financial reward, is a lasting credit to the profession as well as to human nature itself.

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**DANIEL FISHER**, a respected farmer and stock raiser of Dublin, Mercer county, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, March 7, 1851, a son of Jonn S. and Julia (Crissman) Fisher, was reared to farm life and early taught the use of ax, maul and wedge, which he has since been called upon to use frequently and unsparingly, both in his native county and in Mercer. His education was acquired in the common schools, and his close observation of matters and things has added materially to the meager stock of knowledge he had secured in the pioneer schools of his early day.

At the early age of sixteen years, young Daniel Fisher faced the world to battle in his own behalf, and first began his business life by working out by the month on a farm one summer; for two years following he was occupied in filling a contract to clear, ditch, split-rails, fence, and otherwise improve a farm, and at twenty years of age went to Holmes county, Ohio, his father having moved from Van Wert to Mercer county fifteen years before. After working at farm labor for about eight months in Holmes county, our subject came to Mercer county, but the same year, 1871, went to Michigan, where his stay was but short. Returning to Mercer county, he rented his father's farm, which he cultivated one year. In June, 1873, he married Miss Emma Wiley, daughter of A. J. Wiley and Rachel (Diehl) Wiley, of Dublin township, and in the fall of that year moved upon his father-in-law's farm, which he tilled three years; then he bought sixty-five acres of partially improved land in Black Creek township, there passed three years, sold out, and purchased his present ninety-acre farm in section No. 32, Dublin township. This he has cleared up to a considerable extent and has made upon it many valuable improvements, erecting substantial, commodious buildings, and putting down about 1,500 rods of tiling, thus making it compare most favorably with any other farm of its size in the township. General farming and stock raising occupy his attention, and he makes them both yield handsome profits.

In politics Mr. Fisher is an ardent democrat, and has officiated as school director, as well as filled some of the minor township offices, but has never sought office for the sake of either fame or lucre. To Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have been born three children, named Allen F., James O. and Fannie E.—the last named deceased. This family are members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Fisher is one of the trustees. Mr. Fisher is a self-made man, and through his energy and industry has made himself one of the solid farmers of the county and won the respect of all who know him.

J HENRY FORSTHOFF, junior member of the firm of Hoyng & Forsthoff, and one of the prominent citizens of Granville township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Saint Henry's, Mercer county, and is a son of Henry and Bernadina (Ashman) Forsthoff.

Henry Forsthoff was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1825, was educated in Germany, and there learned the brick-laying trade, which he followed for a number of years. He was three times married, coming to the United States in 1855, after his first marriage. Upon his arrival in this country he went to Cincinnati, and there worked seven years at his trade. His first and second wives having died, he was married to Bernadina Ashman, daughter of Joseph Ashman, who was the second settler in Cassella, Mercer county. This third marriage took place in 1865, in Cassella, and resulted in the birth of twelve children, as follows: J. Henry, the subject ol this sketch; Mrs. Lizzie Mader, of Saint Henry's; Harmon, a farmer; Annie, William, Louisa, Clara, Joseph and Ella, all six at home, and three that died in infancy. Soon after his marriage Mr. Forsthoff removed to Saint Henry's, purchased a farm and lived thereon a short time, then purchased a home in the village, and there worked at his trade until his failing health compelled him to desist. From that time on he devoted his time to superintending the work upon his two farms, one of which, lying in Mercer county, contained 100 acres, the other, in Darke county, contained eighty acres. Starting with nothing, Mr. Forsthoff accumulated a comfortable fortune and was in every way a successful business man. He was a prominent member of the Catholic church and was a member of the building committee that erected the new Catholic edifice in Saint Henry's. His death occurred in 1893.

J. Henry Forsthoff, the subject of this sketch, was reared upon the farm, and was educated in both English and German in the public schools, remaining in them until he was thirteen years old, and then spent one year in Saint Mary's institute in Dayton, a school which was established in 1849. Leaving this school he began learning the brick-maker's trade with his father, and in the winter time attending school. The science of book-keeping he studied privately, and at the age of twenty-three he went to Hardin county, Ohio, where he remained two years, working at his trade. In 1889 he engaged in the milling business under the firm name of Forsthoff & Winkle, the name of the firm being subsequently changed to Forsthoff & Co., his father being associated with him from this time until his death.

Mr. Forsthoff was married January 31, 1894, to Elizabeth Heyl, who was born in Mercer county in 1869 and is a daughter of Lawrence Heyl. To this marriage there has been born one child, Alice, in January, 1895. After his marriage Mr. Forsthoff lived six months in Saint Henry's and then moved to El Dorado, in Preble county, and there lived one year, nine months and of which time he worked in a mill. Returning to Saint Henry's he worked at his trade, that of brick-layer, on the Catholic church; and later purchased a half-interest in the milling business now owned by the firm of Hoyng & Forsthoff, over which Mr. Forsthoff has full control. He was also engaged for several months in buying and shipping grain, his business as miller giving him exceptional facilities in this line of investment. Mr. Forsthoff has a good mill, fitted up with the latest improved machinery, including steam power, Cass milling and Granson cleaning apparatus, which enables him to make an excellent grade of flour from wheat, also from rye; and a fine quality of corn-meal and buckwheat flour. He ships large quantities of all kinds of flour both to the north and to the south. Mr. Forsthoff, it will be seen, is a man of enterprise and push, and he is a man of strict honesty in his business transactions, as well as of high character in every respect. Politically he is a democrat, is a member of the Catholic church, is a highly esteemed citizen and one of the leading business men of the county in which he lives.

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HENRY C. FOX, one of the most intelligent and prominent business men of Cold Water, was born April 26, 1860, in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio, and is a son of Matthias and Babara (Weigel) Fox.

Matthias Fox was born in Prussia, which now includes the larger part of Germany, in 1819. He emigrated to the United States in 1836, locating at first near Fostoria, but in 1840 removed to Washington township, Mercer county, where he has since resided. When he was twenty-seven years of age he married Miss Barbara Weigel, by whom he had eleven children, as follows: Mary, who has been married twice—first to Max Stark, who died, and, second, to Matthias Renn, who is also dead, and she herself died in 1881; Elizabeth, who died when two years old; Margaret, now a sister in a convent at Fort Wayne; John, married to Kate Sacher, and living on a farm in Jay county, Ind.; Sophia, who is married to Charles Hess, a contractor and builder of Celina; George, who married Retta McKenzie, and lives in Cold Water; Henry C., the subject of this sketch; Matthias, Jr., who, when nineteen years old, died. He was in perfect health, but his sister being ill, he walked and ran to Celina for aid for her, thus becoming overheated, and then drank heartily of very cold water, and in two days afterward he died; Joseph and Benjamin, twins; Joseph, who married Nancy Hickey, and lives in Versailles, Darke county, Ohio; Benjamin, who married Rosa Diedier, and lives in Lima, Ohio; and Charles, who married Christina Schockman, and is manager for Henry C. in his general store at Macedon, Ohio.

Henry C. Fox received his fundamental education in the common schools, and when nineteen years old entered the Western Normal university at Ada, Ohio, and was in attendance there four terms. He then attended the National Normal university, at Lebanon, one term. After thus thoroughly qualifying himself he taught nine years in Cold Water—four years in the primary department, one year in the intermediate, and four years in the high school. Becoming tired of teaching, as every one must, sooner or later, he purchased the general store owned by Fox Brothers, and he has ever since then conducted it with uniform and remarkable success. He is a thoroughgoing business man, well knowing when and how to buy, and also how and when to sell.

Mr. Fox was married November 19, 1885, to Miss Rosa Schockman, daughter of Henry and Barbara (Rheim) Schockman, the former born in Hanover, and came to the United States when nineteen years old. Henry Schockman located in Washington township, and there followed farming until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted and served his adopted country as a soldier three years. Returning from the war, he remained in Washington township until 1870, when he removed to Butler township. To Henry and Barbara Schockman there were born twelve children, as follows: Mary, who died in infancy; Rosa, wife of the subject of this sketch; Regina, wife of B. Rose, of Saint Henry's; Christina, wife of Charles Fox, of Cold Water; Joseph; John, died in April, 1896; Frank Anthony, Albert and Clara, all living at home; Lewis and Anthony, who died when quite young. One child, named Anthony, died, and when the next child was born it was named Anthony, hence the two children of the same name. To Henry C. and Rosa Fox there have been born four children, as follows: Elnora, born February 21, 1887; Urban, born July 8, 1889; Leo, born November 26, 1891; and Francis, born January 27, 1894, all of whom are living, and all unusually bright and intelligent children.

Mr. Fox is a good, strong democrat, a prominent Catholic, and a most influential citizen. He owns one of the largest general stores in the county, and, being courteous and obliging, as well as an honest, fair dealing man, he has hosts of friends and a splendid trade. He is educated not alone in literature and science, history and polite literature, but also in all kinds of business lore, and having also traveled extensively in the United States, and also in Europe, he is well versed in human nature, and thus understands how to win and retain friendship, which is to any one a source of pleasure as well as of profit. Mr. Fox made his tour of Europe in company with Mr. C. T. Rauh, who is at the present time mayor of Cold Water, and during this trip they thoroughly traveled most of the territory of Europe, but especially Germany and Switzerland. The knowledge thus gained is a never-failing source of pleasure to Mr. Fox and to the friends whom he delights to entertain.

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**FREDERICK GREEN**, one of the substantial farmers of Gibson township, and a highly respected citizen, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 6, 1829. He is a son of Frederick and Regina (Myers) Green, the former of whom was also born in Wurtemberg, and married there, and to whom there were born six children, as follows: Frederick, Andrew, Mary, Jacob, John and George. These children were all born in the United States, except Frederick. Mr. Green brought his family to this country in 1832, going directly to Crawford county, Ohio, and there buying forty acres of land, all in the woods. This land he cleared and improved, and to it he added until he owned 100 acres, and here he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1888, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was a member of the Lutheran church and was an honored citizen. His brother, John, was a soldier in the Mexican war, and also fought against the Indians. Frederick Green, the subject of this sketch, was but three years old when his parents emigrated to this country. In Crawford county he received his education in the common schools, and was reared a farmer. In January, 1852, he was married to Eliza Lutz, who was born November 17, 1830, in Wurtemberg, and is a daughter of Gottlieb and Gottlieba (Kebber) Lutz.

Gottlieb Lutz was born and married in Germany, was reared a farmer, and he and his wife became the parents of the following children: Jacob, Daniel, Abraham, Rosina and Katie. Mr. Lutz came to the Uuited States in 1832, and settled in Crawford county, on a forty-acre tract of land, all in the woods, and this land he cleared and improved, adding to it until he owned eighty acres. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church, and highly-respected people. He died in Crawford county at an advanced age.

Frederick Green, after his marriage, settled on eighty-eight acres of land in Crawford county, which at the time was partly cleared. This land he improved, and added to it by subsequent purchases until he owned 200 acres in that county; but in 1876 he moved to Mercer county, and bought 320 acres of land, to which he later added other acres until at the present time he owns 400 acres. This farm he has greatly improved, and now has one of the finest farms and homes in the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Green there have been born the following children: Jacob, John, Adam (who died April 27, 1896), Katie, Daniel and Philip. Mr. and Mrs. Green are members of the Lutheran church, and are in high standing, not only in their church but also in general society. Politically Mr. Green is a democrat, an honest man and an excellent citizen, and has served as supervisor to the satisfaction of all concerned. By his own exertions and careful management he has accumulated a competency for his old age, and is everywhere known as a straightforward and honorable man in all his dealings.

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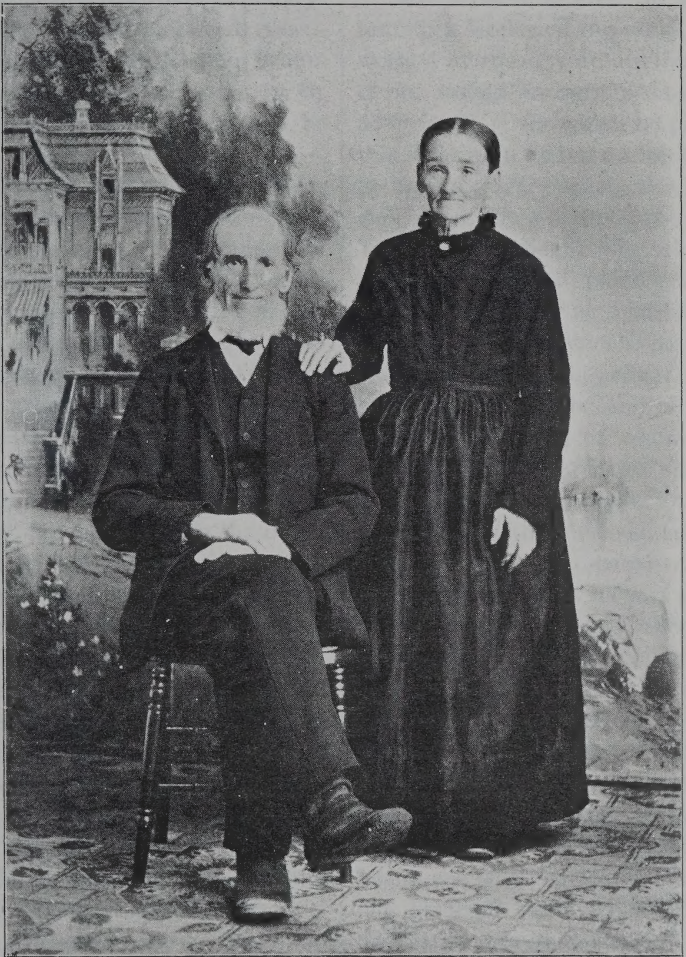
**JOHN HENRY FRAHM**, one of the prominent farmers and a highly esteemed citizen of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of Christopher and Helena (Klentz) Frahm, and was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, August 24, 1831. Christopher Frahm was born at the same place in 1810, was a day laborer, and married Helena Klentz, also a



FREDERICK GREEN. MRS. ELIZA GREEN.

native of Germany, born about 1810, and to this marriage there were born five children, viz: John Henry, the subject of this sketch; Sophia, who died at the age of three years; Fritz, a saloonist of Celina; Mena, widow of Lewis Smith, of Hopewell township, and Mary, wife of William Hoenie, of Hopewell township. After his marriage Christopher Frahm continued to live in Germany, until sent for by his son, the subject of this sketch, as will be related below.

John Henry Frahm was educated in his native country, and there learned the wagonmaker's and also the carpenter's trade. At the age of fourteen years he began life on his own account, working at $24 per year, and in this way saved enough to pay his passage across the sea. Before leaving his native land he was drafted into the army, but was not accepted because of an imperfect finger. His embarkation for the United States occurred in October, 1854, and he landed in New York the following December, having been on the ocean nine weeks, in a sailing vessel, the Attica, while at the present time the voyage is made usually in less than nine days. By rail he went to Buffalo, N. Y., and thence to Spencerville, Ohio, by Lake Erie and canal, and as, upon reaching Spencerville, the water was frozen so thick that further progress by that means was prevented, he walked to Mercer county, returning with a team and wagon for his baggage, and the lady that afterward became his wife, she having accompanied him across the sea. Her name was Sophia Schmidt. She was born in Germany June 3, 1832, and the marriage occurred January 10, 1855, only a few days after their arrival in Mercer county. To this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Mena, wife of John Hoenie, of Hopewell township; August, a farmer of the same township; George, who died at three years of age; John F., of Hopewell township; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Brach, living near Tamah, Mercer county; Fredericka, wife of Frederick Rahn, of Jefferson township; Charles, living on the home place; and Anna, wife of John Luth, of Dublin township.

Mr. Frahm located on a farm which he rented in Hopewell township, and at the same worked by the day at anything he could find to do, saving enough to buy a farm of forty acres in 1855, for which he paid $200. Upon this little farm he built a log house, into which he moved the next year, and here he has lived ever since, though not in the same log house. The land he bought was school land, and he had sixteen years to pay for it in, so that, with the small payment he made down, it was comparatively easy for him to pay for his farm. In seven years after his arrival in Mercer county he sent for his father, and in nine years for his father-in-law, both of whom located on land which the subject of this sketch now owns. After the death of his father-in-law, his mother-in-law lived with him seventeen years, when she died. The wife who came with him from Germany, and to whom he was married in Mercer county, died in February, 1889. On January 5, 1893, he married Rebecca Campbell, a daughter of John and Mary (Bradford) Campbell, she having been born in Highland county, May 22, 1840. Her father was a native of Maryland and her mother of Massachusetts. The latter, when eighteen years old, was brought to Ohio by her parents, they locating at Chillicothe, where she was married, and afterward she and her husband removed to Highland county. Still later they removed to Dublin township, Mercer county, and there Mr. Campbell passed the remainder of his life, occupied as a farmer and as a blacksmith, dying in 1886, his wife having died in 1884. Five of their children still survive, viz: Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, of Rockford; Sarah, widow of John Exline; Harriet, wife of William Sutton, of Nebraska;

Thomas, of Nebraska, and Mary, the wife of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Frahm is one of the most popular men in his township, as is sufficiently evident from his having been elected commissioner of the county in 1877, notwithstanding he was not a candidate. He has probably done as much for the county as any man living in it, as he built the first turnpike in the county, and caused all the wooden bridges to be taken down and replaced by iron ones. In 1858 he caused to be erected a log church building at what is known as Frahm's corners, and in 1881 he was the leading spirit in having erected at the same site a brick building for the church, at a cost $5,016.75, which is a great improvement. This church is known as Frahm's Lutheran church, so named in honor of Mr. Frahm. He has always been a stanch democrat in politics, and is in every way one of the best citizens of Mercer county. He has given three of his sons each a farm of eighty acres, but the boys are to pay their sisters $600 each, the youngest son, however, to pay $1,200.

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GRANVILLE FREEMAN, a prominent farmer of Liberty township, Ohio, was born March 25, 1829, and is a son of Daniel and Mary (Wells) Freeman. Mr. Freeman springs from patriotic stock, his grandfather, Daniel Freeman, having served in the Revolutionary war.

Daniel Freeman, son of the Daniel last named above, and father of the subject, was born in North Carolina, in 1775, was reared a farmer, and about 1800 married Mary Wells, a daughter of John Wells. By this marriage he became the father of six children, as follows: Jesse, born in North Carolina, now deceased; John, Daniel, Alfred, William, all deceased; and Granville, the youngest of the family, and the only one now living. In 1804 Daniel Freeman emigrated from North Carolina to Dubois county, Ind., where he entered a tract of government land, upon which he built a log house, and cleared up his farm from the primeval forest. Later he removed to Randolph county, Ind., where he lived until 1830, when he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, settling near Fort Recovery. Entering a tract of land in Washington township, he cleared up his farm and upon it spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1849. As a democrat he was elected justice of the peace and township clerk, holding office continuously for many years. He was a man of scholastic attainments, and taught the first school ever taught in Liberty township and also in Washington township. He was a successful farmer, a liberal supporter of public enterprises, and, though not a member of any church, was a man of excellent character and enjoyed the confidence of all who were acquainted with him. His wife was born in North Carolina in 1776, of English parents, and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her death occurred in 1859.

Granville Freeman was reared on a farm in Mercer county, and educated in the little log school-house of pioneer days. Farming was chosen as his life occupation, and he has adhered to it to the present time. In 1852 he married Elizabeth Robison, a daughter of Henry and Lydia (Death) Robison, and to this marriage there have been born the following children, as follows: Jacob N., of Miami county, Ind.; Milton J., of Mercer county, Ohio; Mary, wife of Edward Herron, of Mercer county; Dora, wife of George Helmer of Mercer county, deceased; and Martin M., deceased. There were also born to this union four children, who are also deceased, viz: Missouri, Margaret, Lewis and Henry. The mother of these children was born in Highland county, Ohio, May 25, 1829, her parents having been natives of Delaware, and of English ancestry on both sides. They were early settlers of Highland county, and members of the Friends' church. Soon after his marriage Mr. Freeman settled on a farm in Washington township, and in 1854 removed to Highland county, remaining there two years, and then removing to Fayette county, returning to Mercer county in 1865. In 1864 Mr. Freeman enlisted in company F, One Hundred and Sixty-eighth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, was mustered in at Camp Dennison, and took part in the battle of Cynthiana, Ky., where he was captured by the rebel general, John Morgan, was paroled and sent home. Being exchanged and sent again to Kentucky, he participated in the battle of Nashville, and also that of Lookout Mountain. Serving until September, 1865, he was then honorably discharged, and now receives a pension for injuries received during the time he was a Confederate prisoner.

Returning to the farm after the war, Mr. Freeman has ever since been identified with agricultural interests in Mercer county. He is now a member of Dolph Gray post, No. 449, G. A. R., and of the Friends' church. Early in his life he was a democrat, but since the war has been a republican, and by his party friends has been elected to several local offices. He is one of the oldest pioneers of Mercer county, an honored and respected citizen, a firm friend of the ex-Union soldier, and well deserves a place in a history of this kind. Few men, if any, in Mercer county have more friends or stand higher in the estimation of the community than does Granville Freeman.

PHILLIP FREY, a prominent and progressive farmer of Granville township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Germany, near the river Rhine, January 12, 1839. He is a son of Frederick and Margaret (Stagler) Frey, the former of whom was a native of the same place, born in 1812, and was the son of a tailor.

Frederick Frey was reared on a farm, was well educated in Germany, and in 1835 married Margaret Stagler, who was born in 1815 in Prussia. To their marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Phillip, the subject of this sketch; Frederick, a carpenter of Fort Washington, Ohio; Katie, deceased, formerly Mrs. Myers; Mary, widow of Jacob Wendell, of Saint Peter's, Ohio; Jacob, a brewer of Minster, Ohio; William, a farmer of Kansas, and John, who died in infancy. Frederick Frey followed farming in Germany until he came to the United States in 1851, landing in this country on August 15, of that year, and locating in Mercer county, where he purchased forty acres of woodland, upon which he erected a log cabin, without floor or windows, and began the laborious task of clearing up a farm. Upon this farm he passed the remainder of his life. At the time of his arrival in this county wolves and deer abounded in every direction, and there were no neighbors but the natives of the forest. These neighbors, however, were always friendly to them. Politically Mr. Frey was a democrat, in religion a Catholic, and his death occurred in February, 1868. His wife lived with the subject of this sketch after the death of Mr. Frey until her death, January 20, 1879.

Phillip Frey was reared on the farm in Germany, and was there educated, learning to read and write English by his own efforts after coming to the United States. In 1860 he went to Cincinnati and there worked in a foundry until 1862, when he returned to his home, and on November 23, 1863, he was married to Angelica Kraush, daughter of Henry and Mary (Christ) Kraush. To this marriage there have been born six children, as follows: Mary, living at home; Katie, wife of Peter Hein, of Sebastian, Ohio; Jacob, a clerk in Celina; Lena, Lizzie and Charley, all three at home. Angelica Kraush was born in Germany December 2, 1841, and was brought by her parents to this country when three years old. Her parents settled in Seneca county, and she was reared in that county and in Mercer county.

After his marriage Phillip Frey settled on the home place, which is directly across the road from his present farm. To the home farm he added until he now owns 190 acres of good land, 120 acres of which are under cultivation. Living on the home farm until 1885, he then moved to his present home. While Mr. Frey is a general farmer yet he buys stock to a considerable extent, buying and shipping by the car load, his principal market being Cleveland, Ohio. In 1885 he erected a fine, large brick house, two stories high and ninety-six feet long. His barn he erected in 1881, and beside these two fine buildings he has made many other improvements on his farm. Politically he is a democrat, and as such has held the office of township trustee for fourteen years, beside holding other local offices. He belongs to no secret society. He is a good citizen, eminently successful and respectable, and is well known as one of the foremost, most prosperous and progressive farmers in the county. As a Catholic he has held several of the offices of his church, and is as highly esteemed in church circles as in business and social circles. In every relation Mr. Frey is reliable and trustworthy, and is esteemed as one of the best citizens of the community.

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CHARLES FRISINGER, a prominent young farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, born in that township November 25, 1867. He is a son of Nathan and Jane (Ryan) Frisinger, mention of whom may be found in various parts of this volume.

Charles Frisinger was reared on a farm, and on October 15, 1887, was married to Miss Norma Amanda Hayes, a daughter of Lewis D. and Harriet (Shingledecker) Hayes, and to their marriage there have been born two children, as follows: Homer Crayton and Hazel Marie. The mother of these children was born in Dublin township, January 15, 1868, and was there reared and educated. Her father, Lewis D. Hayes, was a son of Harrison and Sally (Webb) Hayes, and was born in Dublin township, November 29, 1833. Harrison Hayes was born in Fayette county, in 1803, and was a son of David Hayes, a native of Kentucky, and an early settler in Mercer county, locating there when Harrison Hayes, the eldest son of the family, was a small boy.

Harrison Hayes was reared on the farm, was educated in Mercer county, and, though a farmer, had a mechanical genius which could not be suppressed. One trade seemed to be as easy to him as another, and he was proficient in all. He married Sally Ann Webb, a daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Johnson) Webb, and to them were born the following children: Lewis, father of Mrs. Frisinger; Amanda J., wife of Philip Davis, of Bradford, Miami county; Shelby, who resides on the home farm with his mother; and Malvina, wife of George J., Siler, of Mercer. Sally Ann Webb was born in 1809, and after her husband's death married Eli Compton, and is still living on the old farm. Harrison Hayes died about 1860. He was a prominent man, held the office of township trustee a number of terms, and was an official at the time of his lamented death.

Lewis D. Hayes was reared on the farm, was educated in Mercer county, and in 1855 married Harriet Shingledecker, a daughter of Abraham and Rebecca (Hoover) Shingledecker.

To their marriage there were born the following children, as follows: Glendora, deceased; Jackson, died in infancy; Owen, died at the age of twenty-seven years, ten months and ten days; Frances, wife of Franklin Shaffer, of Van Wert county; Bird, wife of James Hickernell, of Union township; Norma, wife of the subject of this sketch; Perry, at home. The mother of these children was born in Clermont county, January 1, 1834, and when two years of age was brought to Mercer county by her parents. Full reference is made to her family history in biography of Jacob Shingledecker on another page. After his marriage Mr. Hayes purchased a farm in Dublin township, on which he lived until 1864, when he then sold and purchased his present farm of eighty-one acres, which was then partially cleared. He is a democrat in politics and has served on the board of education a number of years. Though he is principally engaged in general farming, he has been for several years engaged in raising pacing and trotting horses, and in every way he has been a successful man, and is highly appreciated by all.

Charles Frisinger, the subject of this sketch, has lived on his present farm ever since he was married. He is a democrat in politics, and has been a member of the township school board for a number of years. Mrs. Frisinger is a member of the Church of God. Mr. Frisinger is a progressive young man, and is setting a most excellent example to young men, who seem to have such a strong desire to leave the farm for the city, perhaps because there is some work attending successful agriculture, forgetting, however, the incomparably independent life that a farmer leads, and forgetting, apparently, that as the years roll round more and more intelligence is needed on the farm, because of the improved methods of cultivation, of fertilizing, and of raising live stock of all kinds.

JACOB FRITZ, harness dealer and one of the representative business men of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in the town of Lauderacken, province of Rhinepfalz, kingdom of Bavaria, now a part of the German empire, June 14, 1852, a son of Jacob and Barbara (Heil) Fritz.

When the subject of this biography was nine years of age he came alone to America and joined his parents, who had settled at New Bremen, Auglaize county, Ohio, where they still reside, although the father for many years was a farmer in Shelby county, Ohio, where he still owns 210 acres of land, but has now retired to pass his days at New Bremen, where he has had his permanent residence since 1893, he and wife being well advanced in years. They had born to them twelve children, of whom two died in infancy; those who grew to maturity were born in the following order: Fritz (our subject), Adam, Lena, Charles, Philip, Eliza, Minnie, Emma, August and Flora.

Jacob, our subject, had been reared by his grandfather until his departure for America, and after his arrival here lived with his parents until fourteen years old, when he entered the employ of Dr. Arnis at New Bremen for a year, and then, at the age of fifteen began an apprenticeship at harness-making. Having fulfilled his contract with his instructor or boss, he worked as a journeyman until 1882, when he opened a shop of his own at New Bremen and conducted it until 1884, when he came to Rockford and succeeded to the business of Jacob Ehret, which he has since conducted with the most flattering success. He carries a full line of harness, saddles, whips, robes, blankets, gloves, trunks, oil, and in fact everything usually kept on hand in a well ordered harness store, his salesroom being in the opera block, on South Main street. Although the concern, when he first took possession of it, was a somewhat insignificant affair, he has converted it into one of the most complete of the kind in northwestern Ohio and commands an extended line of trade.

Mr. Fritz married, July 15, 1875, Miss Catherine Barie, a native of his own province in Bavaria, and who was born May 4, 1856, in Hœringen, canton Winweiler, Rhinepfalz, Bavaria, a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Korb) Barie, who came to America with a brother in 1872. To this union have been born six children, in the following order: Catherine, wife of Frank Wistermann, of Rockford; Minnie, at home; Edward; Bertha, who died at the age of three years; Philip and Thirza. Of these, Catherine is a member of the Presbyterian church, while Minnie affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The father of Mrs. Fritz died in Europe in 1879, but her mother is still living in her native land. Mr. and Mrs. Barie had born to them a family of nine children, named as follows, in order of birth: Jacob, Frank, Peter, Valentine, Catherine (Mrs. Fritz), Philipine, John, Theressa and Henry, of whom four came to America, viz: Jacob, now a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio; Peter, of Buffalo, N. Y.; Catherine, now married to Mr. Fritz, and Philipine, of Cincinnati, Ohio. The political predilections of Mr. Fritz are with the peoples' party, and he has served in the town council six years; fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, and is a very popular gentleman socially, as well as in his business relations.

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CHARLES C. GABLE, the leading contractor and one of the representative citizens of Celina, Ohio, is a native of Clark county, Ind., having been born at Charlestown, that county, May 13, 1850. He is a son of Charles and Margaret (Hargood) Gable. Charles Gable was a native of Germany, and his wife was of French descent, but was born in Baltimore, Md. By occupation Charles Gable was a contractor, both before and after he came to the United States. He was born in 1812, and came to America some time after the 'thirties. At first he located at Louisville, Ky., and thence removed to Charlestown, Ind., where he died in 1860, when the subject of this sketch was but ten years of age. His widow survived him until 1889, and then died in her seventy-fifth year. To Charles Gable and his wife, Margaret, there were born thirteen children, five of whom still live, as follows: John, of Muncie, Ind., where he is superintendent of the Whitely Annealing works; Alexander, now trustee of Hartford City, Blackford county, Ind., of which city he served as postmaster under President Harrison; Lizzie, widow of W. W. Smith, superintendent of the Kansas City telephone system; Mary, wife of R. A. Roberts, secretary of the Kansas City, Kans., Medical college, and Charles C., the subject of this sketch.

Charles C. Gable was reared at Charlestown, Ind., until he reached his tenth year, and then, in 1860, his mother removed her family to Celina, Ohio, where he has since remained. The most of his education he has received in the public schools of Celina, living at that time with Abner Davis. After acquiring sufficient education and attaining to a sufficient age, he began teaching school in Mercer county, and followed that profession until about 1875, when he began the work of contracting and building, which he has continued ever since. During the twenty years in which he has been thus engaged he has erected about seventy houses in the city of Celina alone. He also erected the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, the Citizens' Bank building, all of the Hierholzer buildings, the old opera house, the Wyckoff building, the residences of Dr. Hattery and S. S. Snyder, the Catholic school-building and the Pulskamp furniture buildings. Besides all this Mr. Gable served as mayor of Celina two years, clerk of the corporation fourteen years, township clerk six years, and six years as a member of the school board. He is the originator of the Building & Loan association, of which he served three years as president, three years as secretary, and one year as a director. He is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. He has served as captain of the guard of the uniform rank of the Knights of Pythias, and has filled all the chairs. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Celina, and has always been prominent in fraternity work, in every lodge or organization to which he has belonged.

Mr. Gable was married December 30, 1875, to Miss Mary E. Stuck, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, but was reared in Celina. To them there have been born three childred, as follows: LeRoy, Ernest and Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. Gable are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are regular attendants and active workers in their church.

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HENRY GAST, a prominent citizen of Chickasaw, Mercer county, Ohio, who has been variously but always successfully employed, was born in Minster, Auglaize county, March 4, 1844. His father, Peter Gast, was born in Germany in 1814, was reared on a farm and at an early age came to the United States, landing in New York and going thence direct to Cincinnati, where for some time he labored at whatever his hands could find to do. In time he he removed to Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, where his father, Andrew, who was with him at the time, bought thirty acres of wooded land, which Peter cleared in part, and then bought forty acres more, which he also cleared in part.

Peter Gast married Theressa Allermann, a native of Germany, by whom he had the following children: Joseph, Henry, Denigh, Clara, Mary, and Anna, the latter dying in infancy. At the present time Joseph, Henry and Clara are all living and married. Denigh and Mary are dead, having married and leaving families at their death. The mother of these children died in 1850, and in due course of time Mr. Gast married Mrs. Mary Annakink, a widow with two children, Joseph and Elizabeth, both of whom are married. Mrs. Annakink had at the time of this marriage 120 acres of land in Auglaize county, and to this land of his second wife Mr. Gast moved his family, and began there the occupation of farming. Some time later he sold this 120-acre farm and purchased a fertile eighty-acre farm, with a good house made of brick, and other outbuildings in fair condition. Upon this latter farm he lived for some time, adding to the improvements and making the farm a better one than when he bought it. This farm he later sold and bought town property in Minster, Auglaize county, where he afterward went into partnership with F. Gast in the dry-goods business, in which the firm met with gratifying success. Still later he purchased eighty acres of land near Chickasaw, upon which he began to make improvements, such as the erection of a brick house, etc., and not long afterward bought a store at Cold Water. Then, retiring from business, he gave everything to his children, and died at Celina in 1884. By his second wife he had the following children: Barney, August, Fenerit, Clemens, Katie, and Susanna, the latter dying in infancy. Clemens is also dead, the others being married and living. Peter Gast was a man of strong convictions, but of straightforward honesty, and tolerant of the opinions of others. He, as well as both of his wives, was a member of the Catholic church.

Henry Gast, the subject of this sketch, secured his education in the common schools, and at an early age began to learn the trade of shoemaker. Afterward he went to work on the farm, the old homestead, and also worked for some time in a brick-yard. He then established himself in business at Chickasaw on his own account, but, selling this business, he started a livery stable and ran a saw-mill for ten years. Still later he again went into business on his own account, erected two or three buildings, and was engaged in the management of an elevator. In whatever business he has been engaged he has always been successful, being a man of unusual sagacity and enterprise. At the age of twenty-three, in 1878, he was married to Miss Mary Schweitmann, of Sebastian, Mercer county, by whom he had twelve children, as follows: Louis, Regina, Rosa, Frank, Julius, Henry, Mary, Benjamin, Mary and John, and two that died in infancy. Louis, Benjamin, Mary and John are also dead. After the death of Mr. Gast's first wife, the mother of the above-named children, he was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Steltzer, by whom he has one child, Leo, born May 1, 1895. Mr. Gast is a democrat and is a member of Sebastian Catholic church. He is one of the public-spirited, liberal-minded men of Chickasaw.

Mrs. Elizabeth Steltzer was a daughter of Anthon Rushe, a native of Germany, who married Agnes Gostpole, of the same country. By this marriage he became the father of three children, viz: Barney, Agnes and Elizabeth, the first of whom is dead, the others living. The father of these children died in 1842, and the mother afterward married Henry Dersen, after coming to the United States and settling in Auglaize county. She died November 10, 1885. Elizabeth, the third of the above-named children, first married Matthew Steltzer, who died October 25, 1884. By him she had four children, as follows: Tony, Isabella, Victoria and Oscar. Her first husband having died she then married Henry Gast, the subject of this sketch, with whom she is living in Chickasaw. Mr. Steltzer was and Mrs. Gast is a Catholic. Mr. and Mrs. Gast are most excellent people, and are living in a comfortable home in Chickasaw, surrounded by people who know them, and who honor them for their sterling characters and for their kind-hearted and friendly dispositions.

HENRY GOECKE, the subject of our memoir, was born July 18, 1851. John B. Goecke, his father, was born in Germany, May 29, 1826. At an early age he came to America with his parents, landing in the city of Baltimore in 1835, coming thence direct to Auglaize county, Ohio, where he located. At the age of fifteen years he began to learn the carpenter's trade with Mr. Dickman at Minster, which he completed, becoming, also, a expert wood carver. He bought fifty acres of land where the town of Saint John is now located. In November, 1849, he was married to Miss Mary Asman, a native of Germany; to them were born the following children: Henry, our subject; Elizabeth, married; Katherine, unmarried; Agnes, married; Annie, unmarried; John, deceased; one that died in infancy; Rosa, unmarried; John, married, and Joseph, unmarried.

John B. Goecke, was a reliable democrat in politics, and a member of Saint John's Catholic church. He was successful as a carpenter, and made the original altar for Saint John's church, at Saint John, and that for Saint Mary's church at Casella, and left his family in good circumstances, notwithstanding that, in 1850, his new two-story dwelling, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire, with no insurance, and that he had been a very liberal and charitable man. He died in 1885. His wife is still living on the old homestead, a good and consistent member of Saint John's Catholic church.

Henry Goecke, the immediate subject of this memoir, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio. At an early age he learned the carpenter trade, at which he was uniformly successful. In the year 1883 he began business at Saint John as a dealer in furniture and as a undertaker. On May 16, 1876, he was married to Miss Katie Pulskamp, and the following children have been born to them: John H., born June 20, 1877, died July 18, 1878; Justina, born May 19, 1879; Edward, born June 1, 1881; Herman F., born March 23, 1883; Agnes M., born July 16, 1885, died April 15, 1888; Albert J. B., born October 7, 1881, died June 26, 1888; Clara A., born April 1, 1889; Anna M. F., born October 24, 1891; Martina B., born February 1, 1894, died June 18, 1894; Hildegard, born November 8, 1895.

Mr. Goecke owns a farm of twelve acres, besides a brick-yard in full operation. He furnished the brick for Saint John's church, and also for the convent. He has held the office of township treasurer for about twelve years; he is also treasurer of Saint John's Catholic church, of which he is a devout member, and is held in high esteem by his friends and neighbors.

Katherine Pulskamp, the wife of our subject, was born September 10, 1855. Herman Pulskamp, her father, was born July 25, 1830, in Matzen, Germany. He was reared on a farm, and when fifteen years of age came with his father's family to America, landing in the city of New York. From this city he went to Saint Peter's, Ind., and in 1848 moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, when he learned the wagon-making trade. He was married in that city, in 1852, to Miss Mary Schaffer, a native of Germany, and a devout member of the Catholic church. To this union were born the following children: Katie, wife of our subject; Herman, married; John B., married; Bernard, married; George Edward; Mary, Louie, Josa, and Frederick, the last four deceased. On July 1, 1886, his wife entered into rest. Two years later, in 1888, he again married, taking as his wife Miss Mary A. Frey, a native of Germany, and a devout member of Saint Mary's Catholic church. In political affiliation Mr. Pulskamp is a democrat, in religion he professes the Catholic faith, and is a faithful member of Saint John's church. He came from Cincinnati to Saint John in 1861, where he still continues, plying his trade industriously. He has filled the office of justice of the peace for several terms, and also that of township clerk. In 1875 he was elected county treasurer, and in 1876 removed to Celina to take charge of his office. In 1882 he was chosen as probate judge, and again chosen for a second term. He has also served as school director, and as councilman. His education was acquired in the schools of Cincinnati. August 21, 1891, at Celina, he was gathered to his fathers, in the sixty-first year of his age, full of honors, mourned by his family, and greatly respected by his neighbors.

Katherine Pulskamp resided with her parents until her marriage with Mr. Goecke; she is a devout member of Saint John's church.

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J. B. GOECKE, the subject of this memoir, was born June 12, 1858, in Saint John, Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, was reared on a farm, and experienced the usual vicissitudes of a pioneer farmer's boy; he was sent to the district school upon arriving at the proper age, for a limited period during the winter months, and acquired a fairly good common-school education. During the spring and summer months he, of course, assisted in the labors of the farm, and continued to work for his father until the age of thirty-five years. In 1885 he undertook the management of the tile yard of his mother, with eminently satisfactory results, for some eight years. In the year of 1893, while a resident of Saint John, he learned the shoemaker's trade, and is now carrying on the boot and shoe busines in Saint John, and is the only cobbler in the place, and by his fair dealing, and genial manner, has made a success in this line. He is now the owner of considerable real-estate, including three dwellings in Saint John. November 29, 1882, he was married to Miss Annie Vehorn, and to this union have been born the following-named children: Freddie, born in 1884; Julian, born in 1886; Elenore, born in 1887; Rosina, born in 1888, deceased; Jane, born in 1891; Leah, died in infancy, and Vincent, born in 1895. Religiously, Mr. Goecke is a devout member of Saint John Catholic church and politically is a stanch democrat. Mrs. Goecke is also a faithful member of Saint John's Catholic church.

Annie Vehorn, the wife of Mr. Goecke, was born in Marion township, February 7, 1864, and lived with her parents on the home place until her marriage. Barney Vehorn, her father, was born in Saint John in the year 1840, and reared on his father's farm of 100 acres; he lived and labored thereon until his marriage to Miss Lizzie Bercke, who was born in Marion township. To this couple was born the following children: Annie, wife of our subject; John, Mary, Christine, and Rosa, all married; Philomena; Ennice; Ferdinand; George, died in infancy; and Edward, who also died in infancy. Barney Vehorn is still a resident of Saint John, a liberal-hearted citizen respected by all, and a consistent member of Saint John's Catholic church, of which his wife was also a devout member.

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NATHANIEL T. GRIFFIN, a prominent citizen of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Union township, that county, January 18, 1849. He is a son of Claudius C. and Betsey Elizabeth (Arnold) Griffin, who were married in Van Wert county, in 1838, and to whom there were born thirteen children, viz: Eunice, deceased; Hannah; John A., deceased; Lucinda, deceased; Benjamin, deceased; Nathaniel T.; George F.; Martha J.; Rachel; William, deceased; Priscilla, Mary Isabelle and Ida.

Nathaniel T. Griffin was reared on a farm, received a good common-school education, followed farming, and also learned the blacksmith trade, at which he worked for a time. He was married to Miss Annie J. Dobson, daughter of Joseph A. and Eliza Ann (Ripka) Dobson, December 18, 1873. To this marriage there were born three children, viz: William Walter, Addison Glenn and Carper. Mr. Griffin lived upon his farm in Union township until 1881, when he sold it and purchased the farm on which he now resides in Center township. He has been a successful farmer, a straightforward, honorable man, and is highly respected wherever he is known. While living in Union township he served as township trustee and has also served as school director. In politics he is a republican and in religion a member of the Church of God.

The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Annie J. Griffin, was born in England, and early in life emigrated to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania. While living there he invented a machine to spin cotton, which had fifteen spindles, which he loaded into a wagon and started with to Washington, D. C., to secure a patent therefor. While on his way he was waylaid and murdered, the purpose of the murderers it is thought, being to steal his invention and themselves to procure the patent. However, the patent, if ever obtained, was of but little value to the murderers.

Claudius C. Griffin, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ohio on the north bank of the Ohio river in 1813, where his father, Benjamin Griffin, owned and operated a grist-mill. During a flood in 1815 or 1816, this mill was swept down the river and totally destroyed, together with its contents. Benjamin Griffin thereupon immediately removed to Champaign county, Ohio, and entered land on what was known as "Darby's Plains," upon which land thus entered he remained for fourteen years. Then he sold and removed to Van Wert county, where, in 1831, he entered a tract of land. After remaining on this Van Wert farm for some years he sold it to his son, Benjamin, and went to Kansas about 1855 or 1856, and remained there about two years, when he returned to Van Wert county, where he died a short time after his return, at the great age of eighty-four years. The name, as every one familiar with Welsh names knows, is indicative of a Welsh origin for the family, and in this case Benjamin Griffin, whose life has thus been briefly sketched, was a son of Benjamin Griffin, who emigrated from Wales at an early day in the history of this country, settled on a farm in Pennsylvania, and there followed farming, it is believed, all his life.

Claudius C. Griffin was reared on the farm, was educated in a subscription school, preferred the Free Will Baptist church, as to religion, but as there was no organization of that denomination near him, united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and subsequently with the Church of God. He is a supporter of the republican party and a thoroughly good and honest man.

ANTON B. GROTHJAN, senior member of the firm of Grothjan & Hein, Celina, blacksmiths, wagon manufacturers and dealers in buggies and carriages, was born in Minster, Auglaize county, O., September 12, 1859. His parents were John and Agnes Grothjans both of whom were natives of Osnabruck, Germany, and came to the United States about 1845. They at first located at Saint Louis, Mo., and after spending some time in that city removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, whence they at length removed to Minster. Here Mr. John Grothjan helped to construct the old Miami canal, by which he earned sufficient money to purchase a farm of sixty acres, upon which he began farming and followed that occupation the rest of his life. He died in 1875 in his seventy-second year, and his widow, who still survives, is in her seventy-ninth year. Both were members of the Catholic church, and were the parents of ten children, four of whom still live, as follows: John, of Shelby county, Ohio; Caroline, widow of Joseph Housfeld, of Minster, Ohio; Barney, of Minster, and Anton B., the subject of this sketch.

Anton B. Grothjan was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the district schools, in both English and German. When sixteen years of age he began an apprenticeship to the blacksmith trade at Minster, and served three years. After finishing his apprenticeship he still remained at Minster one year, and in 1879 removed to Celina and entered the employ of William Cron, with whom he remained two years and a half. For some time after this he worked for Barney Grieve, but soon returned to Mr. Cron, with whom he remained until 1886, when he went into business for himself. When retiring this time from the employment of Mr. Cron he had been with him altogether seven years and ten months, and had acquired great skill at his trade in all its departments, and a full knowledge of the business.

Upon establishing himself in business he formed a partnership with John Hein, and they began where they are still located, on Main street, two doors north of the city hall. They own the buildings in which their business is carried on, and the ground on which they stand. These buildings consist of a frame shop 28x50 feet in size, and a two-story brick building forty feet square, in the rear of the frame. The front shop is used for the blacksmithing department, while the two-story brick in the rear is utilized for the wood working and painting departments, and as a repository for buggies and carriages. The business of this firm is on a substantial foundation and is honestly and fairly conducted, by which means they have gained the confidence of the surrounding community to a remarkable degree. Honest work and honest dealing must in the nature of things make business friends.

Mr. Grothjan was married February 1, 1883, to Miss Rosa Leifeld, who was born at Saint Henry's, Mercer county, Ohio. To their marriage there have been born five children, as follows: Agnes, Jerome, Eulalie, Lucile and Harold. Mr. Grothjan is a member of the German Aid society, and he and his family are members of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic church.

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HENRY LEWIS GROVE, a prominent and progressive farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Washington county, Md., August 7, 1837. He is a son of Henry and Margaret (Spickler) Grove, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, September 13, 1807, his father, John, being also a native of Pennsylvania and of Holland descent. John Grove was a wealthy land owner of Washington county, Md., and married Barbara Fultz, of Frederick county, Md., but of German descent. To John and Barbara Grove there were born seven children, Henry, the father of the subject of this sketch, being the first born. He was a very prominent man in his county, was highly regarded as a man and was a Mennonite in religion.

Henry Grove was brought up on his father's farm, was educated in German in Maryland, and married in 1834 Margaret Spickler, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Bergener) Spickler, the parents of the former of whom came from Switzerland in 1817, and settled in Bucks county, Pa., where Frederick was born. His great-grandfather on his mother's side was scalped by Indians, and her father also met with the same cruel fate. Henry Grove and his wife, Margaret, were the parents of the following children: Martin, a carpenter and traveler, now living in Iowa; Henry Lewis, the subject of this sketch; Samuel, deceased; Mary, wife of Enoch Thomas, a farmer, carpenter and justice of the peace of Noble county, Ind.; John, a farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, and Margaret, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Bucks county, Pa., was educated in the German language, and by her own efforts acquired a knowledge of the English language. She was an unusually intelligent woman, was much respected, was a Lutheran in religion, and died December 8, 1878, nearly seventy-two years of age.

After their marriage Henry Grove and his wife lived in Maryland until 1843, when they removed to Knox county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade, that of carpenter, and also on a farm. In 1865 he removed his family to Mercer county, where two years before he had purchased seventy-five acres of land that was entirely covered with timber and of course wholly unimproved. Upon this farm he passed the remainder of his life, clearing and improving the land and building such structures thereon as were needed to protect his family and his stock from the elements, and dying March 9, 1879. In religious faith he was a member of the Lutheran church, in politics a democrat, and took an active and prominent part in political affairs. He held the office of township trustee four terms, and such other offices as he was willing to fill.

Henry Lewis Grove was reared on the farm, and was educated in the Knox county common schools, and later in the high school of Fredericktown. In 1861 he began teaching school in Morrow county, and afterward taught twenty-two terms in Black Creek township, Mercer county, twelve of which terms were in one district, and in the meantime was carrying on his farming operations. He was married May 7, 1878, to Mary Ann Allison, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, July 8, 1846, a daughter of John F. and Emily Jane (Thorpe) Allison. To this marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Anthony, deceased; Hulda, born April 16, 1881; Clara, born January 28, 1883; Mary Elizabeth, born April 1, 1885; Margaret Arabelle, born November 18, 1888; Henry Byron, born February 2, 1890; and John Frank, born May 4, 1894. After his marriage Mr. Grove settled on his present farm, and has lived there ever since. Beside carrying on his farming operations, he has taught school, and is one of the most successful teachers, as well as one of the most progressive farmers, in the county. Politically he is a democrat, and has held the office of township trustee, but is not in any sense of the word an office-seeker. He is at present a member of the Christian church, and is superintendent of the Sunday-school, having held that position for many years. In him the church has a strong friend and an active supporter, he being always ready to aid in any manner or in any thing whatever that may need assistance.

John F. Allison, father of Mrs. Grove, was born, in 1816, in Pennsylvania. His father was Thomas Allison, a native of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. He was a farmer by occupation, and married Mary Ann House, by whom he became the father of twelve children, John F. being the second in order of birth. John F. Allison was reared on a farm, was well educated, and for several years worked at the shoemaker's trade. He also for several years kept a saloon. He removed in his boyhood days with his parents to Perry county, Ohio, where he married Emily Jane Thorpe, daughter of James Reuben and Sarah (Peach) Thorpe. To this marriage there were born eleven children, as follows: Nelson, deceased; Sarah Ellen; Cornell, deceased; Mary Ann; James Reuben, a farmer of Black Creek township; Willis Albert, a farmer of Black Creek township; Benjamin Franklin, of Black Creek township; Charles, deceased; Thomas, deceased; John, deceased; and Mina, wife of Daniel Woollet, of Black Creek township. Sarah Thorpe, the wife of James Reuben Thorpe, was born in Perry county, Ohio, in the year 1826.

After his marriage John F. Allison located and lived for some years in Perry county, and in 1849 removed to Mercer county. Here he entered eighty acres of government land, which he cleared and improved, and to which he added eighty fertile acres more. To this latter eighty-acre tract he moved his family and lived upon it until his death. Early in his life he was a member of the Baptist church, but later he united with the United Brethren church. He was always prominent in his church, and was for a time class-leader and steward. His wife was also a member of this church, and was in every way an excellent woman. She died in March, 1874. Mr. Allison was a democrat in his political belief, and, like his father, who served in the war of 1812, was always a man of strong love of country. He was a very industrious man, and by his own careful management accumulated a comfortable property. He was a man liberal in his views and charitable in disposition. His death occurred in August, 1877. Mrs. Grove was educated in the public schools of Mercer county, and took care of her parents during the later years of their lives. It may be said, also, that she reared three of the younger children. She is a member of the United Brethren church, and is a true, good and affectionate wife and mother.

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ALBERT GULDE, a prominent merchant of Saint Henry, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Germany, April 3, 1834, and is a son of Anton and Elizabeth (Fles) Gulde. Anton Gulde was born in the same place in 1796, was reared and educated there, and in his youth learned the cabinet-maker's trade, and became a maker of fine furniture. He married Elizabeth Fles, who was born in 1795, and by her he had nine children, as follows: Fiedel, a farmer of Germany; Frances, deceased wife of Martin Hauck, a farmer of Germany; Helen, deceased wife of Fritz Ott; Sophia, deceased; Franz, deceased; Anna, deceased; George, deceased; Albert, the subject of this sketch; and Magdalena, deceased. Anton Gulde was a wealthy land owner, his property descending to his eldest son in accordance with a law of Germany, which also prevailed in many European countries, but no trace of which was found in Roman law. He died in 1848, a member of the Catholic church. His wife died, when the subject of this sketch was six years old, in 1840.

Albert Gulde was reared on a farm by an elder sister, was educated in Germany, but acquired a good knowledge of the English language after he left the schools in Germany. When he was fourteen years old be began working for his living, learning the shoemaker's trade, and having completed his apprenticeship in two years, then went to Switzerland, where he worked at his trade during the years 1849 and 1850. Then, on account of a law having been passed in Germany, which provided that any German who remained in Switzerland should forfeit all his property in Germany, he returned to his native country in November, 1851, and located on the line between Wurtemberg and Bavaria, in the town of Leikisch, where he remained two months, and then, being out of work, he made a tour all through the northern part of Germany, passing through many of the most important cities and towns, in search of work, traveling on foot. Among the cities and towns visited in this way were the following: Ulm, Stuttgart, Heilbrun, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Coblenz, Hamburg, Mecklenburg, and North Hauser, in which latter place he worked seven years, or until he came to the United States. Going to Bremen in September, 1858, he there embarked for this country on the Bremen, a vessel commanded by Capt. Weisel, and made the voyage across the ocean in thirteen days—a remarkably quick trip for that day. Landing in New York, he remained there three days, and went thence to Philadelphia, where he worked at his trade two years. Then, passing through Cincinnati and St. Louis, he went to New Orleans, where he worked until after the fall of Fort Sumter. The Confederates then tried to draft him into the rebel army; but, being unwilling to served in the Confederate cause, he left New Orleans the same evening they tried to draft him, and came up the river to Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade until the following September, on the 15th of which month he enlisted in the Seventeenth Missouri volunteer infantry, and joined his regiment at Saint Louis. Thence he went to Sedalia, his first battle being that of Pea Ridge. He was also in a battle on the Little Red river, another at Cotton Plant, going from there to Fort Jackson and Helena. His regiment was in the siege of Vicksburg, but he was then sick in hospital at Mound City, whence he went to Memphis, where he joined his regiment. Going then to Corinth and to Chickasaw Station, he was afterward in the following engagements: Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, the battle of Atlanta, and at Jonesboro. Here he received orders to go to Saint Louis, and he was there discharged, having seen three years' hard service in the army of his country. He was a sharpshooter six months, and during this time he was slightly wounded at Resaca, Ga., but otherwise he was not injured, neither was he ever taken prisoner, nor sick in hospital, except for about three months.

Having been discharged from the army, in September, 1864, Mr. Gulde returned to Ohio and worked at his trade in Cincinnati about six years. On September 20, 1865, he married Sophia Slusser, who was born in Carthagena and who is a daughter of Frank Anton and Dorothea Slusser. To this marriage there were born ten children, of whom three grew to maturity, as follows: Sophia, deceased wife of J. J. Roemer; Josie, living at home, and Adelaide. The mother of these children died in 1885, after which Mr. Gulde lived a widower seven years.

In 1870 Mr. Gulde went to Covington, Ky., where he started a notion store and also worked at his trade. In 1876 he went to Carrollton, Ky., bought a house and lot, and there opened a notion and dry-goods store, remaining there engaged in business twelve years. In 1884, on account of ill health, he left Kentucky, located at Saint Henry, Mercer county, Ohio, bought his present place, and embarked in the general merchandise business, and has ever since been profitably engaged therein.

September 7, 1892, he was married to Mrs. Frances Murtz, née Schroeder, who had one daughter, Katie. Mrs. Murtz was born in Saint John's, October 22, 1862, and was reared in Sebastian. She is a daughter of Frederick and Katie Schroeder. To this second marriage of the subject there has been born one child, Otto. Politically Mr. Gulde is a democrat, and while living in Carrollton, Ky., served as a member of the board of education; and, as a Catholic, as trustee of his church. He has always been a hard-working, industrious man, and has enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-citizens to a remarkable degree. Since residing at Saint Henry Mr. Gulde has been a member of the board of education.

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JOHN ALT a prominent farmer and an honored citizen of Liberty township, Mercer county, was born in Oberalben, Germany, November 29, 1838, and is a son of Frederick and Mary E. (Keller) Alt, the former of whom was born in Ulurch, Bavaria, in 1781, and was a son of George and Catherine Alt. Frederick Alt was reared on a farm, educated in Germany and lived at his birthplace until about 1820, when he married Mary Elizabeth Keller, who was born in Oberalben, Bavaria, in 1800. To Frederick and Mary E. Alt there were born ten children, as follows: Frederick and Adam, both of Liberty township; Jacob, an engineer of Syracuse, N. Y.; Elizabeth, widow of Mr. Weuer of Germany; John, the subject of this sketch, and others to the total number of ten, that are deceased. After his marriage Frederick Alt settled in Oberalben, and followed farming until his death in 1864, his wife having died in 1850. Both were excellent people, of good character, and of high repute among all who knew them.

John Alt, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm in Germany, and on June 14, 1854, started alone for the United States, so far as relatives were concerned, but in company with another family, which afterward located in Michigan. Having been on the ocean fifty-seven days he also went to Michigan, where he remained one year, working by the day. Then, after working in the salt works in Syracuse, N. Y., he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, where he worked by the day until August, 1862, when he enlisted in company F, Ninety-ninth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, joining his regiment at Lima, and participating in the battle of Stone river, and being discharged November 17, 1863, on account of physical disability, at Louisville, Ky., where he lay in the hospital four months.

Returning home he resumed his labors, and was married October 25, 1864, to Louisa Kable, a daughter of Christian and Dorothea (Maurer) Kable, and to them were born seven children, as follows: Sophia, wife of Valentine Brehm; John, educated at Columbus, and living at home, but, through brain fever, now deaf and dumb; Phœbe, a mute, is now in school at Columbus, Ohio, and four others that died in childhood. The mother of these children was born in Fechingen, Prussia, September 27, 1841, and when yet a child was brought by her parents to Mercer county, Ohio, where she was educated in both German and English, and was a member of the Lutheran church. She died March 28, 1892. Mr. Alt next married, April 13, 1893, Rachael Hoene, a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Good) Hoene, and to them one child, Henry Frederick, was born December 21, 1893. Rachael Hoene was born in Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, September 18, 1864, and lived with her parents until her marriage.

John Alt, previous to his first marriage, bought his present farm, then consisting of eighty acres of woodland, upon which he built a log house, living with his father-in-law while it was being erected. This farm he has cleared and improved, and now has under cultivation fifty-three acres of that original farm. Since then he has added to it eighty acres, which at the time of purchase was partially cleared, and he now has a total of 160 acres of land, 108 of which are in a high state of cultivation. In 1874 he erected a frame barn and in 1876 a fine frame house. In 1890 he erected a second barn, and in every respect has a splendid farm, well improved with excellent buildings and other conveniences. While Mr. Alt was formerly a democrat he is now a populist, and has served as trustee of his township for a number of years. As a member of the German Reform church he takes an active interest in church work. He is a member of Dolph Gray post, No. 329, G. A. R., and is highly esteemed by the members of the post.

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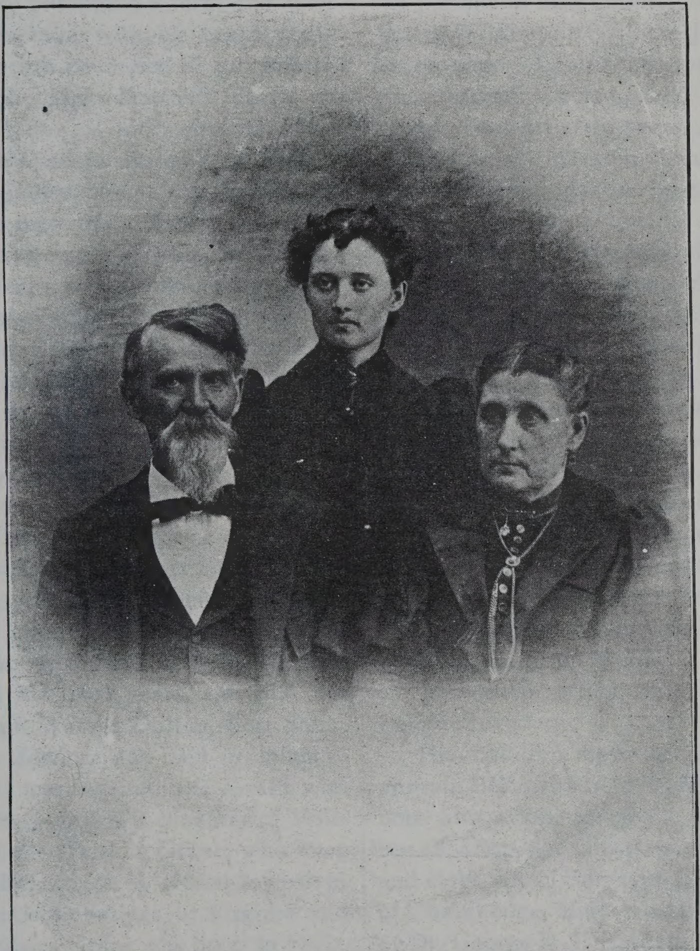
JAMES W. DUTTON, formerly a prominent farmer, now retired, and living at Mendon, Mercer county, Ohio, was born on the Still Water, Miami county, Ohio, November 3, 1833. He is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Smith) Dutton, natives respectively of Highland county, Ohio, and Virginia, the former of whom was born in 1819. Jonathan Dutton was reared in his native county to young manhood, and then removed to Miami county, where he remained until 1834, when he became a resident of Union township, Mercer county, opening a tannery there, which he conducted till his death in 1877, aged fifty-eight years. When he reached Union town-



JAMES W. DUTTON. SARAH C. DUTTON.
PEARL LEOTA DUTTON.

ship there were but very few inhabitants, and almost no conveniences or even necessities. Milling he was obliged to do at Piqua, but before his death great changes were made in every respect. After carrying on his tannery for some years he purchased a farm and managed that in connection with his tannery, and when he died he was possessed of a comfortable competency. Mrs. Dutton's death occurred in 1858. By his first wife, Elizabeth Smith, Jonathan Dutton became the father of two children—James W., our subject, and Thomas J., who grew to manhood, but is now deceased. To his second marriage, which was with Louisa Rider, a son, John M., was born, and is a farmer of Neptune, Mercer county. By his third wife, Nancy Edge, was born Elizabeth M., who became the widow of Sylvester Ellis, and later of Marion Archer. His fourth marriage was with Barbara Hines, whose children all died young.

James W. Dutton, the subject of this sketch, passed his boyhood days in learning the business of a tanner with his father, and in attending school as opportunity afforded, which was not often or long at a time. In 1857 he married Elizabeth Chittington, who lived afterward but two years, and who left one child, Joseph Watson Dutton, born January 5, 1859, at Mendon, and died in infancy. Mr. Dutton next married Sarah C. Grant, who was born in 1844, and is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Taylor) Grant, who were among the early settlers of Union township, and were respectively natives of Virginia and Maryland. William Grant was born in 1800, and came to Ohio at an early day, settling at Cedarville, Greene county. About 1853 he removed his family to Union township, where he had purchased forty acres of unimproved land. Here he made a good home for his family, added to his land, and died well to do, confining his attention to farming all his life. He died March 27, 1883, aged eighty-three years. Mrs. Grant died seven weeks later, also aged eighty-three. They had been married sixty years, and both were for many years members of the Church of God. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Mrs. James W. Dutton; William Jackson, who died at the age of forty-five years; Jesse Witte, who married Lucinda Coil, and died at the age of about fifty-two years, and left six children—Livonia, Hester, Charles, Isom, Cora and Elizabeth; Martha Jane, widow of Nimrod Rice, who afterward married Samuel Shipley; Mary Elizabeth, who married William Beaty; Margaret Ann, who married Lewis A. Barber, and Lucinda Adelaide, who married John J. Martin. John Taylor Grant and James Madison Grant died in their infancy.

About 1861 Mr. Dutton began farming, has been engaged in that vocation ever since, and has in addition been largely engaged in mercantile business and in running a hotel. The first hotel in Mendon was erected by his father, and it was conducted by our subject at several different times. From time to time, as he had opportunity to purchase, he has kept adding to his land, until now he owns 269 acres, and it is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

His children have been as follows: Sophronia Bell, who married Moses S. Hamilton, bore him a son, Lee Ivan, and died September 18, 1892, aged thirty-one years, five months and eight days; Elizabeth Luella, a resident of of Chatanooga, Mercer county, Ohio, and wife of Dr. George R. Hagerman; William Edward, a business man of Mendon; Thomas Wallace, of Mendon, and Pearl Leota, the latter being the only one not married. Mr. and Mrs. Dutton resides in one of the finest homes in Mendon. He has the following brothers and sisters living: Elizabeth M. (Dutton) Archer, of Delaware, Ohio; and John M. Dutton, of

Neptune, Mercer county, who served all through the war in the Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer cavalry, as a drummer. Both stand high in the estimation of the people of their respective communities, as do also Mr. and Mrs. Dutton, the subject of this brief sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. Dutton hold to the faith of the Church of God, and he also held membership in the Masonic order for many years.

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JEFFERSON ANDRESS, a retired farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., November 15, 1827. He is a son of Henry and Polly (Fry) Andress, the former of whom was born in Maryland in 1800, and was of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. The parents of Henry both died when he was but nine years old, and he was then brought up by a Mr. Jacob Stem, of Pennsylvania. For a time he was overseer of a gang of negro slaves, for while Pennsylvania had provided for gradual emancipation of her slaves, yet there were slaves in that state for several years after that time.

Henry Andress, about 1819, was married to Miss Polly Fry, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1791, and to them there were born ten children, as follows: Eliza, deceased wife of Jacob Tilton, of Ashland county, Ohio; Polly Ann, wife of Samuel Green Brown, of DeKalb county, Ind.; Angeline, deceased wife of William Smith, of the same county; William, deceased, formerly a farmer, of Ashland county, Ohio; Louisa, deceased wife of John D. Jones, of the same county; Jefferson, the subject of this sketch; David, a farmer, of DeKalb county, Ind.; Samuel, of Hayesville, Ashland county, Ohio; Emeline, wife of George Simington, DeKalb county, Ind.; and Henry, of Ashland county, Ohio. After his marriage Henry Andress moved to Ashland county, in 1828, and there rented a farm, upon which he lived forty years. He then bought the farm, and a year afterward sold it for $6,000, making $2,000 on the transaction. He then bought fifty-eight acres near Hayesville, Ashland county, upon which he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1870. In politics he was a democrat, and was a captain of a company of militia. He was a member of the Dunkard, or German Baptist, church, and his wife was a member of the Lutheran cnurch. She died in 1879. A sister of Henry Andress, named Katie Shroeder, is now living in Indianapolis, and a brother of Mrs. Henry Andress was a Lutheran preacher.

Jefferson Andress was reared on the farm and educated in the log school-house, in Ashland county, having a puncheon floor and seats, and greased paper, instead of glass windows, the fireplace being the entire width of the house. For some time he was engaged in teaming from Pittsburg to Ashland, to Mansfield and to Milan. On December 8, 1853, he married Miss Melvina Figley, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Springer) Figley, and to them there were born nine children, as follows: Flora Ann, wife of Dord Felver, of Black Creek township; Mary Aminta, wife of John William Addy, also of Black Creek township; Lorin Franklin, who died at the age of one year; Sarah Jane, who died when two years of age; Nettie Louisa, wife of Jerry Johnson, of Black Creek township; Ida, wife of Frank Harb, of the same township; John Henry, on the home farm; James H., a saw-mill man, and Truman J., who died at the age of one year. The mother of these children was born in Ashland county, and died in April, 1881. After his marriage Mr. Andress lived in Ashland county until the spring of 1863, when he removed to Mercer county, and located in Black Creek township, where he had previously purchased eighty acres of land. His land not being cleared, he rented another piece and began clearing his own, moving to it in 1865. On September 26, 1864, he enlisted in company G, Sixty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the close of the war. Notwithstanding that he enlisted late in the struggle, he participated in three battles—on April 2, at Richmond; at Rice Station, and on Sunday morning, April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, being directly in front when Lee surrendered. He was in the hospital from June until September, on the 26th of which last month he was discharged, and arrived at his home on the 28th. Being then out of health for the next two years, he had to hire his work done, being able to oversee it only.

On January 8, 1885, he married Mrs. Margaret (Albert) Coppersmith, a daughter of John and Catherine (Cutchall) Albert. She was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, July 16, 1828, her father being a native of Maryland and her mother of Virginia. She has three sisters and one brother living, as follows: Samuel, of Mount Vernon; Elizabeth, of the same place; Mary, wife of Levi Shoch; and Barbara, widow of John March. John Albert was a democrat and a soldier in the war of 1812–15, and his wife was a member of the Lutheran church. The subject's wife, previous to her marriage with him, was married to Michael Horn, to whom she bore seven children, of whom Harriet is the widow of Charles Weaver, of Van Wert county; Eliza is the wife of Noah Stettler, of Black Creek township; Catherine is the wife of Willis Stettler, of the same township; and Mahala is the wife of John Plants, also of the same township. Michael Horn was born in Pennsylvania, March 2, 1814, was married July 14, 1840, and died January 30, 1863. In 1864 Mrs. Horn married Richard D. Coppersmith, who died December 20, 1880, at the age of forty-five years, five months and thirteen days. He was a merchant of Black Creek township. To this marriage there were born three children, as follows: Margaret, deceased; Clara Virginia, of Black Creek township; and James Monroe, also of the same township.

Jefferson Andress built his present house in June, 1893. Notwithstanding he has experienced a great deal of sickness he has been unusally successful as a farmer. He is a democrat in politics and served as township trustee for eighteen years. While he was reared to accept the faith of the Dunkard, yet he has never united with any church, though his wife is a member of the United Brethren church. He is a member of Dolph Gray Post, No. 329, G. A. R., of Rockford. He is a man of peace and justice and has never been sued, nor has he sued any man, and he has never had a quarrel with a neighbor. He is a general farmer, and one of the best and most popular men in his township.

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L A. BARBER, justice of the peace of Union township, Mercer county, and one of the oldest continuous residents of the township, was born therein in October, 1833. He is a son of Amos M. and Ominda (Brown) Barber, both natives of the state of New York and of Irish descent. Amos M. Barber was a farmer, and removed from New York to Ohio about 1828, settling in Union township, Mercer county, purchasing 137 acres of land, and afterward adding to this purchase 160 acres, which he pre-empted from the government. Beside clearing up and improving his farm, he began and completed the study of medicine, and practiced medicine in connection with his work upon the farm. Everyone familiar with pioneer life knows that in a new country there is great need of a physician, from the fact that many diseases are peculiar to a country uncleared and undrained, such as fevers and malarial disorders. His farm demanded great attention and much hard labor in order to fit it for a desirable abode; but he was a man of great energy and industry, and by persistent effort at length brought it under subjugation, and had a good farm well drained and cultivated. Every difficulty he encountered he overcame and every obstacle he removed. His death occurred in 1851 when he was fifty-five years of age. His wife died some years before, aged forty-five.

Esquire L. A. Barber is the fourth of a family of seven children. His early days were spent upon the farm and in acquiring what little education he could up to the age of sixteen. At this time he engaged to drive an old-fashioned threshing machine in summer, and in winter he learned the milling business. The first separator ever owned in Union township was brought here by him, from Piqua, and he continued to thresh in the summer and fall, and to follow milling in the winter, until 1856, when he exchanged his threshing interests for a grist-mill, which he conducted until 1879, when he was elected justice of the peace, a position which he has filled ever since. In this connection it is proper to state that 'Squire Barber's father brought into Union township the first buggy ever seen within its limits. 'Squire Barber was the first mayor of Mendon, a position which he filled for seven years, and then resigned. He also served as a member of the school board for twelve years, and always has taken great interest in educational matters. In every election when he has been a candidate for justice he has been elected by a larger majority than anyone else on the ticket, a fact which speaks loudly for his popularity. In December, 1883, Mr. Barber engaged in the hotel business, which he is still conducting, and also ran a livery business, the latter, however, being turned over to his sons in 1895.

In 1852 Mr. Barber was married to Mary Ann Ricketts, a daughter of John Ricketts, a resident of Mercer county. She died in 1856, leaving one child, Susan Beaghler, a resident of Versailles, Ohio. In 1857 Mr. Barber was married, the second time, to Margaret Grant, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Grant, natives of Virginia, but who came to Ohio at an early day, locating first in Greene county, removing thence to Franklin county, and finally to Mercer county, where Mr. Grant successfully followed farming until his death, which occurred in 1880, when he was eighty years of age. Mr. Grant served for several years as constable of Union township. Mrs. Grant died the same year as her husband, aged eighty-three. To this marriage there were born five children, as follows: Clarence, Frank (deceased), Mrs. Libbie Parrott, Mrs. Minnie Sibert and Charles, all those who are living being residents of Mercer county. Mr. Barber is a member of the order of Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a stalwart republican, and he owns the hotel property before mentioned, a fine residence property in Mendon, and also a farm near that village. Mr. Barber has a fine memory and is full of reminiscences of pioneer days, with which he delights to entertain his friends. He is one of the representative citizens of the county, has many friends, as is shown by his success at the polls, and is in every way a worthy citizen of Union township and Mercer county.

**ADAM BOLLENBACHER, Sr.**, one of the most prominent farmers of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Batersbach, Bavaria (the official name of which is, in German, Bayern), January 10, 1840. He is a son of George and Henrietta (Alt) Bollenbacher, who brought their family to the United States when Adam was twelve years of age. They settled in Mercer county, Ohio, and there young Adam aided his father to clear of a farm, remaining at home until he was twenty years of age, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, at which he continued to work in Mercer county, Ohio, and in Indiana, for twelve years. On April 9, 1863, he married Christina Koch, a daughter of John and Emma (Schear) Koch, and to them have been born thirteen children, as follows: Jacob, who married Effie Strable, and is living in Liberty township; George, who married Carrie Miller, and is also living in Liberty township; one that died unnamed in infancy; Adam, who married Maggie Mildenberger, and lives in Van Wert county; Andrew, who married Kate Zilinger, and is living in Liberty township; Edward, who died in infancy; Charles, living at home; Phebe Caroline, who died in infancy; Mary Henrietta, Christina Caroline, Joseph Frederick, Amy and Benjamin, all at home, and John, who died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Fangelbach, Bavaria, November 17, 1845, and was brought to the United States when three years old. Her father was born February 1, 1814, and died in February, 1892. His wife was born in the same place as he was, December 19, 1813, and is still living in Mercer county. Their children were and are as follows: Susanna, who married John Bowers, of Liberty township; Lena, who married Joseph Harb, of the same township; Christina, wife of the subject; Andy, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Kate, wife of Frederick Schaadt, of Liberty township; Mary, wife of Adam Schaadt, deceased; Phebe, wife of Phillip Schaadt, of Van Wert county.

During the first two and a half years after his marriage Adam Bollenbacher, Sr., lived on the farm belonging to his father-in-law, in the meantime buying eighty acres of land upon which he is now living. All of it was at the time covered with timber. This timber he began to clear, and he also erected a log cabin, into which he moved at the expiration of the two years and a half mentioned. Five years later he bought forty acres more, and on this purchase, in 1872, he erected a saw-mill, which he purchased from Joseph Gagley, of Auglaize county, and this mill was run for about twenty-two years under the firm name of Bollenbacher & Baker, and then it was sold to Almandinger & Bro., of Chattanooga, Ohio, to which place it was removed in the fall of 1895. On his farm, in 1873, he erected a large barn, and in 1875 a fine, two-story frame house, 20 x 38 feet in size, and a wing 27 x 30 feet, which he has kept up in the best of repair, and which makes a most comfortable and pleasant home for himself and family. Since the purchase of the forty acres mentioned above Mr. Bollenbacher has made two other purchases, one of eighty acres, the other of twenty acres, and now he has 220 acres of land, 130 acres of which are under a high state of cultivation. Upon this farm he follows general farming and raises stock, also buying and feeding stock for the market. As a democrat he has held several local offices, and as a member of the Evangelical church he has long been an active worker in the cause of religion. He is a prominent man, a public-spirited citizen, and is highly respected by all who know him.

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CHARLES BOLLENBACHER, one of the most prominent farmers of Mercer county, Ohio, and also at present one of the commissioners of the county was born in Bayern, Prussia, formerly Bavaria, October 18, 1845. He is a son of George and Henrietta (Alt) Bollenbacher, the former of whom was born in the same place November 21, 1800. George was a son of Nicholas Bollenbacher, a farmer and land owner, who died in 1849 at the age of seventy-seven. Nicholas Bollenbacher was the father of six children, as follows: George, Margaret (Mrs. Henry Kuhn), Adam, deceased; Jacob, of Germany; Catherine (Mrs. Heintz) of Dayton, deceased; and Abraham of Germany.

George Bollenbacher was reared on a farm in Germany and there learned the weaver's trade, weaving bed-ticking and linen. About 1828 he married Henrietta Alt, who was born in Germany, in June, 1805. To George and Henrietta Bollenbacher there were born eight children, as follows: George, of Liberty township; Catherine, wife of Frederick Kable, of Liberty township; Jacob, died in infancy; Jacob and Adam, both of Liberty township; Caroline, widow of Jacob Baker, of Liberty township; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Peter, who died in youth, in Germany. For some time after his marriage George Bollenbacher followed his trade in Germany and also worked on a farm, coming to the United States in 1852, being on the ocean twenty-six days—a rather quick passage for that time. In June of the same year he located in Mercer county, Ohio, and bought the farm on which the subject of this sketch now lives, which then contained 132 acres of land, covered over with timber. With the aid of his boys he began to clear the farm, and on this farm he lived until 1889, when he died, highly esteemed by all as an industrious, hard-working and upright citizen. He was a member and a regular attendant of the Evangelical church, of quiet disposition, genial and pleasant, and had many friends. From 1867 he lived with the subject of this sketch until the time of his death. His wife is still living with the subject, is ninety-one years old, and is a member of the Evangelical church.

Charles Bollenbacher, the subject of this sketch, is a well educated man, having acquired both the German and English languages. Farming has been his occupation throughout his life, and in this vocation he finds full scope for all the knowledge he has acquired. He was married May 12, 1865, to Catherine Elizabeth Baker, a daughter of John and Barbara C. (Weidman) Baker, and to this marriage there have been born ten children, as follows: John, who married Phebe Schaadt, and is living at home; Henry G., who married Sophia Kessler; Caroline L., wife of William Kessler; Anna Henrietta, who died in infancy; Louisa Maria; Margaret Henrietta, wife of Andrew Schaadt; Mary, who died at the age of five years and two months; William F., who died when four years old; Katie Maria and Hulda Lena, both in school.

Barbara C. Baker was born in Shelby county, Ohio, July 1, 1845, her parents being natives of Germany. Her father was born in November, 1809, and died in February, 1888. His wife, whom he married in Pennsylvania, and who was born February 27, 1812, died in December, 1864. They were the parents of six children, who still survive, as follows: Maria, widow of John Becher, of Liberty township; Philip, of Montgomery county; Jacob, deceased; Catherine Elizabeth, wife of the subject; William, of Adams county, Ind., and Henry, of Black Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Baker located first in Shelby county, and in 1853 removed to Mercer county, where they both died. They were Lutherans, and Mr. Baker was formerly a whig, in later life a democrat.

Charles Bollenbacher has lived on his present place ever since his marriage. In 1876 he erected a large barn, and in 1886 his present fine brick house. In 1893 he erected another barn, and now has most excellent improvements of every kind upon his farm. Sixty-six acres of his place are under cultivation, and on this land he carries on general farming, and raises stock to some extent, principally hogs. In 1885 he started a brick-yard, which he continued until 1893. For several years he has held offices in the Evangelical church, of which he and his entire family are members. As a democrat he was elected a commissioner of the county in the fall of 1895, and he has also held the office of trustee of his township six years. The office of treasurer he has held two years, besides which he has also held several minor offices. He is one of the most highly respected farmers and citizens of his township, always ready to aid any worthy public enterprise, and to help the needy. He and his worthy wife are among the best people in Mercer county, highly esteemed and popular, and surrounded by a large circle of friends.

**JOHN CHIVINGTON**, deceased, was of Scotch-Irish descent and one of the earliest settlers of Mercer county, Ohio, having come here with his family May 12, 1820. He first purchased a pre-emption right of Samuel Hanson, which covered eighty acres, on which Hanson had erected a log cabin and broken four acres, and which was located in section No. 25, Dublin township. Mr. Chivington filed his right in November, 1821, added by purchase eighty adjoining acres to his pre-empted eighty—100 of the 160 being now in the hands of Granville E. Chivington—and on this land he made his home, farming until his decease.

John Chivington, the father of the gentleman whose name opens this biography, was a native of Ireland, as was also his wife. Both were brought to America when children, were reared partially in Ohio, and here met and married, and passed the earlier part of their married life in Washington county. They had three children, viz: John, our subject; Isaac, who passed his life in Butler county; and Sarah, who married John Doty. Their eldest child, John, our subject, was born in Butler county about 1791, and there reared to manhood. He served in the war of 1812 as wagon-master, and later married Miss Rebecca Breese, daughter of Timothy and Eliza Breese, who came of an old New England family. In 1820, as stated, he came to Mercer county, and, being a democrat, was made one of the first trustees of his township. He was a member of the United Brethren church, was one of the solid men of the county, and died May 12, 1837, at the age of forty-six years; his widow survived him until 1862, when she was laid to rest in the same religious faith. They had born to them a family of eight children, in the following order: Isaac, a shoemaker, who died in Mercer county; Joseph, a resident of Dublin township; William and Samuel, deceased farmers of Mercer county; Granville E., on the old homestead; John, a trader, who died in Paulding county; Martha, deceased wife of David Raudebaugh, of Mercer county; and Mary J., deceased wife of David Ayers, also of Mercer county.

Joseph Chivington, the second child of John and Rebecca (Breese) Chivington, was born September 1, 1818, in Butler county; Ohio, but was reared in Mercer county, and was educated in the subscription schools of his neighborhood. He was first married in 1839—an event which will be alluded to further on. He took charge of the home farm, which he managed with a masterly hand, and cared for his mother until her death. Having in the meantime lost his wife, he decided, on the death of his father, to remove west, and reached as far Iowa, where he remained ten months, but then returned to Mercer county and purchased 100 acres of improved land in Union township, on which he resided about three years and then traded for a hotel in the village of Mercer, and this he conducted for six years, proving to be a genial and hospitable host. He next purchased eighty acres of land in section No. 23, Dublin township, to which he has added 100 acres, making a compact farm of 180 acres, all of the improvements on which he has himself made, it being now one of the most fertile and productive farms in the township. For a number of years Mr. Chivington here most successfully followed general farming and stock raising, but he now leads a retired life; leaving the management of the farm to his son, John.

Mr. Chivington was first united in matrimony, June 13, 1838, with Miss Mary J. Perry, daughter of John Perry, of the state of Delaware; this lady died in 1854, leaving six children, viz: John, who operates the home farm; Isaac, a farmer of Center township; Elizabeth, deceased wife of James E. Dutton, of Union township; Rebecca, wife of Aaron Tullis, of Mercer, Dublin township; Samuel, also, of Mercer village, and an infant, deceased. The second marriage of Mr. Chivington was solemnized in January, 1855, with Miss Magdalene Webb, who died April 30, 1874, leaving one child—Ella, deceased wife of George Pond, of Dublin township. Mr. Chivington has always been a democrat in his politics and has filled most of the township offices, taking much interest in the progress of his township and county, and doing much for the promotion of the public welfare; he is never behindhand in his contributions to measures of worth and general utility, and stands to-day among the foremost of the substantial and useful citizens of Mercer county.

John Chivington, the first born child of Joseph and Mary J. (Perry) Chivington, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, September 12, 1847, was reared a thorough farmer, was educated in the public schools, and assisted his father in his farm work until twenty-eight years of age, when he engaged for four years in the sewing machine business; he next conducted a livery establishment in Rockford for five years, and then returned to his father's farm, of which he has since had the management. In politics he was, like his father, formerly a democrat, but has found a reason for changing his political views and now affiliates with the people's party, of which he is a member of the central committee and has represented in several conventions. He is very popular throughout the township, and is now serving his second term as a member of the board of township trustees.

The marriage of Mr. Chivington took place February 21, 1884, with Miss Lydia Yant, a native of Dublin township, Mercer county, and a daughter of John and Mary Yant. This union has been blessed with one child, Leah Dove. Mr. and Mrs. Chivington are members of the Methodist Episcopal church—of which he is a steward and class leader—and both stand very high in the regards of the community. He is very liberal in church support and is a strong friend of public education, and is universally recognized as a useful and public-spirited citizen.

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GRANVILLE EDMONSON CHIVINGTON, of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born on the homestead he still occupies in section No. 25, Dublin township, May 6, 1828, a son of John and Rebecca Chivington, who were among the earliest settlers of Mercer county, coming in 1820, and of whom a biographical memoir is given on a preceding page of this volume. The family is of Scotch-Irish extraction, John Chivington, grandfather of our subject, having come from Scotland, and the maternal grandfather from Ireland, both being children when brought to America by their respective parents.

Granville E. Chivington is the oldest native-born resident of Dublin township, being now over sixty-seven years of age. His boyhood days and early manhood were passed amid pioneer scenes, and he was early inured to the hardship of clearing away the dense growth of forest trees that encumbered the land and retarded agricultural operations—and he has done his share in laying bare the fields of this part of the county. He was educated in the backwoods schools of his early days, but, being nine years of age only when his father died, his assistance was needed in caring for the family, and thus his educational advantages were abridged and his youth shorn of many of the enjoyments incidental to that period of life, and instead there were thrust upon him many of the duties and cares of manhood, which, however, he cheerfully performed, but subordinately, in a measure, to other members of the family, until his marriage, when he assumed charge of the entire estate on his individual account and began buying out the interest of the other heirs, soon becoming sole owner. He has always followed farming, with the exception of a short time given to merchandising, and that he has been successful is proven by the fact that he still retains 100 acres of the old homestead, in section No. 25, owns twenty acres in section No. 36, and has given his two sons 152 acres on the opposite side of the river from his own residence—all in Dublin township.

Mr. Chivington was married, January 12, 1853, to Miss Jane McIntire, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, November 11 1833, and who died in Mercer county, July 24, 1893, the mother of three children, viz: William G. E., born October 27, 1853, and now a farmer of Dublin township; James E. who was born March 14, 1857, and died January 4, 1859, and Thomas R., born July 1, 1859, also a farmer and resident of Rockford. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Chivington is a pillar, having been for years a leader in its work. In politics he is a stanch democrat and has always been one of the most active and progressive men of the county and has ever been unfailing in his aid to every project designed for the public weal—contributing freely of his time and means toward building up the churches, schools, public institutions and roads in his township and outside of it. The family is much honored throughout the country, and the name of Chivington is everywhere recognized as synonymous with those of integrity and respectability.

William G. E. Chivington was united in marriage February 1, 1878, to Miss Frances A. Frisinger, daughter of Nathan and Jane (Ryan) Frisinger (see sketch of Frisinger family). They have two sons and three daughters—Clara, Granville E. ("Doc"), Mollie, Jennie and Charlie. Thomas R. Chivington was married to Miss Fannie Roebuck, daughter of Benjamin and Susan (Timmons) Roebuck. They have as on and daughter—Catharine and Paul.

ELI COPELAND, a young and progressive farmer, of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a highly respected citizen, was born in Auglaize county, April 16, 1854, and is a son of Wesley and Mary Ann (Perkins) Copeland, of Center township, of whom a full biographical sketch is given on another page of this volume, in which will be found the genealogy of the Copeland family from as far back as the settlement of the state of North Carolina under Charles II, of England, if not as far back as the time of Charles XI, of France, in whose honor the state was originally named.

Eli Copeland was an infant of six months when brought by his parents from Auglaize county to Mercer county, and here he was reared to manhood on the home farm in Center township and educated in the common schools, but receiving, nevertheless, a very good course of instruction. At the age of twenty-one years he entered upon his business career as a farmer on his own responsibility, and in the spring of 1881 purchased a partly improved farm of eighty acres in section No. 19, Dublin township, where he made all necessary improvements and which he placed under an excellent state of tillage, and on which he has since made his home. Here he devotes his attention to general or miscellaneous farming and stock raising, eighty acres of his farm being under actual cultivation. Being a skillful agriculturist and well trained to his vocation, he has met with the success that naturally results from the possession of these essentially good qualities—added to which he is imbued with much of the vim and energy that characterized his maternal relative, the famous rebel general, John Morgan, but, happily, his enterprise turns in a different direction from that of the noted cavalryman and raider.

The marriage of Eli Copeland took place, the first time, September 28, 1876, with Miss Carlie Real, a native of Athens county, Ohio, who died September 30, 1889, at the age of thirty-three years and the mother of five children, viz: Addie F., Birdie M. (deceased), Henry and Asa, at home, and an infant son, deceased. The second marriage of Mr. Copeland occurred May 12, 1892, with Mrs. Mary (Real) Howick, daughter of John and Sarah (Jones) Real, and a native of West Virginia, born April 11, 1854. This lady was first married to Robert Howick, a son of Stephen Howick, one of the early settlers of Mercer county. Robert Howick met with a sudden and untimely death by a stroke of lightning, June 19, 1889, leaving, to mourn his loss, his widow and six children, named Harry (deceased), Mertie, Christie, Menthan (deceased), Bessie, and Jennie (deceased). In politics Mr. Copeland is a stanch republican and is recognized as one of the most public-spirited men of Dublin township, and his constant efforts toward its improvement are cordially acknowledged. He is the friend of good roads, goods schools and good morals.

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J. F. DISHER, the well known general merchant and buyer of grain and seeds, at Mercer village, in the county of Mercer, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in the village of El Dorado, Preble county, July 2, 1855, a son of Peter and Elizabeth J. (Fudge) Disher, who are of English descent and still reside in El Dorado, where the father is engaged in farming.

J. F. Disher was reared on the home farm and was educated in the public schools, and shortly after he had passed his majority left the paternal roof and for six years was employed as clerk in the general store of C. Schreel, at El Dorado, and then purchased a stock of goods and for about one year conducted business on his own account in the same village. He then, in 1885, came to Mercer and succeeded to the general merchandise trade of H. Davis, which was then inconsequential, but which he has since developed into a business of considerable importance. About 1890 he associated with himself C. B. Thompson in the grain and seed business, and during the term of this partnership, together erected the elevator at Mercer. In December, 1894, Mr. Disher succeeded to the entire business and now carries a very extensive and well assorted stock of general merchandise—a better line, indeed, than is usually found in country stores—has made additions and improvements to the elevator, and handles about 200 car-loads of grain annually, giving his entire attention to the two branches.

The marriage of Mr. Disher took place at El Dorado, in March, 1875, with Miss Marie Saylor, who was born in that village and is a daughter of Joseph Saylor. This marriage has been blessed with four children, who were named, in order of birth, as follows: Martin E., Virgin M., Jennie and Orville. In politics Mr. Disher is a prohibitionist, is strictly upright and honorable in his dealings, and in the business view of the term is indisputably a self-made man, having begun at the very bottom of the ladder of trade and now standing on the topmost rung. What he owns he has the proud consciousness of having earned, and he has now the satisfaction of being one of the solid business men of Mercer village and one of the most respected citizens of the county.

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EARNEST A. TICKLE.—Among the many influential and progressive farmers living about the prosperous village of Rockford, Earnest A. Tickle must be mentioned. He is a son of John and Emiline (Stettler) Tickle, the former of whom was born June 17, 1824, in Montgomery county, Ohio, not far from the beautiful city of Dayton. His grandfather was Jacob Tickle, who spelled his name Tickel, a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch parentage. By trade he was a cooper, and about 1823 he located in Montgomery county, where his five children were born, viz: John, mentioned above; Mary, deceased wife of Jeffy Stettler, deceased; Peter, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Moody, of Van Wert county, now deceased, and Margaret, the wife of Fred Freshner, of Montgomery county. About 1840 he moved his family to Mercer county, where he entered forty acres of government land located near the county line. This was then all a native forest, and it took many weeks of hard toil from early to late to clear away the heavy timber and to make a habitable place, but after many privations and sacrifices his reward came in seeing a fine farm stand where but a short time before stood the giants of the forest. On this farm he lived the rest of his life and prospered. In politics he was a stanch democrat.

John Tickle was reared on the old farm in Montgomery county and there received his education and worked some time at the cooper trade, following in the footsteps of his worthy father. About 1844, four years after his removal to Mercer county, he married Emiline, the daughter of Jacob and Rosanna (Sharets) Stettler, who was born in Mercer county in 1826, her father being a native of Pennsylvania, who had in the earliest days of Mercer county's existence come here and was among its early pioneers. Her mother was born in Virginia about 1810, and came to Montgomery county with her parents in the very early days of its history.

After marriage Mr. Tickle brought his young wife to this township, where six children were born to them, as follows: Phebe, who died in infancy; Jacob, who died in April, 1894; Earnest Alfred, the subject of our sketch; Rachel Ann, who died in girlhood; John M., a farmer in Willshire township; and Margaret, the wife of Joel Bolenbaugh, of Liberty township, Van Wert county. In 1857 the wife and mother died and the father married a second time, choosing this time Elizabeth Frisinger, and to them two children were born, namely, Peter, of Liberty township, Van Wert county, and Jane, the wife of Daniel Lindermoot, of Van Wert. His second wife died, and the father's third marriage was with Ruth Ann

Colliard, by whom he had no children. Death again visited his home and took from him his companion, and he this time chose Salome (Temple) Jewel. In 1875 Mr. Tickle removed to Ohio City, where he still lives, but retains his farm in Liberty township, Van Wert county. He is a self-made man, and a prosperous, liberal and public-spirited citizen. In politics he is a democrat and has served as township trustee for six years.

Earnest Alfred Tickle, our subject, was born on September 22, 1849, in this county, and here received his education. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm. On January 9, 1873, he married Christina, the daughter of Jeremiah and Clarissa (Grubb) Vian, a sketch of whose lives will be found on another page. Christina (Vian) Tickle was born in Knox county, Ohio, September 6, 1852, but spent her childhood days and grew to womanhood in Mercer county, whither her father had moved when she was an infant. After her marriage the young couple went to live on his father's farm, where they lived for two years; then he bought a farm, but soon sold it and bought another, on which he lived four years, and then sold out again and bought another near the county line, where he lived for two years. In 1882 he moved to the center of the township and went into the grocery business, but sold out in the fall of the same year and bought the farm where he lives at present. He has greatly improved this property since it has come into his possession and has made it one of the best farms in the township. He is progressive, employing the latest improved machinery on his place, and in all things shows himself alert and in step with this progressive age. He is an active supporter in all measures which are for the good of the neighborhood. Politically his affiilations are with the democrats, and by them he has three times been elected township treasurer, which office he now holds. He has served as constable for nine years, township clerk for three years, and has also been an active member of the school board of his district.

He and his wife are members of the U. B. church, of which he is now a trustee, class leader and steward. He is a very active worker in the church and is one of its most consistent members. He gives very liberally to church as well as to all other benevolent enterprises, and is also very prominent and influential in the affairs of the neighborhood. He has had born to him five children, recorded as follows: Mahlon, married, and a farmer in Black Creek township; Lolie M., the wife of John Wiley, of Dublin township; Benjamin and William, who are still at home, and Lura A., who died in infancy.

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MOSES FOREMAN, one of the most prominent farmers and citizens of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of Daniel and Mary (Frock) Foreman, the former of whom was born in Carroll county, Md., about 1805, and was the eldest of two children born to Jacob Foreman, a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent.

Daniel Foreman was reared on his father's farm, and in his young manhood engaged in teaming over the mountains. He married Mary Frock, a daughter of Daniel and Mary Frock, the latter of whom lived to be ninety-three years old. To Daniel and Mary Foreman there have been born the following children: John, deceased; Daniel, who died when twenty-two years old; William, a marble dealer in Willshire; Samuel, a retired farmer of Hartford City, Ind.; Isaiah, who enlisted in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and died in the service at Louisville, Ky., after six months' service; and Moses, the subject of this sketch.

Mary (Frock) Foreman, wife of Daniel Foreman, was born in 1803. Her father was a native of Ireland and her mother of Germany. The former was a Revolutionary soldier, and the latter a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in 1874. Daniel Foreman and his wife located in Maryland, and lived in Carroll county, that state, until 1848, when they removed overland to Darke county, Ohio, being twenty-one days on the way. Living in Darke county until 1851, he then exchanged his land there for land in Black Creek township, Mercer county, and removed thereto and lived upon it until 1872, when he removed to Adams county, Ind., and there died in March, 1879. He was one of the leading citizens of this western country during his residence here, serving for many years on the jury, and also holding the office of township trustee. He was a successful farmer and stock buyer, purchasing for a large dealer in Virginia. While he was a public-spirited man and exceedingly liberal, yet he accumulated a great deal of property and did much good. Early in his life he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but later transferred his membership to the roll of the United Brethren church. He was the principal mover in the erection of the Duck Creek Methodist Episcopal church edifice, although at that time he was not a member.

Moses Foreman was born in Maryland, February 5, 1846, was educated in Mercer county, and on February 4, 1871, married Louisa Chapman, who was born in Champaign county, May 14, 1846, and died April 4, 1875. Mr. Foreman's second marriage took place August 15, 1876, to Mary Ann (Bowen) Tickle, a daughter of Cyrus and Mary (McQueen) Bowen. To this marriage there were born three children, viz: Clark Melville, born November 19, 1878; an infant daughter that died when two weeks old, and Victor Arnold, who was born March 26, 1885. The mother of these children was born in Van Wert county, April 20, 1851, and was married, first, to Thompson Tickle, who lived but one year after the marriage. Her parents came from Pennsylvania and located in Van Wert county, where the mother still lives. The father was born January 2, 1819, and died May 2, 1891. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, as follows: Ruth, wife of Andrew Roop, of Indiana; John, of Van Wert; Charles, of Van Wert county; Sarah—deceased—formerly the wife of William Hileman of Van Wert county; Eliza, wife of William Cully, of Van Wert county; Mary Ann, wife of the subject; Maggie, wife of John Wagers, of Van Wert county; Thomas, of the same county; Samuel, of Van Wert county; Nancy, wife of John Bailey, of Van Wert county; and Joseph, of Black Creek township, Mercer county.

Moses Foreman lived until September, 1878, on section No. 8, Black Creek township, and then he removed to his present farm, where he has in all 190 acres of land. In 1880 he removed to Willshire; there ran the American House one year, and then built a large brick residence at a cost of $2,200. After two years' residence in this house he returned to the farm, where he has since resided. Though as a rule he follows general farming, yet for some years he has made the raising of potatoes and clover-seed a specialty, and is an unusually successful man. Politically he is a strong prohibitionist, and has served as assessor one year and as constable for some time. Fraternally he is a member of Willshire lodge, No. 402, F. & A. M., and is held in high esteem among its members. He was for some time master of Duck Creek grange, No. 402, is now vice-president of the Farmers' institute, and is trustee in the Methodist Episcopal church, class leader, and superintendent of the Sunday-school. In 1864 he went to San Francisco, via New York city, Aspinwall and the Isthmus of Panama, and after working in salt works one year, returned via the Nicaragua route. Mr. Foreman is a man of education and independent thought, and has written a number of articles for publication. All in all, he is one of the progressive, liberal-minded and charitable men of the county, and has many friends.

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PRESTON W. FISHBAUGH, M. D., a prominent young physician of Mendon, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Washington township, Mercer county, February 22, 1864, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Morton) Fishbaugh. His parents were born in Ohio, though the father is of German and the mother of English descent. At an early day Samuel Fishbaugh's father moved to Ohio from Baltimore, Md., and in 1863 Samuel Fishbaugh, coming from Fairfield county, Ohio, with his family, settled on 160 acres of land, which he had previously purchased, in Washington township, Mercer county. On this farm he still lives, though he is not actively engaged in farming. He is now sixty-eight years of age, his wife having died in 1884, aged forty-two. Samuel Fishbaugh subsequently became united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Mitchell, by whom he has no children. In the spring of 1896 Samuel Fishbaugh retired from his farm, and is now living at Bellefontaine, Ohio, the home of his present wife.

P. W. Fishbaugh, the subject of this sketch, is the fourth of a family of seven children. In his boyhood and young manhood he attended the public schools, and at the age of twenty-one entered the normal school at Portland, Ind., where he remained two years, taking a teacher's course. Afterward he attended the Western Normal school at Ada, Ohio, where he remained one year, here paying more care upon the study of the natural sciences, such as chemistry, physics, anatomy, etc. After completing his studies in the above-named normal schools Mr. Fishbaugh taught school in the county for several years, but in 1890 gave up teaching and devoted his whole time to the study of medicine, having for some years previously been devoting to that study a portion of his time. Dr. Le Roy Pence, of Celina, was his first preceptor in this study, and he remained with him until he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Md., one of the leading medical colleges in the United States. From this institution he was graduated in 1893, and immediately afterward opened an office in Mendon, where he has since been engaged in practice, and where he is winning his way rapidly in the confidence of the public, a prerequisite to success, especially in the practice of medicine.

On August 18, 1895, Dr. Fishbaugh was married to Miss Ida M. Schenck, at Pleasant Mills, Ind. His wife is a daughter of Daniel Schenck, a native of Ohio, but for twenty years past a resident of Adams county, Ind. For many years Mr. Schenck was a minister in the United Brethren church, but of recent years he has been a farmer. In his former capacity he is well remembered throughout Mercer and Van Wert counties. Mrs. Schenck died when her daughter, now Mrs. Fishbaugh, was very young. Dr. Fishbaugh is a member of the Reformed Presbyterian church, while his wife is a member of the United Brethren church. Both are highly esteemed by the good people of Mendon as valuable members of society and of their churches, while Dr. Fishbaugh is highly esteemed as a physician. They have one child, Paul Schenck Fishbaugh.

JAMES FOSTER, one of the most prominent farmers and citizens of Dublin township, Mercer county, was born in Perry county, Ohio, July 16, 1845. He is a son of Samuel and Margaret (Watson) Foster, the former of whom was born in the same county, June 5, 1817, and was a son of George and Christina (Beam) Foster.

George Foster was a son of William Foster (or Forster, as he spelled his name, and which was in still earlier times, it is believed, spelled Forester, meaning he that had the care of a forest), who was born in Prussia, and when fifteen years of age came to America in company with a brother, the latter of whom became the ancestor of ex-Governor Charles Foster of Ohio. William Foster located first in Virginia, then moved to Pennsylvania, where he married in 1803, then came to Ohio, locating on land which is still owned by members of the family. He was a Lutheran minister and preached for many years in Virginia and Ohio. He entered a large tract of land in Perry county, and gave to each of his twelve children 160 acres, and died at the age of sixty-six years. George Foster and his wife, Christina, were the parents of the following children: Jacob, Samuel, John, of Van Wert county; Mary (Mrs. Coover), deceased; William, formerly of Perry county, now deceased; Daniel and Simon, of Washington township; Elizabeth Denmin, of Ridge township; James, deceased, whose widow lives on the home place, and Salome (Mrs. Avery), now deceased. The father of these children lived, died, and was buried on the home place. He was a farmer and a cabinet-maker, a democrat and a member of the Lutheran church, a prominent man and a highly-respected and good citizen.

Samuel Foster was educated in both German and English, and learned the carpenter's and the cabinet-maker's trade. June 15, 1843, he married Margaret Watson, a daughter of James and Rebecca Watson, and to them there were born three children, as follows: An infant daughter, deceased; James, the subject of this sketch, and George, who died in infancy. His wife, Rebecca, was born May 19, 1820, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died July 21, 1849. Her father was a native of Ireland and an early settler in the last-named county. Four of his children survive, viz: Ann Eliza (Mrs. Friend), of Hardin county; Joseph, Ryan and William, all three of Fairfield county, Ohio.

Samuel Foster married, for his second wife, Louisa Downhower, by whom he has three children living, as follows: Rebecca (Mrs. Estell), whose husband is a carpenter at Middlepoint, Van Wert county; Samuel, on the home farm; and Alfretta (Mrs. Tabler), of Ridge township, Van Wert county. Mr. Foster's second wife is a native of Ohio, and is still living at the age of sixty years. He worked on his farm and at his trade, also at the undertaking business, until 1851, when he sold his Perry county farm, and bought one in Van Wert county, near Middlepoint, which contained 160 acres, and was partially cleared. A portion of this farm he laid out in town lots, and bought eighty acres adjoining, upon which he passed his life, dying May 9, 1881. As a member of the Lutheran church he was held in high esteem, always being in office, and always being ready to aid his church financially. Politically he was a democrat, and by his party was as highly respected as by his church, and many of the local offices were held by him from time to time.

James Foster, the subject of this sketch, received his education in Van Wert county, and on August 5, 1869, married Miss Jane Near, a daughter of David and Ann Near, for a full mention of whom the reader is referred to the biography of David Near, on another page. To James and Jane Foster there were born three children, as follows: Mary Magdalene, living at home; Allison, a carpenter, also at home; and Samuel F., a farmer, on the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Foster lived on the home farm for one year after their marriage, then three years in Ridge township, and then bought a part of the home farm, upon which they lived until 1883, when Mr. Foster sold and purchased the farm upon which he lives at the present time. Here he has followed general farming and stock raising and has been unusually successful. In politics he is a democrat, and in religion a member of the Christian Union, as is also his wife. Most of the church offices have been filled by him, and at present he is recording elder. Being fully alive to the necessities of the community, he is public-spirited, and is well-known to all as a man ready to lend a helping hand in any way in which good can be done. All his children are members of the church, and he is devoutly thankful that he was reared a Christian.

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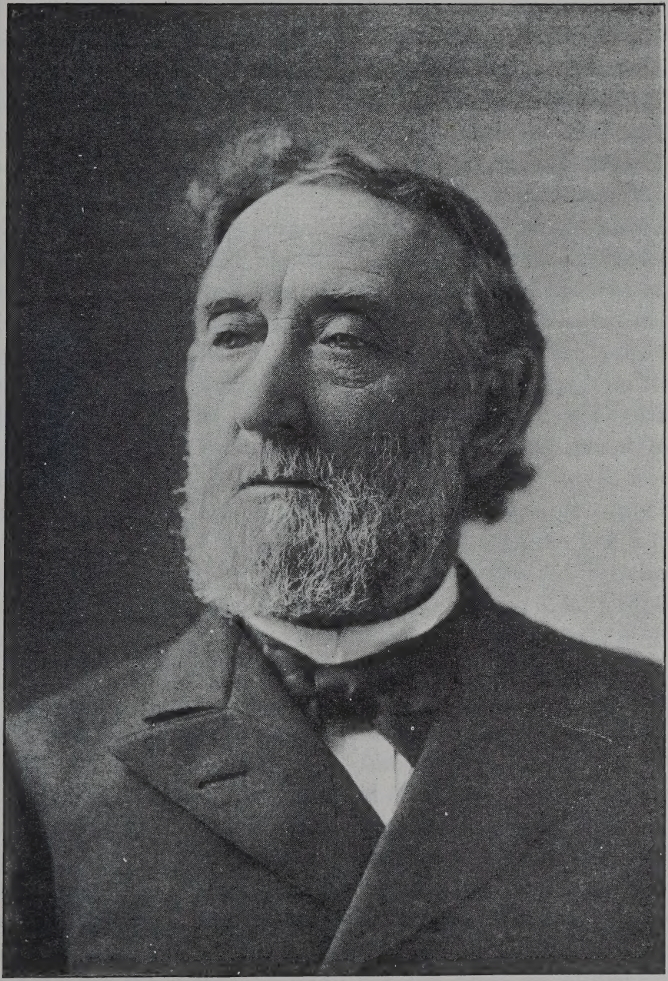
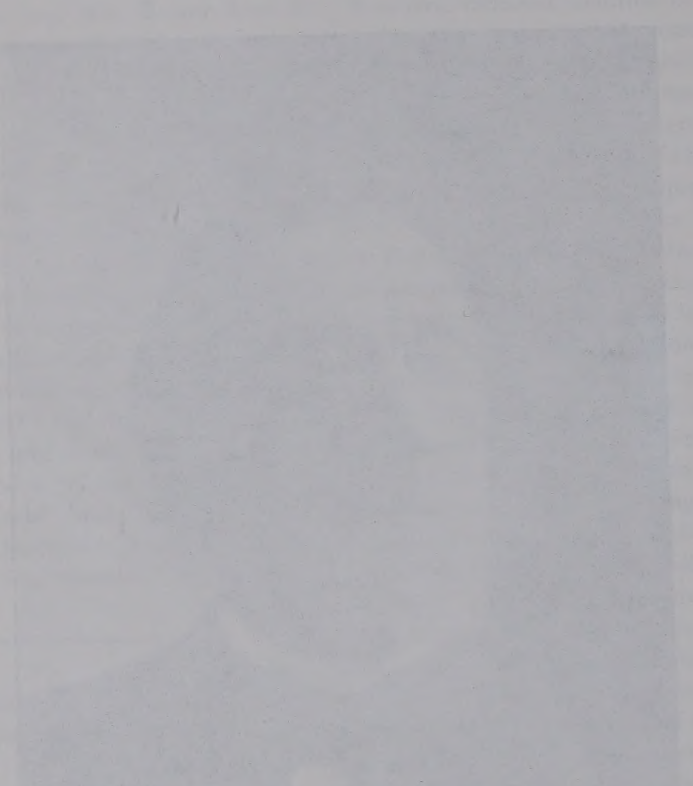
HON. THOMAS J. GODFREY, one of the most distinguished citizens of Mercer county, was born in Darke county, Ohio, June 6, 1831. He is a son of E. B. and Sarah (Elliott) Godfrey, natives respectively of Ohio and North Carolina. Married in Darke county, they resided there until 1859, when they removed to Dowagiac, Mich., where E. B. Godfrey died in 1888, in his seventy-eighth year, and where his widow died in 1891, in her eighty-fourth year. They were the parents of two sons and five daughters, of whom one son and two daughters are still living.

Thomas J. Godfrey was well educated in the common schools, and supplemented this preliminary training with attendance at two seminaries. His scientific education was completed at Asbury university, Greencastle, Ind., and upon completing his education he began teaching school. This profession he followed in several different counties in both Ohio and Indiana for a number of years, and at length began reading law with Messrs. Allen & Meeker, of Greenville, Ohio. At length, having completed his law studies by graduating at the Cincinnati Law school, in 1857, he was admitted to practice by the supreme court of the state of Ohio. A few weeks later he located at Celina, and there began the practice of his profession. To the profession of the law he has ever since adhered with loyal attachment, and in it he has certainly won distinction.

In 1863 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer county, and in 1865 he was nominated to the same office; but pending the election he was nominated to the state senate by the convention representing the district composed of Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Mercer, Paulding, Van Wert and Williams, and he was elected. So satisfactory were his services during his first term that he was re-elected to the same position in 1867. At the organization of the general assembly in January, 1868, he was elected president pro tem. of the senate, which office he filled with great credit to himself and with much satisfaction to the members of that body. At the close of his senatorial career he received the nomination for lieutenant-governor on the ticket with Hon. George H. Pendleton, candidate for governor, but the entire ticket was that year defeated. In 1873 Mr. Godfrey was elected a member of the constitutional convention, and served in that eminent body during its sessions of 1873 and 1874, as a member of the judiciary committee. But, as is well known, the people were not satisfied with the work of that convention, and rejected the new constitution submitted to them in the fall of 1874.



T. J. Godfrey.



In the presidential campaign of 1880 Mr. Godfrey was a candidate for presidential elector for the Fifth district, as a democrat, but was of course defeated with the rest of the ticket, the electors on the republican (Garfield) ticket winning all over the state. In October, 1881, Mr. Godfrey was again elected to the state senate, with the Hon. Elmer White, of Defiance, the senatorial district comprising the counties of Mercer, Van Wert, Auglaize, Allen, Paulding, Defiance and Williams, and was again elected to the senate in 1883.

Since May, 1878, Mr. Godfrey has served as a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio State university, and for seven years he was president of the board. In these positions he appears to be more in his element than in politics, and has devoted much of his time and liberally of his means to aid and promote the prosperity of educational interests and institutions. In local educational matters he is ever a leading and enthusiastic worker, and after all the political honors that have been bestowed upon him, and notwithstanding all the distinction he has won in this field, yet he takes most pride in the efforts he has made in behalf of educational affairs and the credit he has received in this field of labor. He is distinctively an educator and not a politician. He labors with much more enthusiasm and with much more zeal, to promote the cause of education anywhere and at any time, than he has ever done to forward his own political ambition. Teachers and parents and children owe to him a debt of gratitude for his efforts in behalf of schools, and all three classes fully appreciate the work that he has done as well as the spirit in which it has been done. In educational matters he realizes that he is building for the future as well as for the present, and that the life of that man or woman who labors most to elevate future men and women by elevating the children of today, is the life which is noblest and best. Mr. Godfrey has always taken especial pride in the teachers' institutes of the county, never failing to attend each session, and he has thereby done much to elevate the standard of the schools by broadening the intellectual views of the teachers, and by increasing their capabilities for work; for it is altogether probable that no profession so keenly appreciates recognition as do the teachers in the public schools, nor is any class so inspired to work by such appreciation. More than any other man in the county has Mr. Godfrey devoted time and effort to the schools, for he realizes that the hope of the country is in its children; for not long hence must they sustain the institutions which were established in the first place and preserved in the second place, at such incalculable cost. Mr. Godfrey has also served as county school examiner for several terms.

Aside from these labors Mr. Godfrey was associated with the first building and loan association organized in Celina, the other stockholders being R. G. Blake, G. W. Raudabaugh, E. M. Piper, A. P. J. Snyder, T. G. TouVelle, William Dickman, Christopher Schunck and S. S. Snyder. This company was chartered as the Celina Building & Loan association, February 2, 1870. On the 12th of March the stockholders held a meeting for the election of officers, and Mr. Godfrey was chosen president. In 1872 Dr. D. Milligan and his son, and Mr. Godfrey, purchased the entire stock of the association, surrendered its charter, and organized a banking house, under the style of Milligan, Godfrey & Co., in February, 1874. On the death of Dr. Milligan, the firm name was changed to Godfrey & Milligan, which continued until 1888, when it was succeeded by the Commercial Banking company, composed of the following partners: C. E. Riley, T. J. Godfrey, John Milligan, J.

B. Pulskamp and A. M. Riley. Aside from his professional and commercial duties, Mr. Godfrey finds great pleasure in agriculture and stock raising. During the past few years he has devoted considerable attention to fine cattle, and now has a number of Jerseys on his home farm. He has thus labored in legal, political, educational, commercial and agricultural lines and pursuits, and in each and all has been true to his highest convictions of right. Neither has his interest in these fields been circumscribed by county lines. His work is worthy of especial recognition in connection with the growth and prosperity of the Ohio State university, an institution in which every patriotic citizen of Ohio should take great pride, and, in fact, it has never been thought they have been remiss in this respect.

In September, 1859, Mr. Godfrey married Miss Lorinda Milligan, daughter of Dr. D. Milligan. To this marriage one daughter has been born, Luella, who graduated from Glendale Female college in 1881, and in 1883 married Rev. J. M. Anderson, pastor of Olivet Presbyterian church of Columbus, Ohio. Rev. and Mrs. Anderson have two sons, Karl Godfrey and Robert Bruce, aged respectively eleven and seven years.

Mr. Godfrey is a thirty-second degree Scottish rite Mason, and a Knight Templar, as well as a Knight of Pythias. He is a member of Shawnee commandery of Lima, and is a member of the uniform rank, Knights of Pythias. Few men have led a more active and unselfish life than has Mr. Godfrey, and in him all have an example of the honor that comes from working for the good of mankind, for those who thus labor lead the noblest lives of all.

January 1, 1896, Mr. Godfrey retired from the banking firm and is now engaged in closing up his private business and also looking after the practice of law.

DAVID FIREOVED, a prominent citizen of Union township, Mercer county, was born April 11, 1847. He is a son of George Fireoved, who was born June 6, 1811, in Pennsylvania. His ancestry was Prussian, and he lost his mother when he was about one year old. In 1812 the father of George Fireoved enlisted in the army to aid his country in defending its rights against the encroachments of Great Britain, and was wounded at Lundy's Lane.

George Fireoved, after his father entered the army, was taken by his grandfather to rear, and when old enough he learned the weaver's trade. This trade he followed until after his marriage to Miss Ellen Krugh, a native of Pennsylvania, and to them there were born the following children: William H., who died young; Solomon; Samuel, who died at the age of twenty-one; Sarah A., deceased; John; David, the subject; Levi, deceased, of whom further mention will be made; Abner, who died aged two years; Mary E., who died young; and Mary M. Leaving Pennsylvania after his marriage, George came to Ohio and worked in a distillery in Wayne county about two years. Then, removing to Union township, Mercer county, he became one of the pioneers of that township. Purchasing thirty-five acres of woodland, he partly cleared it up, and then bought eighty acres, for the clearing of which he gave the thirty-five he had first purchased. Removing then to Celina, he engaged in the distilling of whisky and lost nearly all that he had made. Returning to the eighty-acre tract of land, he cleared it up and purchased 120 acres more, and sold forty acres, which left him 160 acres, which he converted into an excellent farm—one of the best in the township. Liberal in all things, he was a true man, kind to all, and ready to aid those who were in need. Politically he was a democrat and religiously a member of the Church of

God. At his death, which occurred January 29, 1894, when he was nearly eighty-three years of age, he left his family in comfortable circumstances. His wife died August 12, 1886, she being at the time seventy-two years old.

David Fireoved was born in Celina, Mercer county, and was reared on the farm. In 1865, when he was eighteen years of age, he drove through with a team to Poweshiek county, Iowa, and there farmed on the prairie for six months, at the end of which time he returned to Ohio. The next spring he went to Illinois, and there worked on a farm for nine months. Returning again to Ohio by way of Michigan he worked with his father on the farm during the next summer, and then drove cattle to Pennsylvania and Maryland. Returning then to Illinois he worked there a year, and then again came to Ohio, and worked for his father until his marriage, which occurred August 4, 1879, to Margaret Hickernell. To this marriage there were born the following children: Chattie E.; Mary Annabell, deceased; Selah J.; Rosa Addielee, deceased; and Thomas G. After his marriage he rented his father's farm and later purchased forty acres of land, twenty acres of which were cleared, and upon this land lived eight years, when he sold it and purchased 102 acres, to which he afterward added eighty acres more, and then sold fifteen acres for cemetery purposes. Still later he purchased 160 acres, so that now he owns 327 acres of land, all of which is in fine condition. This land he leased to the Mendon Oil company, which drilled a well, and this well produced considerable oil. Removing then to Mendon, he lived for awhile in that town. He subsequently moved upon the farm and he and wife have passed the rest of their lives there up to the present time.

Margaret Hickernell was born in Union township, Mercer county, February 12, 1845. Her father, Thomas Hickernell, was born January 1, 1813, in Pennsylvania; he was a shoemaker, and worked at that trade all his life. Preparing himself by private study for the ministry, he was sent west as a missionary, receiving his license in 1833, and preached fifty-three years. He was a most excellent man, a strong advocate of prohibition, and held membership with the Church of God. He married Charity Deniston, a native of York county, Pa., and to this marriage there were born three children: Margaret A., wife of the subject of this sketch; Celia J., who died young, and Annie E., now Mrs. William Severns, of Union township. In 1843, settling in Mercer county, he purchased eighty acres of land, and at the time of his death, which occurred March 30, 1887, he owned 120 acres. His wife died in January, 1894, at the age of eighty-two, being also a member of the Church of God, of which Mrs. Margaret (Hickernell) Fireoved is also a member. She owns fifty-five acres of land, upon which there are four oil wells.

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LEVI FIREOVED (deceased), son of George Fireoved, mentioned in the preceding memoir, was born in Union township, Mercer county, Ohio, December 18, 1849, was reared to the pursuit of agriculture, and made it his life business. Like most young men of his years he spent some time at farming as a workman throughout the states of Illinois and Iowa, and February 20, 1879, he became united in marriage with Miss Lida Palmer, by Rev. Thomas Heckernell of the Church of God, and in the following year he took charge of his father's farm, which he conducted six years, and in 1886 he purchased the farm which his widow now owns, containing 160 acres, eighty acres being in section No. 14 and eighty acres in section No. 15, both of Union township.

This land he improved and labored upon it faithfully until his death, February 4, 1890. He was buried in the faith of the Church of God, of which his worthy helpmate has always been a consistent member.

Mrs. Lida (Palmer) Fireoved was born in Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, September 17, 1855. She is a daughter of John and Hannah (Hitchner) Palmer, both natives of Ohio, the former of Miami, and the latter of Warren county, both these families being pioneers of Mercer county. John Palmer was a son of Richard Palmer, a native of Bucks county, Pa. John Palmer died in Dublin township, in 1859. The wife, Mrs. Palmer, still survives him and lives with her sons near Mercer, aged seventy-three years.

Mrs. Levi Fireoved has two little daughters to comfort her in her widowhood, Georgie May, born August 31, 1882, and Frankie Lee, born December 12, 1884. Mrs. Fireoved lives in Mendon, in a measure retired from her farm, and attends to the care and education of her children. January 25, 1895, she laid to her last rest, beside her father, her eldest daughter Joanna, aged fourteen years and seven months. She is a very estimable lady and has the respect of all who know her.

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GEORGE W. FRISINGER, a leading farmer and stock buyer of Dublin township, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, May 11, 1853. He is a son of Nathan and Jane (Ryan) Frisinger, for fuller mention of the former of whom the reader is referred to the biography of James W. Frisinger, which follows.

George W. Frisinger was reared on the farm, was educated in the public schools of Mercer county, and was married November 10, 1874, to Lida Archer, daughter of Henry and Lucinda Archer. To this marriage there was born one child, Merritt, who is living at home, and is sixteen years of age. Lida Archer was born in Wood county in 1854. Her father, Henry Archer, located in Union township, Mercer county in 1849, and there he lived until his death in 1884. Mrs. Frisinger died June 11, 1886, and for his second wife Mr. Frisinger married, in March, 1887, Lillie McDonald, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. McDonald, of Rockford, Ohio. She died five months after her marriage, was an intelligent and energetic woman, was a teacher for several years in the public schools, and was respected and loved by all. For his third wife Mr. Frisinger married, on January 10, 1888, Rena Hesser, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Hesser. To this marriage one child, Rolla Nathan, was born February 19, 1890. Rena Hesser was born April 29, 1871, near Lincoln, Neb., and was educated in Indiana and Mercer county, Ohio. Her father, Lewis Hesser, was born in Red Key, Ind., in 1848, and her mother in the same place in 1849.

George W. Frisinger lived one year on the home place after his marriage. He then purchased eighty acres of land, partly cleared, upon which he lived three years. Then exchanging his eighty acres for the farm upon which he now lives, he removed thereto, and has since re-purchased the eighty acres which he traded away. In 1880 he erected a fine barn, 40x60 feet in size, and in 1888 built his present commodious house, which is pleasantly situated and well furnished. Mr. Frisinger is a general farmer, and has now 280 acres of land all under a high state of cultivation. He raises all kinds of stock, and for the past four years has been engaged in buying horses, which he ships by the car-load to Buffalo and other markets. As a democrat he served as trustee of his township seven years, and as clerk of the school district eleven years. At the earnest solicitation of his many friends he became a candidate for county commissioner, was nominated in 1896, and he has acted as guardian for three minor heirs, as administrator for three estates, and as assignee for one estate.

While Mr. Frisinger is not a member of any church, yet he enjoys the full confidence of all that know him, and he is a regular attendant at public worship.

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LEWIS FRYER, a successful farmer and miller of Union township, was born in this township May 5, 1861. His father, John Q. Fryer, was a native of Pennsylvania, born there in 1808, and while yet a young man learned the blacksmith's trade. His mother died when he was quite young, and in consequence he was compelled to depend largely on his own efforts for a living, to which in all probability he owed much of his success in life. While yet young he learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until his death. His wife, Miss Jestinah Raudabaugh, was a native of Pennsylvania, and bore him the following children: William, Martha, John, Andrew, Isaac, Barbara, Jacob, Mary Ann and Lewis. Some time after his marriage he emigrated from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, where he remained for some years and supported himself and his family by working at his trade, and then, removing to Union township, Mercer county, he remained there, one mile north of Mendon, Ohio, which village then contained but two houses. Near Mendon he purchased a tract of land containing eighty acres, which he improved and added to from time to time until at length he owned 300 acres, all of which he gave to his children. Religiously he was a member of the Church of God, and politically a republican, and his death occurred in 1876. His wife, who is a member of the same church, is still living.

Lewis Fryer was born and reared on his father's farm, was educated in the district schools, and after his father's death took charge of the farm and took care of his mother. Later he became familiar with the trade or business of miller, and in 1892 formed a partnership with Mr. Rodecker, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. The firm under which these gentlemen are doing business is Rodecker, Fryer & Davis, and their mill is named the Eureka Roller mill, located at Mendon, Ohio. Here they manufacture flour, meal and feed, and also deal in grain.

Mr. Fryer was married December 7, 1882, to Miss Clara B. Boswell, and to their marriage there have been born the following children: Maud, Ora, Josephine, Harry, Ruth and Leota. Mr. Fryer is one of the popular citizens of his township, and has served as constable four years and as mayor of Mendon one year, also as marshal one year. At present he is serving on the school board, is a republican in politics and a member of the Church of God. Clara B. Boswell, his wife, was born February 12, 1863, and is a daughter of Henry Boswell, who died when she was five years old. She was afterward reared by an uncle, with whom she lived until her marriage. Like her husband, she is a member of the Church of God. Both are excellent people, of high standing in their church, and of the best reputation among their friends, social and religious.

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JAMES W. FRISINGER, a prominent farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of Nathan and Jane (Ryan) Frisinger, was born in Mercer county, June 30, 1854. Nathan Frisinger was born near Germantown, Montgomery county, Ohio, July 3, 1816, and was a son of William and Catherine (Harb) Frisinger. William Frisinger was born in Virginia in 1794, and was the eldest child in a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. His father was a tailor by trade and also a miller and a distiller. He served his country in the war of 1812, dying soon after his return home from that war. William helped to make his father's coat when he went to the war.

William Frisinger was reared on a farm and of his father learned the tailor's trade. When a young man he removed with his mother and his brothers and his sisters to Champaign county, Ohio, and there engaged in farming. Then, making a trip through the west of about three months, he purchased some land in Illinois, and about 1817 married Catherine Harb, a daughter of Peter Harb. To this marriage there were born eleven children, as follows: Nathan, father of the subject of this sketch; Peter, a prominent and wealthy farmer of Dublin township; John, also a farmer of the same township; Sarah Ann, who died at the age of fourteen; Elizabeth who died when six years old; Jacob, a prominent farmer of Dublin township; Ann, who died at the age of eleven; Cynthia, deceased wife of Jeremiah Dull, also deceased; Lydia, Catherine and William, all three deceased, the latter at the age of nineteen. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania about 1800, was of Dutch descent, a member of the Baptist church, and died about 1854. One of her sisters is still living, Mrs. Lydia Hooks, of Van Wert county.

William Frisinger was the founder of the family in Ohio. In 1827 he located in Mercer county, purchasing at first 160 acres of woodland, which he partially cleared, and improved the cleared portion in such a manner and to such an extent as to make an excellent farm. Afterward he added sixty acres more, and on this farm he passed the rest of his life, his death occurring in April, 1836. He was one of the earliest settlers in the county, and endured all the hardships of pioneer life. As a democrat he was active in politics, and took an active part in everything calculated to benefit the community at large.

Nathan Frisinger, father of the subject, was reared on the farm, was nine years of age when brought to Mercer county by his parents. In 1845 he was married to Jane Ryan, a daughter of Joseph and Lois (Petro) Ryan, and to this marriage there were born fifteen children, as follows: Nancy, wife of Leroy Shingledecker, a farmer of Dublin township; William, a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, died September 8, 1864, while still in the service; Sylvester, who died December 17, 1869; George, a prominent farmer of Dublin township; James W., the subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of Abraham Truhy, of Rockford; Frances, wife of William Chivington, a farmer of Dublin township; Lucy, wife of Jacob Lichte, a farmer of Union township; Charles W., a farmer on the home place, and six who died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Greene county, Ohio, September 18, 1826, and died October 8, 1885, at the age of fifty-nine years and twenty days.

Joseph Ryan, father of Mrs. Nathan Frisinger, was one of the early settlers of Mercer county, and on account of an accident with which he met in his youth became a schoolteacher, not being able to perform manual labor. After the death of his first wife he married Maria Vorhees, by whom he had two children—James Q. and John L., both of whom live in Indiana. After spending a good many years in Mercer county Mr. Ryan removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he spent the remainder of his life. By his first wife he had four children, as follows: Jane, Margaret, Mary and Paul P.

Nathan Frisinger and wife located soon after their marriage in Dublin township, where a short time previously Mr. Frisinger had purchased eighty acres of woodland, and after his marriage he bought forty acres of canal land. Upon this land he erected a log house and began clearing his farm. Afterward he added to his landed possessions until, at length, he owned more than 730 acres of excellent land, which is now well cultivated and well improved. Upon this valuable farm he lived, reared his family, and died July 19, 1891. As a democrat he was honored by election to a number of minor offices, and as a citizen he was public spirited, always ready to lend a helping hand to any worthy cause. He was well known to every family in the county as a generous and kind-hearted man, and as the Rockford Press said, at the time of his death, would share his last mouthful with any one in need. He was a most successful farmer, a good neighbor, and a brief record of his life and deeds is well worthy a place in this work. Both he and his wife were laid to rest in the old church yard on the home farm, the church having been dedicated only two weeks before her death.

James W. Frisinger, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm, educated in the public schools, and married November 23, 1876, to Della Smith, daughter of James Findlay and Phebe Ann (Slater) Smith. To this marriage there have been born two children, viz: Osie M., born August 8, 1878, an intellectual and attractive young lady, a graduate of the Rockford high school, and now finishing her education at Oxford female seminary, and Charlotte Vellone, born July 26, 1894, the pet of the home. The mother of these two children was born in Mercer county, on the farm where she now resides, March 8, 1858. She was educated in Rockford and is a leading member of the Presbyterian church. Her father, James Smith, was born April 26, 1830, and is a brother of Cornelius Smith, whose biography appears elsewhere in these pages.

After his marriage Mr. Frisinger lived one year in Dublin township, and then moved upon his present farm, having purchased the interests of the other heirs. This farm is one of the best on the river, and Mr. Frisinger has improved it in every way. When he and his wife started in life they had nothing except willing hands and hopeful hearts, but at the present time they are among the most prosperous and wealthiest land owners in the county. As a democrat Mr. Frisinger has held several of the minor local offices, and as a member of the Presbyterian church he is in high standing. As a citizen he is public spirited and liberal, and as a neighbor kind and helpful. Altogether he and his family are among the best in the county and number their friends by the hundred.

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MOSES HALFHILL, deceased, was one of the representative citizens of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, during his residence here from 1855 until his death, March 26, 1876. He was a native of Pennsylvania and descended from a German family noted for their upright, industrious habits, and more than ordinary intelligence.

Moses Halfhill, on coming to Ohio, first located with his parents in Wayne county, later, moved to Morrow county, and finally, in 1855, came to Mercer county and purchased 160 acres in section No. 35, Dublin township, of which a small portion had been cleared, and on which were two or three inferior log buildings. Here he commenced clearing away the forest and making improvements, teaching school in the meantime, and soon succeeded in developing a model farm, on which he resided until his death in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a faithful and zealous member, and the increase of which he materially promoted through his strenuous efforts with his friends outside the pale, and to the support of which he freely contributed of his means. In politics he became a stanch republican after the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion; in his habits and tastes he was retiring and domestic.

Mr. Halfhill was twice married, his first helpmate having been Miss Lydia Kingman, of Morrow county, Ohio, and the union resulting in the birth of three sons, viz: Albert, who was a teacher in Mercer county, but later went to Los Angeles, Cal., and became a successful merchant; Melville, at first a farmer, but now a merchant of Mankato, Minn., and William D., who was admitted to the bar and was for some years in practice at Van Wert, Ohio, but is at present an attorney at law in Winfield, Kans., in the active practice of his profession. Mrs. Lydia Halfhill having died in 1859, Mr. Halfhill, in April, 1860, married Miss Maria E. Wood, daughter of James H. and Martha (Ray) Wood, of English and Irish descent, respectively. This lady was born in Moriah, Essex county, N. Y., where she was reared and educated, and in 1854 came to Ohio with an uncle, her parents coming later and settling in Van Wert county, where both passed the remainder of their days. This second marriage was blessed with four children, viz: James W., a graduate of the Ada (Ohio) Normal institute and the law school of Cincinnati, and now practicing law at Lima, Ohio; Charles W., at home with his widowed mother; Amelia, also a graduate of the Ada Normal school, for five years a teacher in the public schools, and now the wife of Dr. Emory Albert Powell, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Martha, likewise a graduate of the Ada Normal school and for several terms a teacher, but at present making her home with her brother in Lima. These children are all consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which faith they have been strictly reared.

Charles W. Halfhill was born December 12, 1863, on the Halfhill homestead in Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio. He was educated in the public schools, and, although but twelve years of age at the death of his father, he assumed charge of the farm and has most successfully managed it ever since, engaged in general farming and stock raising. He began teaching in 1884, and for five winters followed the vocation creditably and profitably. In 1891 he identified himself with the Mercer county Agricultural association, then in almost a state of dissolution, but, by bending all his energies to the task, he has revivified the society, which is now in a flourishing condition, and of which he may be termed the backbone. Since the year of his joining the association he has been its secretary and a member of the board of directors, and his ability to cope with difficulties and to surmount resisting obstacles, as well as to annihilate financial involvements, secured his re-election to the board in 1895. He was one of the organizers of the Western Ohio Fair circuit, February 15, 1893—this being the first to be founded in western Ohio—and since its organization has been its secretary and treasurer. He is a stanch republican and has been called upon by his party to represent it in the legislature, making a noble fight. He is public spirited and energetic in carrying out all measures for the public good. He is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, and has passed all the chairs thereof. He has made many improvements on the farm and in 1889 erected a two-story modern frame residence, which is considered to be the finest farm residence in the township; he has also erected barns for both grain and stock, and made the farm compare most favorably with any other in the county.

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WILLIAM HAIR, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., November 17, 1832. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Fenical) Hair, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in October, 1807, and was a son of Jacob and Christina (Dull) Hair, the parents of the latter named Jacob Hair having come to this country from Germany during the Revolutionary war. Jacob Hair, Sr., was a carpenter and a cabinet-maker by trade, and, though he owned a neat farm property, yet he preferred to follow the trade he had learned in his youth. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: John, of Pennsylvania; Jacob, the father of the subject of this sketch; Thomas, formerly of Wood county; William, a resident of Ohio until his death; Peter; Eliza (Mrs. Shaddy), and another daughter. All of these children are dead but Thomas. Jacob Hair, the father of the above-named children, was a member of the Lutheran church, was an excellent citizen in every respect, and died in Pennsylvania.

Jacob Hair, the father of the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, was educated in Pennsylvania, and learned the tanner's trade, though he never followed it for a living. Previous to his marriage he was engaged for some time in teaching school. He married Elizabeth Fenical, a daughter of John Fenical, a native of Pennsylvania, and a carpenter by trade, who died in his native state, and is survived by one child, William Fenical, the youngest member of the family, and a farmer of Williams county. Jacob and Elizabeth Hair were the parents of eleven children, as follows: William, the subject of this sketch; Levi, who served four years as a soldier in the Civil war, and now a farmer of Michigan; Jacob, who served one year in the Civil war, and at present operating a saw-mill at Portland, Mich.; Ellen, the wife of Stephen Bice, a carpenter of Ludington, Mich.; Mary, wife of George Crane, of Michigan; Susanna, deceased, of Michigan; Elizabeth, wife of John Milstead, of Michigan; Lydia, wife of Joseph Leinebaugh, of Michigan; John, deceased; and two that died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania, in October, 1807, was a member of the United Brethren church, and died in April, 1891. After his marriage, Jacob, the father of these children, located in Pennsylvania, and after living there until 1837 removed to Ohio, locating in Wayne county, where he followed farming until the spring of 1844, when he removed to Richland county, remaining there until 1855, when he removed to Sandusky county, and there bought a farm. In 1866, selling this farm, he went to Ionia county, Mich., bought a farm there, upon which he lived until September, 1892, when he died. Politically he was a republican, and was honored by his fellow-citizens by election to several of the minor offices in their gift. Religiously he was a member of the United Brethren church, and was held in as high esteem by his fellow-churchmen as he was by the citizens in general in the several communities in which he lived.

William Hair, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and was educated in Wayne and Richland counties, Ohio, and remained at home with his father until he was eighteen years of age, when he began life on his own account. On March 27, 1854, he married Margaret Pitcher, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Swigert) Pitcher, and to them there were born seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, the wife of John Stedeke, of Hopewell township; Mary Ann, the wife of Charles Stevenson, of Washington township, Mercer county; Sarah, the wife of Charles Smith, of Hopewell township; Jacob, a farmer at home; Ida, also at home, and William E. and Lydia, who died in infancy.

Margaret Pitcher, wife of the subject, was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 13, 1834, her parents being both natives of Pennsylvania, to whom there were born two children, Margaret and Polly Kanorr, of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio. Her father, George Pitcher, died when she was but five years old, and she was then taken by her grandmother Pitcher, to rear. Her mother afterward married John Peterman, a farmer, and by him became the mother of five children, as follows: Mary Ann, the wife of Michael Cline, of Shelby, Ohio; Priscilla, the wife of Frank Rice, of Hopewell township, Mercer county; Violet, the wife of a Mr. Powell, of Newark, Ohio; John Peterman, of Hopewell township, and Kate, wife of James Mutterbaugh. The mother of these children died about 1880.

William Hair, after his marriage, located on a farm near Mansfield, Ohio, and lived there about seven years. In 1860, removing to Mercer county, he located permanently, in 1861, on the farm which he had purchased one year before—a farm consisting of forty acres of woodland. Erecting a log house for a shelter for his family, he began the hard labor of clearing his land, and improving his farm, to which he subsequently added forty acres, and now the entire eighty acres are under a high state of cultivation. In 1876 he erected his present handsome residence, and, 1882, a fine large barn, and is well situated in every way. In politics he is a populist, coming into this party from the democratic party, and he is now serving his third term as township treasurer. Previously he had served as township trustee for a number of years, and as constable several years, as justice of the peace several years, and had also served a long time as a member of the school board. Religiously he is a member of the Church of God, has always served as elder, or as trustee, or as deacon, since uniting therewith, and is very prominent in the work of the church. He was also a member of Hopewell grange while that organization was in existence. For three months he was in camp, intending to go to the late war, but the war came to an unexpected termination, and his services were not wanted. He also hired a substitute. Besides general farming Mr. Hair has been engaged in other lines of industry. For ten years, from 1863, to 1873, he was engaged in threshing grain, and from 1873 to 1883 he was engaged in the saw-mill business. He is one of the most useful men in his township, being public-spirited and self-sacrificing—always ready to help the needy or the worthy, whether individuals or companies who are desiring to promote the public welfare.

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**JOHN E. HAMBURGER**, recorder of Mercer county, one of the representative citizens of Celina, is a native of Engen, in the grand duchy of Baden Baden, Germany, having been born there September 25, 1854. In 1864 he came with his mother and brothers to the United States, locating first in New York city. The names of his parents were Conrad and Margaret Hamburger. After remaining a short time in the city of New York, they removed direct to Mercer county, settling in Marion township, where Mrs. Hamburger purchased land, opened up a farm, upon which she lived until her death, February 1, 1896.

John E. Hamburger, the subject of this

sketch, was ten years of age when he came with his family to Mercer county, where he completed the education he had begun in Germany. There, of course, he was being educated in the German language, while in Mercer county he had to pursue his studies in English, so that he acquired, when yet a boy, a good education in both languages. He remained on the farm with his mother until he was about eighteen years of age, when he entered Nazareth college at Dayton, Ohio, where he studied one year. Returning home from this institution, he taught school in Marion township for two terms. In 1879 he removed to Celina, and there engaged in the manufacture of cigars, which business he carried on successfuly for nine years. In 1888 he engaged in general contracting, and was thus employed until 1892, when, having been in 1891 nominated by the democratic party for recorder of Mercer bounty, he was elected to that office for a term of three years. Owing to the inconvenience occasioned by the term of the recorder expiring in January, which month is the busiest in the year in that office, a movement was started to have the time extended so that it might expire in September. Mr. Hamburger was appointed a member of the committee of recorders to lay before the legislature the entire subject, and to attempt inducing the legislature to so change the law as to have the desired change effected. This would extend the term of the incumbent, at the time the law was enacted, eight months. The request appeared so reasonable to the general assembly, that the desired bill became a law by almost if not quite a unanimous vote. In In 1894 Mr. Hamburger was nominated for another term, and was elected for three years more, and his present term of office will expire in September, 1898, making the entire length of his two terms six years and eight months. Mr. Hamburger's election for a second term is sufficient evidence of his popularity throughout the county.

Mr. Hamburger was married January 9, 1879, to Miss C. V. Kreusch, of Mercer county, and to them there have been born nine children, viz: Margaret; August; Rosa, deceased; Clara, deceased; Leonard, deceased; Frances Mary, deceased; Francis, deceased; Mary and Edwin William. The family are members of the Catholic church and stand very high in society.

WILLIAM S. HANSEL, one of the prominent and successful farmers of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of George and Anna Mary (Pontius) Hansel, and was born in Hocking county, November 26, 1835. His father, George Hansel, was born in Fairfield county, March 17, 1806, and was a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Friend) Hansel, both natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of John Stuyvesant, of Hocking county; George, father of the subject; Mary, wife of Daniel Beery, of Hocking county; Jacob, deceased; Henry, deceased; John, deceased; and Sarah, wife of James Keller, of Hocking county.

About 1804 Henry Hansel entered a tract of land in Fairfield county, and when the father of the subject was yet a boy, he removed to Hocking county, where he entered 160 acres of land, upon which he spent the remainder of his life. George Hansel, his son, was educated at the fireside mainly by his own efforts, and received outside of his home education only six days' instruction in the public school. In 1829 he married Anna Mary Pontius, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Pontius, and by her he had ten children, as follows: Catherine, widow of John Keller, of Hocking county; John and Henry, of Hocking county; William S., the subject of this sketch; Jacob, deceased; Elizabeth, widow of Jacob Marks, of Lima, Ohio; Mary Ann, who died in girlhood; Lucinda, who died February 19, 1896, wife of Martin Goss, an undertaker, of Hocking county; Eliza, who died when seven years of age, and Sarah Ann, wife of Henry Hiley, a farmer, of Hocking county.

Anna Mary Pontius was born in Hocking county February 5, 1805, her parents having been natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, members of the Lutheran church, and early settlers in Hocking county. She and her husband at first lived on eighty acres of land in Hocking county, entered from the government, to which he afterward added eighty, which he purchased at a private sale. This land he cleared and improved, converting it into a good farm, and lived upon it until his death. To farming, however, he added the saw-mill business, erecting a mill which was run by water power, and which for thirty-two years he ran in addition to his farm labor, working much of the time on the farm by day and running his saw-mill by night, sleeping only as he caught short naps while the saw ran through the log. In this way he accumulated his property and became a man of moderate wealth. Besides his farming and saw-milling, he also to some extent followed the trade of carpenter, at least so far as the construction of his own buildings was concerned. He was one of the most public-spirited men of his time, and was a member of the New School Lutheran church, and took an active interest in all religious work. He and a Mr. Snyder, with but very little outside assistance, built a large church edifice in his neighborhood. He held all the offices of his church, and besides was the leader of the choir. His death occurred August 19, 1868, and his wife, who was also at first a member of the New School Lutheran church, died February 1, 1884, a member of the United Brethren church.

William S. Hansel was educated in Hocking county, and on August 13, 1857, married Sarah A. Hanbey, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Cloud) Hanbey, and to their marriage there were born ten children, as follows: John, born September 6, 1858; Mary E., born January 5, 1860, and now the wife of Jasper Wilson, of Greene county; Lucinda, born July 23, 1861, now the widow of Henry Harmon, and living at home; George, born February 6, 1863, and now living in Auglaize county; Benjamin, born March 14, 1865, and died July 27, 1866; Emma, born November 19, 1866, and died January 19, 1867; Joseph, born April 15, 1868, a carpenter of Hopewell township; Henry, born November 13, 1869; Ida, born October 31, 1871, and now the wife of Jacob Bucher, of Hopewell township; August, born April 26, 1874, and living in Hopewell township, as is also one grandchild, Jesse Orland Harmon, born April 8, 1885. The mother of these children was born in Hocking county, March 28, 1839. Her father was born in Delaware county, July 18, 1807, his father having been a native of England. On February 17, 1831, he married Elizabeth Cloud, a daughter of Stephen and Keziah Cloud, and to them there were born twelve children, as follows: Keziah, deceased wife of John Higly; Eliza, deceased wife of John Hudson; Mary, who died in infancy; Samuel, who was killed by a falling tree; Sarah H., wife of the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, Rachel, Wesley, Martha, all four of whom died in early childhood of scarlet fever; Benjamin F., who died of scarlet fever; Margaret, living at home, and Lucinda; deceased wife of Charles Adkins. The mother of these children was born in Delaware county, N. Y., July 5, 1812, was married in Pennsylvania, moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1838, later removed to

Hocking county, and there she died August 5, 1887, the father having died May 25, 1879.

William S. Hansel and his wife lived two and a half years after marriage in Hocking county, then on the home place about six months, and in August, 1860, removed to Mercer county, bought an eighty-acre tract of woodland, erected a log cabin, and began the hard task of clearing up his farm. All of the improvements thereon he has placed there himself, and has bought additional land, until at the present time he has 120 acres in the home place, and forty acres upon which his son lives, and upon which he has erected a neat house, barn, etc. He is a general farmer, raises stock and buys and feeds stock for market. In 1876 he erected a good house on his home farm and in 1884 a fine, large barn. He has been a member of the Church of God for thirty years, has held most of the church offices, and at present is elder, and trustee of both church edifice and parsonage. He has also been treasurer of the Sunday-school for years. His services in the army of the Union, while not covering a long period of time, are yet worthy of record, as he enlisted March 13, 1865, and was discharged May 15, 1865—when he enlisted it not being known that the Rebellion was so near its final collapse. Mr. Hansel is, as will be seen by reading the above recital, a progressive man, public-spirited, and always ready to aid any good and worthy cause. In the best sense of the phrase, Mr. Hansel is a self-made man, and as such is highly respected by all that know him.

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JOHN HAGEDORN, hotel proprietor at Chickasaw, Mercer county, Ohio, was born October 6, 1843. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Greshoff) Hagedorn, the former of whom was born in Oldenburg, Prussia, in 1813. At the age of twenty-seven, Henry, together with his father, Herman Hagedorn, and his entire family, came to the United States, landing in Baltimore and coming immediately to Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, reaching here in 1830. Here he purchased an eighty-acre tract of timbered land, which he cleared, and made one of the best farms in the county. To this he added another eighty-acre tract, and still later, another, making in all 240 acres of land. In 1833, he married Mary Greshoff, a native of Prussia. They lived on the old homestead until 1863, when Mrs. Hagedorn died, he dying in 1869. Both were members of the Saint Rosa Catholic church, and were excellent people in every respect. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Herman, who died in infancy; John, Elizabeth, Mary, all living; Katie, died in infancy; Joseph, Tracey and Lawrence, all died single; and Matthias, who died in infancy.

John Hagedorn was born in Marion township, Mercer county. He lived with his parents until their death, was married November 7, 1867, to Miss Katie Woeste, and then removed to Chickasaw, and there engaged in the saw-mill business, in which, through unfortunate circumstances, he lost considerable money. In 1883 he sold his business and engaged in buying grain and pork, at which he was also unsuccessful. This business he therefore also sold and built a hotel at Chickasaw, and in 1890 moved into it and has conducted it since that time, with most gratifying success. He is a member of the Catholic church, and a stanch and true republican. He and his wife are the parents of thirteen children, as follows: Theodore, born January 26, 1869, and died in 1871; Joseph, born September 15, 1870, and married Katie Gast; Katie F., born October 25, 1871; and now the wife of Michael Hyne; Catherine F., born April 11, 1873, not married; Mary, born October 5, 1874—died October 25, 1875; Mary E., born May 5, 1876, not married; Anna Tracey, born March 23, 1878, not married; John Henry, October 7, 1879; Catherine E., born June 7, 1880; Mary M., born June 28, 1883; John F., born April 13, 1886; Rosa C., born July 5, 1889, and Tracey, born March 4, 1892, died March 11, 1892.

Katie Woeste, wife of the subject, was born February 8, 1848. Her father, Theodore Woeste, was born in Prussia in 1816, and at an early age came to the United States, landing in Baltimore, and going thence direct to Cincinnati, remaining there only a short time, and then coming to Mercer county, locating in Marion township, where he bought an eighty-acre tract of land, covered over with a heavy growth of timber. This he soon began to clear, and later added eighty acres more, making 160 acres in all. Upon this farm he lived and labored until his death, leaving his family in comfortable circumstances. He was a democrat in politics and a Catholic in religion, and was faithful and true in every respect. He married Elizabeth Albers, by whom he became the father of the following children: Barney and Theodore, both deceased; Elizabeth, wife of the subject; Mary, Henry, Theodore, Katie, Lawrence; Frank, deceased. The mother of these children was a member of the Catholic church, was a good woman in every way, highly esteemed by all, and died in 1863.

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PERRY M. HARRIS, one of the most prominent farmers of Dublin township, Mercer county, was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 12, 1845. He is a son of Joshua and Mary (Fadely) Harris, the former of whom was born near Newark, that county, in September, 1814. Joshua Harris was a son of Joseph and Rachael Harris, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and of English descent, while the latter, whose maiden name was Barlow, was of Dutch descent. Joseph and Rachael Harris were the parents of eight children, as follows: Isaac, Abraham, Jacob, Stephen, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth and Joshua. Joseph Harris moved his family to Licking county, settling near Newark, in the early times, when there were more Indians than white men in that part of the state. In this county he entered land, upon which he lived the rest of his life. Politically he was a democrat, and he and his family were Primitive Baptists.

Joshua Harris, the youngest son of Joseph, was reared on the farm in Licking county, and about 1834 married Mary Fadely, who was born in Virginia in December, 1817, was of German ancestry, came to Ohio when a child, and here she was married. To Joshua and Mary Harris there were born seven children, as follows: John, a farmer on a portion of the home farm in Licking county; Perry M., the subject of this sketch; Levi, deceased; Marquis, a farmer of Licking county; Isaac, deceased; Mary E., wife of Eli Haynes, of Licking county; and an infant daughter, deceased. Ever since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Harris have lived on their present farm. This farm he cleared and improved and has put in a good state of cultivation. He is a most industrious and prosperous man, careful in the management of his affairs, and yet liberal in the support of all worthy enterprises. He is regarded as a pillar in the Baptist church, in which he has held all the offices, his wife being also a member of the same church.

Perry M. Harris, reared on the farm, wa educated in Licking county, and in the summe of 1872 married Mary Jewell, daughter o Harrison and Mary (Miller) Jewell. Mrs. Mary Harris was born in Licking county, and died in 1874, two years after her marriage. On October 31, 1876, Mr. Harris married for hi second wife Mrs. Jennie Hamilton, daughter of Justus and Mary J. (Panabaker) Hamilton. To this marriage there has been born one child, Kent, born July 1, 1890. Mrs. Jennie Harris was born in Mercer county December 14, 1851, and was educated in the public schools of Celina.

Justus Hamilton, her father, was born in Kentucky in 1819, and was a son of Justus Hamilton, one of the earliest settlers in Mercer county, and was Mercer county's third auditor, in 1827. He served as county surveyor in 1827, 1835 and 1837. As a representative from his district, which was composed of the counties of Darke, Mercer, Allen, Putnam, Henry, Paulding and Williams, he served two years in the state legislature. This was in 1832 and 1833. In 1838 he was elected to represent the district composed of Mercer, Miami and Darke counties, and in 1840 to represent Mercer, Miami, Darke and Shelby counties. During the years 1846, 1847 and 1848 he served as probate judge. Justus Hamilton, the father of Mrs. P. M. Harris, was brought to Mercer county when but a babe, was reared on a farm in Union township, and lived there until his marriage to Mary Panabaker, a native of Virginia, who was brought by her parents when a child to Ohio, they locating in Pickaway county, whence they removed to Mercer county when she was a young lady. The Panabaker family comprised the following children: Mary J., wife of Mr. Hamilton; Rebecca, wife of Dr. Elliott, of Poseyville, Ind.; and William, a physician of the state of Illinois.

After their marriage Justus Hamilton and his wife lived for some time in Union township. They are the parents of eight children: Maria, deceased; Belle, wife of George Wells, of Union township; Hugh, of Union township; William, a mechanic of Michigan; Jennie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Hattie, wife of Adolph Gilberg, proprietor of a printing office in Celina; Charles, a farmer of Union township; and Silas, on the home place. In 1853 Mr. Hamilton removed to Celina, and has lived there retired ever since. As a republican he has held several of the local offices within the gift of his party. For several years, both before and after his marriage, he taught school in Mercer county, and has always taken an interest in public affairs. Mrs. Hamilton is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Harris is still living on the farm he purchased soon after marriage. Upon this farm he has erected good buildings—in 1881 a barn and in 1892 a fine house. He has 166 acres acres of excellent farm land, all in a high state of cultivation. Politically he is a democrat, is a public-spirited and popular citizen, and is highly regarded by all who know him. Mrs. Harris is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a most worthy woman, wife and mother.

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E. H. HARRIS, proprietor of the well known tin and stove store at Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of Mount Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, was born April 28, 1853, and is a son of Elijah and Ann (Evans) Harris, the former of whom is now a resident of Van Wert, Ohio, engaged in the tin and stove business, and still active and hale at the age of seventy-six years; the latter passed away at the age of fifty-two years, a truly devoted Christian.

E. H. Harris, our subject, was a child of but five years of age when his parents removed from Knox county to Van Wert, where he was educated in the public schools, and at the age of thirteen began and at twenty-one finished learning the tinsmith trade under his father: he then worked a year for Mr. Ross, after which he visited the towns of Gallion, Crestline, Mansfield, Fredericktown and Mount Vernon, working at his trade for about three years, and then returned to Van Wert, where he was employed on the cornice work of the county court house, and after its completion entered the employ of O. P. Clark & Son, with whom he remained as foreman until 1892, when he came to Rockford and purchased his present establishment of J. L. Hileman. Here he carries a full line of stoves and tinware, does a repairing business, and also carries on plumbing in all its branches. He is thoroughly qualified in his calling and is an expert in spouting, and especially in roofing in both tin and steel. He has worked all through the counties of Van Wert and Mercer, in which maybe found many fine specimens of his handcraft.

Mr. Harris was united in marriage July 25, 1881, with Miss Mary Schroeder, daughter of John Schroeder. This lady was born in Hamburg, Germany, and was but four years of age when she was brought to America by her parents. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Harris has been blessed with four children—Edna, Oren, Russell and Helen—all of whom are still left to add enjoyment to the home circle. The parents are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, to the support of which they are free contributors, and fraternally Mr. Harris is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., of Rockford lodge, No. 1790, I.O.O.F. and also of the Rebekah degree. As a business man Mr. Harris is conscientious and bears an untarnished name, and as a workman is unexcelled by any tinner in Mercer county.

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REV. PHILIP HARTMANN, pastor of Saint Mary's Catholic church of Celina, was born in the city of Siegen, Westphalia, Germany, June 20, 1861. Of Westphalia perhaps it may be said that it is noted for containing a population of the purest German blood of any portion of the German empire. Rev. Mr. Hartmann was educated in the home schools, and at the age of nine years entered the gymnasium, where he remained for a considerable time. Afterward he went to Coesfeld, a renowned school, where he was in attendance for some terms, and afterward he attended the university in Bonn, Germany. Bonn is beautifully situated on the left bank of the Rhine, and is noted for its university, which enjoys the distinction of having two theological faculties, one Protestant, the other Roman Catholic.

Rev. Mr. Hartmann came to the United States in 1882, and came to Carthagena, Mercer county, Ohio, where he finished his studies in Philosophy and theology. On the 8th of March, 1890, he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Elder, for five years had charge of the congregation at Cold Water, and in 1894 was transferred to Saint Mary's Catholic church in Celina.

The history of Saint Mary's church being of unusual interest to all Catholics in this part of Ohio, it is here briefly presented. The congregation was formed, in 1864, by Rev. Joseph Dwenger, who afterward was bishop of the Fort Wayne, Ind., diocese. He attended this new congregation as a mission from Saint Mary's, Auglaize county, Ohio. At first lots 357 and 370 were purchased, and deeded by Mr. Riley to the Most Rev. Archbishop J. B. Purcell, but were deeded back again on February 12, 1866, and a better site was selected for church grounds. Lot No. 319 was purchased from J. B. H. Holhne June 23, 1864; lots 320 and 321 were bought of B. Wicks August 2, 1873; lot 322 was bought of Christian Schunk February 7, 1867, which altogether made a half square of ground, and all was deeded to Most Rev. J. B. Purcell, Archbishop of Cincinnati, and the above lots constitute the present church grounds at Celina.

The cemetery, at first containing two acres of ground, was bought of James Taylor for the sum of $150. It was deeded to Most Rev. J. B. Purcell, February 7, 1867. An additional acre was bought of G. I. TouVelle, for the sum of $250, May 27, 1887, and deeded to Most Rev. H. W. Elder, Archbishop of Cincinnati. This part of the cemetery was laid out into 100 family lots.

The first divine services held in Celina were in the house of Daniel Mackin, and later for a longer time they were held in the factory building of Joseph Leuter, near the reservoir. At this time, which was in the years 1864 and 1865, a subscription was taken up for the erection of a church, and a small brick building was erected in honor of the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary. The first members constituting the Catholic congregation at Celina were Christopher Schunk, Peter Schunk, Jacob Schunk, John Hess, John Haeckler, Franz J. Himmer, Joseph Leuter, George Shafer, Adam Schunk, Henry Bohrer, Joseph Keim, J. Schridel, C. Desh, Joseph Metsner, Fred Meyer, Conrad Wright, and Joseph Reithard.

During the first few years there was no school connected with this church; but after some years had elapsed there was a German Catholic teacher employed in the public school, and a separate room was allowed him for the Catholic school children. Afterward a little frame building near the church was used for the school, and also at times for the teacher's residence. In 1879 the Sisters of the Precious Blood came to Celina and took charge of the Catholic schools, and soon afterward a new brick school-building was erected near the church. The original brick church was enlarged by the Rev. Father Theopistus Wittmer, who also built the brick school-house near the church, which was intended for a parsonage.

Following is a list of the priests who have attended Saint Mary's church: Rev. Joseph Dwenger, late Bishop of Fort Wayne, Ind., from 1864 to 1866; Rev. Bernard Dickman, C. PP. S., who attended from Carthagena from December, 1866, to 1869; Rev. Matthias Kenk, C. PP. S., who attended from Carthagena from 1869 to 1871; Rev. Michael Graf, C. PP. S., who attended from Carthagena from 1871 to 1872; Rev. Theopistus Wittmer, who attended from Carthagena from 1872 to 1873; Rev. Thomas Eisenring, who attended from Carthagena from 1873 to 1876; Rev. Ignaz Selb, who attended from Carthagena, from April, 1876, to July, 1876; Rev. Theopistus Wittmer, C. PP. S., who was the first priest stationed at Celina, who enlarged the church, built the school-house, and Sister's (house), from August, 1876, to August, 1883; Rev. Godfrey Schlachter, C. PP. S., from September, 1883, to August, 1886; Rev. Andrew Gietl, C. PP. S., from August 1, 1886, to September 8, 1890; Rev. William Russ, from September 8, 1890, to September 1, 1894. Rev. Philip Hartman became pastor September 1, 1894, and still remains in the pastorate.

During the summer of 1889 the new school-house was erected. It is 46 x 76 feet in size, and cost $5,300. Four teachers were employed in the fall of 1889, for the nearly 220 scholars. The old school building was entirely remodeled on the inside and changed into a comfortable parsonage. The attendance upon this school is now about 350, and the membership of the congregation of Saint Mary's Catholic church is about 225. The church and school are both in a very prosperous condition, under the general oversight of the present pastor. Through his untiring efforts the congregation has become excellently organized by the establishment of three sodalities for young men and young ladies; also a uniform commandery of the Catholic Knights of Ohio has been organized. A special feature of the congregation deserves to be mentioned—the Saint Philip's Literary society for the young people, which is in a very flourishing condition, numbering 120 members, and is doing much good in cultivating and elevating the mind of our youth. Among other societies are the most prominent, Saint Joseph's Aid society, with a membership of ninety, and the Women's Altar society, with a membership of 140. The increase of the members of the congregation and the welfare of the children necessitates Father Hartman to add to his school a fifth room for higher branches, which will be done in course of this summer. The school is successfully taught by the efficient Sisters of the Precious Blood.

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JOHN BERNARD HASLINGER, one of the prominent and successful young business men of Cold Water, Mercer county, Ohio, was born at Maria Stein, in the same county, April 26, 1872. He is a son of William and Katharine (Schmeising) Haslinger, the former of whom was born February 24, 1831, in Waldhausen, Rhenish Prussia, and when nine years of age was brought to the United States by his parents, who located in Ohio. When he was twenty years of age William Haslinger became infected with the western fever, and for five years afterward he was traveling, prospecting and mining in the western states and territories. He went through California, Washington and Oregon, and thus became familiar with the resources and inhabitants of that entire country. His principal occupation while in these far western states was that of mining, and by hard work and careful prospecting he secured a snug fortune by the time he was twenty-five years of age, when he returned to his home in Mercer county, Ohio, and located at Maria Stein. Here he resumed his trade, that of boot and shoemaking, which he followed exclusively until 1883, when he put in a stock of boots and shoes, and since that time has kept a boot and shoe store, as well as keeping up his trade. In April, 1893, in connection with his son, John Bernard, he bought out the general supply store of John L. Phellis, at Cold Water, which they are conducting in partnership. Politically Mr. Haslinger is a democrat, but he is in no sense an office seeker. He has never held office of any kind, except that of gas trustee at Maria Stein. In matters of religious faith he is a Catholic, and stands high with his religious brethren.

Mr. Haslinger was married in 1870 to Katharine Schmeising, then a widow with one child, Mary, who is now the wife of Matthias Bertke, and living at Maria Stein. To the marriage of William and Katharine Haslinger there were born the following children: Elizabeth, born March 30, 1869, married to John R. DeCurtius, an architect, contractor and builder, living at Saint Henry, where he is now engaged in erecting the Saint Henry Catholic church building, an edifice which will cost $70,000 by the time it is completed; Joseph, born March 18, 1871, died July 12, 1871; John Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Emily, born February 24, 1875, and now housekeeper for her parents; John, born April 10, 1877, who is single and living with Mr. DeCurtius, at Saint Henry, with whom he is learning the profession of architecture and the trade of building; Katharine, born April 14, 1880, now clerking in the store of her father and brother, and having charge of the dry-goods department; August, born February 6, 1883, and now attending school in Cold Water.

John Bernard Haslinger, the subject, who is popularly known by his second name, Bernard, on account of there being another John in the family, was reared in Maria Stein, and received his primary education in the public schools of that place. Afterward he took a special course in penmanship, book-keeping, typewriting and stenography at the Cold Water academy, which he finds of great use to him in his business life. Leaving the school-room he entered his father's shoe store and worked there a short time, when he removed to Cold Water, and clerked there for John L. Phellis nine months, when he formed a partnership with his father, and they together purchased the business of Mr. Phellis. Mr. Haslinger then added to the store in Cold Water his stock of boots and shoes in Maria Stein, and thus the new firm gave to the citizens of Cold Water a very large and elaborate stock of goods from which to select according to their needs. The store is managed by John Bernard Haslinger, while his father still continues to work at his trade in an adjacent building.

Notwithstanding that the management of so large a concern devolves upon a man so young, Mr. Haslinger has therefor every necessary qualification, being thoroughly informed and grounded in modern business methods. He is abundantly able to keep his business abreast of the times, and to inform himself as to the necessities and tastes of the people. Though but twenty-three years of age, he has the unbounded confidence of the citizens of Cold Water and surrounding country, and as an evidence of this it may be stated that he is now holding the office of corporation treasurer. In politics he is a democrat in principle, and in general national affairs, but in local matters he is always in favor of the best man, recognizing the fact that municipal interests at least should be conducted upon a purely business basis, and no party contains all the good business men any more than it does all the patriotic men. In religious belief Mr. Haslinger is a Catholic and maintains as high standing among his church brethren as he does in business and social circles. The career of Mr. Haslinger is an illustration of what a young man can do, and his prospects are certainly indicative of a successful future.

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CHARLES W. HASTINGS, the popular proprietor of the leading livery of Fort Recovery, was born October 27, 1855, in Mercer county, Ohio, on his father's farm. Receiving a good common-school education in his youth, he became qualified to teach school, and taught in his home district with satisfaction to the patrons of the school. Arriving at his majority, he rented the home farm for five years, at the end of which period he purchased a farm in Jay county, Ind., containing eighty acres of land, and engaged in the business of buying and shipping cattle, sheep and hogs, thus being engaged for eight years and being quite successful. In 1892 he became engaged in the livery business in Fort Recovery, and at the present time conducts the largest livery stable in the place. He has good driving horses and excellent livery rigs of all kinds. He is also engaged in breeding horses, owning Leke Cramp, No. 9,763, American stud book. This is an English draft horse and weighs about 1,700 pounds, and is from one of the best breeds for draft in western Ohio. He also owns Clyde Charles, an American draft horse of the Clydesdale stock, weighing about 2,000 pounds. This is also a fine draft animal. Oscar S. is a grandson of Hamilton, 10, and Blue Ball, sired by Ajax 40, is a thoroughbred pacing stallion, this horse having had a short season of training and believed to have in him the making of a very speedy pacer. He has a record of 2:27, which was made in the mud, and has shown a 2:10 gait.

Mr. Hastings does a first-class business, and is well known throughout Mercer and surrounding counties. He was married June 26, 1881, to Sarah A. Lowry, born in Mercer county, March 6, 1865, and a daughter of Morton M. and Elizabeth (Bierly) Lowry. Mr. Lowry was one of the early settlers of Mercer county, and is now engaged in farming and stock-raising. To Mr. and Mrs. Hastings there have been born three children, as follows: Annie E., Edward S. and Eva E. Politically Mr. Hastings is a republican and he is a representative citizen of Fort Recovery, highly respected by all. He owns valuable real estate in the town and also a farm of eighty acres in the northwest part of Darke county.

Wateman W. Hastings, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Sussex county, Del., and descended from an old colonial family of that state. The great-grandfather of the subject came from England, and it is believed that the family is a branch of the noted Hastings family of England, of which the famous Warren Hastings was the most conspicuous member. His great-grandfather settled in Delaware, and there became a farmer. His son, James, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Delaware, and became an extensive land-owner, marrying in that state. Elizabeth Bennett was the maiden name of his wife. This marriage resulted in the following children: Bohn, Luther, James, Wateman, Elihu, Eli, Harriet, Rachael, Maria, Nellie and Mary. James Hastings was an extensive farmer of Sussex county, Del., but, being opposed to slavery, did not hold slaves, as was the custom in that state. Nevertheless, he was a well known and influential man.

Wateman Hastings, the father of the subject, became a farmer and married Eleanor Collins, daughter of Solomon and Nancy (Walston) Collins. To Mr. and Mrs. Hastings there were born twelve children, as follows: Alaface, who died in infancy; Eli; Nancy; James; John, who died at fourteen years of age; Zachariah; Daniel, who died in infancy; Charles; Joseph, who died when a child; Ella; Royal, died an infant; and Henry, who also died in infancy.

Wateman Hastings came to Ohio in the early part of 1846, and remained in Cincinnati until August 3, 1846, when he removed to Mercer county, settling three miles south of Fort Recovery. Here he purchased eighty acres of land, all woods, and, clearing it up, made for himself and his family a good home. Here he is still living, aged about seventy-six. He has a good farm of 160 acres, and is in comfortable circumstances. Politically Mr. Hastings has always been a republican, and during the war of the Rebellion he was a tower of strength to the friends of the government. As a member of the Congregational church, he has served as deacon for many years, and he is a man of high character and is much respected for his integrity and honor.

J. E. HATTERY, M. D., a prominent member of the medical profession and junior member of the firm of Wintermute & Hattery, of Celina, was born at Van Wert, Ohio, July 25, 1857. He is a son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Ritter) Hattery, of whom full notice will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Dr. Hattery was reared on his father's farm in Van Wert county, attending the district schools as he had opportunity until he was seventeen years of age. He then entered the college at Valparaiso, Ind., remaining there two terms. Then, teaching school during five winters in Van Wert county, reading medicine during his leisure hours, he in this way supported himself, and prepared himself for his future life-work. He then began reading medicine with Dr. McGavren, of Van Wert, continuing until 1880, when he entered Starling Medical college of Columbus, Ohio, from which institution he was graduated in 1884. During the same year he located in Elgin, Van Wert county, and there began the practice of medicine, continuing in active practice at that place until the fall of 1893, when he located in Celina, and January, 1894, formed a partnership with Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, under the firm name of Wintermute & Hattery. Dr. Hattery is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical association, and is a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias fraternities.

Dr. Hattery was married in 1886 to Miss Mary A. Nichols, who was born in Union township, Mercer county. She is a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Nichols, the former being now deceased. To the marriage of Dr. Hattery and Miss Nichols, there have been born four children, as follows: John S., Florence and Lenora, and the baby—all of whom are bright, intelligent children, and are living at home. Dr. Hattery is a man who is exclusively devoted to his profession, as in it he sees a wide field of usefulness. In his tastes he is scholarly, and in his private relations he is a kind husband and father, and in every way an exemplary private citizen. Public office or honors have no attraction for him, his ambition being to heal the sick, so far as the present state of medical science will permit, and to broaden the scope and to advance the standing of that science as far as is practicable; for all know that it, like other sciences and arts, is rapidly advancing, especially of recent years.

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MILTON HAYS, of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a grandson of Judge David Hays, deceased, the first of the Hays family to settle in Mercer county, having come here, in 1823, from Fayette county, Ohio.

Judge David Hays, it is supposed, was a native of Pennsylvania. When he came to Mercer county he entered some 700 acres of land in Dublin township, in two tracts, made his home in section No. 26, and engaged in general farming and stock raising—driving the most of his cattle to the Fort Wayne, Ind., market, and carrying on the most extensive farm industry then conducted in this part of the country, having improved some 400 acres of his land. He was a man of decided views and politically was mostly allied with the democratic party, by which he was elected probate judge of Mercer county. He married Miss Polly Boroff, who died at about the age of fifty years, and his own death took place when he was about sixty years old. Of a large family of children born to Judge Hays and wife, eight lived to become heads of families of their own, and were named Harrison, a deceased farmer of Mercer county; William, of whom further mention will be made; Alford, a resident of Union township; Jackson, James and Milton R., all deceased farmers of Mercer county; Lucinda, deceased wife of Reason Webb, and Matilda, deceased wife of Dr. Dugdale—both of Mercer county.

William Hays, the second child born to Judge and Polly (Boroff) Hays, was a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and was born March 8, 1811. He was reared to farm life, a calling he relinquished only at his death. He was very domestic in his habits, but was one of the solid men of the county, and, as a democrat, filled most of the offices of his township. He married Hannah Lilly, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, August 30, 1816, and there were born to them eight children in the following order: Milton, May 14, 1837, and the subject proper of this memoir; Polly, March 31, 1839—deceased wife of Abel Harden; Lucinda, April 30, 1842, deceased wife of David Counterman; Alford L., November 18, 1844—was a soldier in the Civil war, was a farmer, and died in Kansas in 1895; Clayton T., February 25, 1843, died when a year old; Edward L., September 28, 1850, a resident of Van Wert, Ohio; Winfield S., February 10, 1853, a painter and probably now in the west, and William T., December 24, 1856—died in Kansas. The respected father of this family died January 6, 1857, and the mother December 1, 1862.

Milton Hays, with whose name this biographical record is opened, was reared to farming in Hopewell township, Mercer county, and when he had reached the age of seventeen years removed with his father, who had purchased the original Hays homestead in Dublin township, and at the death of the latter he himself became the purchaser—the estate then comprising 288 acres, and lying in sections Nos. 23, 24 and 26. On becoming the owner of this valuable property he at once began making improvements which soon became obvious. It is now one of the best improved farms in this part of the country, and all the modern improvements—which constitute the major portion—have been made by Mr. Hays. In 1880 he erected his present elegant mansion, which is of two stories, and occupies a ground space of 32 x 49 feet. Mr. Hays devotes himself to general farming and stock-raising, and, being a progressive farmer and keeping well abreast of the advances made in his calling, is more than ordinarily successful. Politically a stalwart democrat, he has served as township trustee, and for fifteen years has been on the board of education, and has also frequently been selected as a delegate to his party's conventions.

The marriage of Milton Hays took place March 29, 1860, to Miss Elsie Counterman, born in Black Creek township, Mercer county, October 5, 1842, and daughter of Alexander and Anna (Bullenbaugh) Counterman. This union has been rendered the more happy by the birth of four children, in the following order: Samuel, January 17, 1861—married to Miss M. Weist, and farming in Dublin township; Emma, October 24, 1862—wife of Rev. J. F. Street, minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and residing in Delaware, Ohio; Allan, August 13, 1864—married to Miss Sadie Cobb, and a farmer and school-teacher, of Dublin township, and Charles, born October 17, 1866, married to Miss Eva Coil, and also a farmer of Dublin township. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Hays is a trustee, and few people in the township and county stand as high in the public esteem as the Hays family.

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GEORGE HEDRICK, a substantial farmer of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, an ex-soldier of the Civil war, and a highly respected citizen, springs from sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, was born March 7, 1839, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a son of John and Rebecca (Runkles) Hedrick. His parents removed to Mercer county in September, 1839, and there he received the rudiments of his education in the common schools, and afterward attended the college at Liber, Jay county, Ind., after which he taught school in Mercer county three terms. August 9, 1859, he married Frances S. Clark, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, February 22, 1838, and who was a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Dinney) Clark. Benjamin Clark settled in Mercer county in 1836, his father, William, having come from England, settled at Gallipolis, Ohio, and lived to be 104 years old, and his wife lived to be 103 years old.

George Hedrick and his wife, soon after their marriage, settled in Gibson township; on August 12, 1862, at Fort Recovery, Mr. Hedrick enlisted in company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, and served until July 28, 1865, when he was discharged at Knoxville, Tenn., on account of the war having come to an end. He served with his company nearly one year, and participated in several battles, among them that at Mossy Creek, Tenn., Crab Orchard and the siege of Knoxville, which lasted twenty-two days, and then, in July, 1863, he was transferred to the engineers of the Twenty-third corps, with which body he continued until the close of the war. During his service with the engineer corps he was engaged in building pontoon bridges and fortifications. In building the bridge across the river at Loudon, Tenn., the corps had a severe skirmish with the rebels, the latter retreating after sharp fighting. At Asheville, N. C., they had another sharp skirmish. While Mr. Hedrick was not wounded, yet he suffered from chronic diarrhea and received a severe injury to his hip. During the siege at Knoxville he was rendered deaf in his left ear by atmospheric concussion through the discharge of cannon, and he also lost several of his teeth through scurvy. He was, however, always prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duty, and suffered all the privations of a soldier's life with cheerfulness and fortitude.

After the war he returned to Fort Rocovery and purchased a farm of sixty acres near the town, erected good buildings, improved the land, and now has a comfortable home. To himself and wife there have been born four children, viz: Albert B.; William, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Ordella, who died at the age of seven; Ella N., aged fourteen. Mr. and Mrs. Hedrick are members of the Disciples' church, of which he was one of the founders at Fort Recovery, and he has been elder therein seven years. As a republican he has served as trustee of Gibson township eight years, has been notary public and a member of the school board. He is a member of Harrod-McDaniel post, No. 181, G. A. R., of which he is commander, and of Fort Recovery lodge, No. 458, I. O. O. F., for twenty-five years, as well as a member of the encampment. He has always been known as an upright and honorable citizen, and is highly respected by all.

John Hedrick, grandfather of the subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and he and his wife were the parents of the following children: John, Peter, Sallie, and Katie. John Hedrick, father of the subject, was the father of the following children: Daniel, who died young; Henry, Simon, Mary, John, George, Rebecca, James, Philip, Hannah, Sarah and William. Mr. Hedrick was a farmer and miller, settled on a farm of 120 acres in Gibson township, and built one of the first saw and grist-mills in the county. He was a well known and highly respected man, a member of the Congregational church, and assisted to build the old Congregational church two miles south of Fort Recovery. In politics he was an old-line whig, and had two sons in the Civil war, James and George. James served two years in the Fortieth Ohio volunteer infantry and was in many battles. The family is one of the oldest in Fort Recovery, John Hedrick, the elder, having been the seventh voter in the place. All are honorable citizens and have many warm friends and admirers.

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JOHN HEIN, a well known citizen of Celina, and a member of the firm of Grothjan & Hein, also a member of the city council from the First ward, was born in Chickasaw, Marion township, Mercer county, March 11, 1864. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Heyne) Hein, the former of whom was born in Darke county, Ohio, and the mother also in Ohio. She died in 1869 when the subject of this sketch was but five years old. Joseph Hein is one of the most prosperous and prominent farmers of Mercer county, and resides on one of his farms about one quarter of a mile east of Celina. He owns two farms near each other, one containing eighty-seven acres, the other eighty acres, both good farms, well improved and in excellent condition. Mr. Hein has been twice married. By his marriage to Mary Heyne he had five children, the subject of this sketch being the only one of the five surviving. His second wife was Philomena Benkey, by whom he has three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Rosa. The entire family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church.

John Hein was reared on the farm and was educated in both English and German. In 1883 he left the farm and went to Celina to learn the trade of blacksmith with William Cron, with whom he remained three years, and then went to Dayton, Ohio, and remained about a year. Returning then to Celina he formed a partnership with A. B. Grothjan, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in these pages, under the firm name of Grothjan & Hein. This firm does a general blacksmithing business, builds wagons and buggies, and handles all kinds of carriages and vehicles.

Mr. Hein was married April 19, 1887, to Miss Barbara Schratz, a daughter of Mrs. Mary Schratz, a widow residing at Brazil, Ind. To their marriage there have been born three children, as follows: Verner Joseph, Lona Philomena and Roman John. Mr. Hein is a member of the democratic party and has been quite prominent in local politics. In the spring of 1894 he was nominated by his democratic friends for councilman from the First ward of Celina, and was elected by a majority of eight votes, notwithstanding the ward is normally republican. In the council he is a member of the committee on board of health, of the committee on ordinance, and also of other committees. He is a member of the German Aid society, also a member of Saint Mary's Catholic church, and is of high standing in his church and in every relation and respect.

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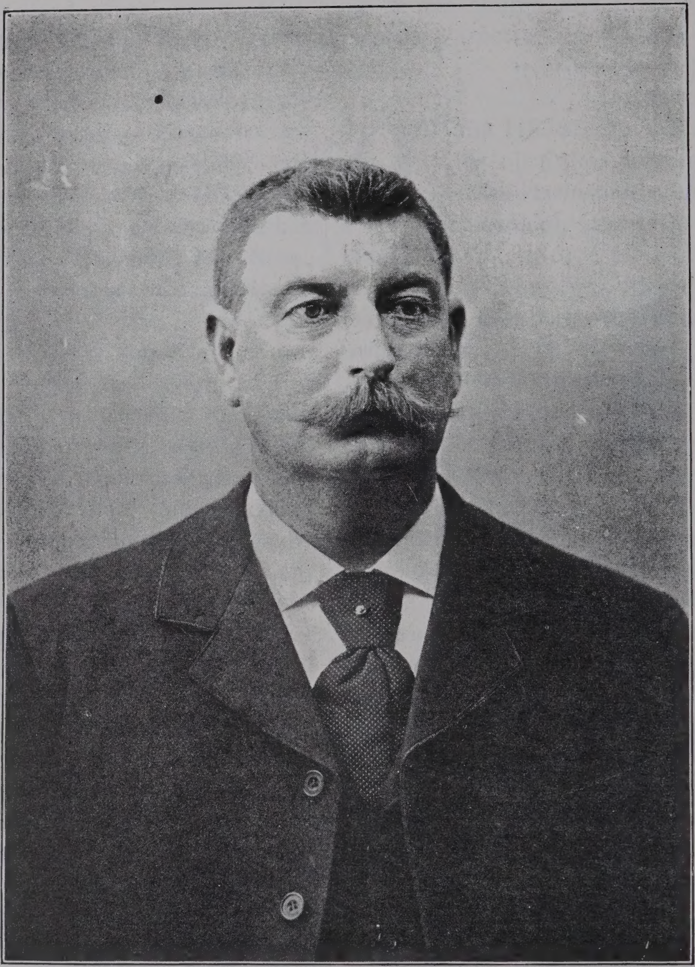
ADAM HEISSER, leading baker in the city of Celina, Ohio, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, a grand duchy and exceedingly fertile portion of Germany, May 23, 1861. He is a son of Gustave and Margaret Heisser, both natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, and both of whom died in their own country.

Adam Heisser learned his trade in Germany before emigrating to the United States, and worked at that trade there until 1881, when he came to this country. Upon landing in New York, he came direct to Mansfield, Ohio, where he had a sister living. After remaining there about a year and a half, being unable to find work at his trade, he went to Bucyrus, Ohio, where he secured work in a bakery, and remained there until 1886. Upon locating in Celina he opened a bakery on Fayette street, where he carried on his business until 1892, when he moved into a building located where his present business house stands. This building was burned down in the great fire of 1894, which occurred on the 27th of July, but by the 15th of August he was again in business, having erected a bakery on his premises, and having a storeroom across the street. As soon as possible after the fire he began the erection of a large, two-story brick block, which was completed by January, 1895, and which cost about $3,500. It is 22 x 80 feet in size, and is one of the handsomest buildings on the new square. It was built in conjunction with the new business building of



G. H. HAUSER.

MRS. G. H. HAUSER.

Philip Sauer. Mr. Heisser bakes all kinds of bread, pies and cakes, and carries a full line of confections, canned goods, cigars, tobacco, etc. His place is patronized by the best people in Celina, which indicates that he is himself popular, and that his business is conducted in an acceptable and correct manner.

Mr. Heisser is a member of the German Lutheran church. He was married in April, 1886, to Miss Menie Goodman, who was born in Baden, Germany, and who came to the United States in 1880. To them four children have been born, as follows: Lillie, Eddie, Albert and Sophia—all bright and intelligent children, and all well educated or being well educated in the public schools of Celina.

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GEORGE H. HAUSER, ex-sheriff of Mercer county, and a well-known citizen of Celina, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 6, 1851. His father, Josiah Hauser, was born in Germany, June 20, 1814, and when he was two years old his parents came to the United States. They located in Lancaster county, Pa., where they both died not many years after. Young Josiah was then taken by an uncle and brought to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he remained until November, 1856, when he removed to Mercer county, locating in Celina, or rather where Celina now is, as at that time there was nothing on the present site of the city but woods. He remained there a year and then purchased land in Hopewell township, removed thereto and followed farming there until his death in 1859. His wife was Elizabeth McGrury, and was born in Fairfield county, August 12, 1814. Her death occurred in Celina in March, 1885. To them there were born the following children: Caroline, born September 16, 1836, married J. T. Mead, and died August 17, 1869; John N., born October 1, 1837, and now living in Fresno county, Cal.; William H., born November 1, 1840, and died in Celina in 1887; Benjamin F., born September 22, 1843, and died in January, 1881; Anthony H., born September 23, 1848, served in company B, One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and died in Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, March 8, 1865; George H., the subject of this sketch; and Thomas Hezekiah, born June 5, 1855, and is now living in Celina.

George H. Hauser was born June 6, 1851, and was reared principally in Celina, receiving a common-school education. In 1860 he began life for himself by going to work on the Miami canal, with his brother, he driving on the tow-path. This work he continued to perform until 1869, and then, for some years, worked at various occupations, until he was appointed, in 1871, marshal of Celina for one year. In 1873 he was elected marshal and continued to be re-elected to that office until 1890, a period of seventeen years, when he was nominated and elected sheriff of Mercer county. During the time he was marshal of Celina he found his office no sinecure, as the town during that period passed through several stages of development in civilization. He had many close calls for his life while in discharge of his duty, escaping many a time by the narrowest of margins from being seriously injured or perhaps from being fatally wounded. He had two suits of clothes cut from his person, but notwithstanding all the difficulties he encountered he overcame all the violators of the law, and cleaned out the roughs and toughs, no matter whether they belonged to Celina or whether they came in from a distance and made Celina their field of operations. By the fearless manner in which he performed the duties of his office as marshal, he became known far and wide as a courageous and faithful official. This reputation doubtless was a help to him in the performance of his arduous duties, as it had a tendency to keep many all-round criminals out of town.

In 1891 he was elected by the democratic party sheriff of the county, and in 1893 was re-elected. He has thus served the county two terms as sheriff, an office scarcely less dangerous and far more responsible in many ways than that of city marshal. While he was sheriff he assisted in breaking up the notorious Greer gang, which was a band of robbers, horse thieves, and all-round criminals of Mercer, Van Wert and Darke counties. Out of twenty-two members of the gang, seventeen were sent to the penitentiary for different terms of imprisonment. Since retiring from the office of sheriff, he has been engaged in the oil business in the counties of Mercer, Allen, Van Wert and Auglaize. His principal wells are located in Union township, Mercer county, he having fourteen wells in operation, aggregating about 1,000 barrels every twenty-four hours.

Mr. Hauser was married October 25, 1868, to Miss Maria A. Wolf, of Jay county, Ind., who was born in Preble county, Ohio. To them the following children have been born: John N., born January 25, 1870; Francis M., October 1, 1871; Orrin M., June 20, 1875. Mr. Hauser is a member of the fraternity of Odd Fellows, is a charter member of Patriarchs Militant, of Greenville, Ohio, and of the Independent Order of Red Men, and of the Prudential Order of America. Mr. Hauser is one of the successful men of the county, public spirited, courageous, and always ready to perform any duty that his fellow-citizens may call upon him to perform. He is by his known bravery and readiness thus to act one of the most useful conservators of the peace in the community. All respect him and some fear him, and both as an official and private citizen he is highly esteemed.

REV. LOUIS HEFELE, pastor of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic church at Fort Recovery, Ohio, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 9, 1865, and came to the United States in 1882. The church of which he is pastor was founded in 1882 by the Rev. August Seifert, C. PP. S., and was one of the many founded in the following manner:

About 1842 Rev. Father Salesius Brunner, C. PP. S., came to this country from Switzerland, having been appointed father superior for the purpose of establishing Catholic congregations, schools and missions, for the German people, who were scattered throughout western Ohio. Rev. Father Salesius began his work at New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio, and after much labor and the overcoming of many difficulties, established a congregation there, and a convent for the education of teachers. He also established an institute at Thompson, Geauga county, for the education of the clergy, which was afterward removed to Carthagena, Mercer county, and he also founded among the scattered German population many churches. All this was accomplished through and by means of hard labor and unflagging zeal and devotion to the cause of religion. Rev. Father Salesius was very successful, establishing as many as twenty-five congregations in the western part of Ohio. He educated many priests, among them being Rev. August Seifert, mentioned above as the founder of the congregation of Fort Recovery in 1882. He found the German people with limited means and much scattered about the western part of the state, which made his work all the more difficult, but he continued to labor faithfully, though himself without means, and at length succeeded in purchasing fifty acres of land at Fort Recovery, and in erecting a brick building, in which the sisters might establish a school. He also built a church and laid the foundations broad and deep for the great work he had in mind. In 1883 he was called to Carthagena, since which time his successors have kept up the good work. Other buildings have been erected, consisting of a residence for the priest, etc., and it is now in contemplation to erect a much larger church. The congregation, at first small, has largely increased, and the people are in a much more prosperous condition than in past years, so that the labors of those who are now in charge are far less arduous than were those of the priests and teachers who have gone before.

Rev. Louis Hefele studied at Carthagena from the time of reaching this country in 1882, to 1891, a period of nine years, and was ordained priest June 21, 1891. Beginning his labors at Russia, Shelby county, he remained there one year, and then went to Versailles, Darke county, Ohio, where he remained fifteen months, in charge of the congregation at that place. In June, 1893, he was transferred to Fort Recovery, to take charge of Saint Joseph's and Saint Mary's congregations, and is still in charge, having met with great success, increasing the membership of the congregations materially and liquidating a large indebtedness. He has also established the Saint Louis congregation in Darke county and built a church there. The school is in excellent condition and the pupils are receiving careful instruction in all branches suitable for their age. Saint Mary's church is in a thriving condition and is constantly growing, under the faithful and zealous devotion of its pastor.

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**JOSEPH HELLWARTH**, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of George Michael and Margaret (Wappas) Hellwarth, was born in the township in which he now lives, January 14, 1844. George Michael Hellwarth, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, February 14, 1803, and his father, Ulrich Hellwarth, was a prosperous man in Germany, being the proprietor of a vineyard. He was the father of five children, of whom the father of the subject was the only son, and of whom Mrs. Louisa Swartz, of Columbus, Ohio, is the only daughter now living. Ulrich Hellwarth came to the United States in 1834, divided his property among his children, and then lived with them the remainder of his days.

George Michael Hellwarth was reared on the farm, was educated in Germany, and at the age of twenty-one entered the German army, in which he served seven years. He then came to the United States, his wife coming across the sea in the same vessel, and they were married in 1834, after reaching this country. To them three children were born, viz: Caroline, wife of Charles Fuhrman, of Decatur, Ind.; John, deceased, and Michael, a farmer living near New Haven, Ind. The mother of these three children died, and the father, for his second wife, married Margaret Wappas, daughter of Casper and Margaret Wappas, and to this second marriage there have been born the following children: Joseph, the subject of this sketch; David, a merchant of Celina; George, Benjamin and Stephen, all of Hopewell township; Lydia, wife of William Brock, of Darke county; and Louisa, wife of Abraham Brock, of Darke county.

After coming to this country Mr. Hellwarth worked three summers on the national pike between Columbus and Springfield, Ohio, during the winter seasons threshing rye for every eighth bushel. In 1839 he entered 160 acres of land in Mercer county, to which he moved his family—Mr. Fetters, Mr. Now, Mr. Gump and Mr. Hellwarth being the first settlers in the township of Hopewell. Here Mr. Hellwarth lived the rest of his life, engaged in clearing up his farm, making a good home for his family. He was a public-spirited man, a leader in the community, an active worker in the church, in which he held several of the offices, and a most enterprising and honest man. In early life he was a Lutheran but in later years became a member of the Evangelical church. Nothing was more acceptable to him than the duty of attending religious worship. He became one of the largest land owners in the county, and gave each of his sons eighty acres. He died January 25, 1866; his wife still lives.

Joseph Hellwarth, reared on the farm, secured a good common-school education in both English and German. When twenty years of age he went to Indiana and spent nine months on a farm. Returning home, he remained with his mother until 1872, and during the summer of that year was in the west. August 28, 1873, he married Elizabeth Fetters, daughter of William and Anna (Clappen) Fetters, and to this marriage there were born two children, viz: Franetta Anna, who died March 1, 1895, aged twenty years, six months and three days, and Edward Franklin, who is in school at Ada, taking a course in music, vocal and instrumental, and also a teacher's course. The mother of these two children was born in Hopewell township, May 27, 1857. Her parents had the following children: Christian and John, both of Hopewell township; Daniel, on the home farm, and Elizabeth, wife of the subject. The mother died May 12, 1893, aged eighty-four years. William Fetters was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, July 29, 1805, and came to the United States in 1832. He resided at Fredericktown, Md., until 1837, when he came to Ohio, and was taught how to sow wheat by the father of the subject. By trade he was a turner. For forty years he was a member of the Evangelical church, and died, on the place he entered from the government, June 12, 1890.

Joseph Hellwarth, after his marriage, settled on his present farm, which consisted of eighty acres of uncleared land given him by his father. He aided his mother rear the rest of the family, and in November, 1885, moved to Celina, lived there about eighteen months, engaged in the general merchandise business, under the firm name of D. Hellwarth & Co., and then sold out and returned to his farm, upon which he has ever since baen satisfied to live. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and besides buys and feeds a good deal of stock. He has excellent buildings on his farm, the first part of his present house having been built in 1870 and the last in 1892. He also has an excellent barn, built in 1878. On May 14, 1886, a cyclone did great damage to his buildings, but he has rebuilt, and now has better buildings than before the disaster. He has always been active in school work, and as a republican has served as township trustee eight years. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church, in which Mr. Hellwarth has from time to time held all the offices, and in which he is now trustee. He is a public-spirited and generous-hearted man, and is highly esteemed by all that known him.

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STEPHEN HELLWARTH, a progressive and successful farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, and the youngest son of George Michael and Margaret (Wappas) Hellwarth, was born July 18, 1858. He was reared on the farm, received a good education in the district schools, and married March 3, 1881, Josephine Struckman, daughter of John and Magdalena (Raach) Struckman. To this marriage one child, Norville D., was born May 3, 1882. The mother of this child was born May 25, 1863, and died May 11, 1882. She was a member of the Evangelical church, a good woman, and all that knew her mourned her untimely death. On April 5, 1883, Mr. Hellwarth married Lydia Struckman, a sister of his first wife, and to this marriage there has been born one child, Russell Otto, February 6, 1890. Mr. Hellwarth's second wife was born February 2, 1865, her father having been a native of Mecklenburg, Germany. In 1853 he located in Celina, was a blacksmith by trade, was highly respected for his manliness and honesty, became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church about 1876, and died September 30, 1883, aged fifty-eight years, six months and seventeen days. He and his wife were the parents of six children, as follows: Mary, deceased; Henry, deceased; George, proprietor of a foundry and carriage works at Celina; Josephine, first wife, and Lydia, second wife of the subject, and one that died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Hocking county, October 29, 1834, and when she came to Mercer county she was fourteen years of age. Her parents were early settlers in this county, and both were prominent members of the church. Her mother still lives in Celina.

After his marriage, Stephen Hellwarth lived six months on the home farm, and then moved into his present place, which contains seventy-one acres, sixty acres of which were cleared at the time. Since then he has made many and valuable improvements, having built a house two stories high and thirty feet square in 1886, and having at other times erected other needed buildings. While he is a general farmer he does not limit his operations strictly to farming. He ran a threshing machine two years, and raises stock—as much as he needs for the benefit of his farm and some for market. As a republican he has served several years on the school board and is considered one of the most reliable and useful men in the township, being a man who believes in public enterprises, and being always willing and ready to perform his share of the labor, and to bear his share of the burden, of carrying forward to success any worthy enterprise. He and his estimable wife are members of the Evangelical church, always active in religious work, and strong believers in religion as a reforming influence in the lives of men and women. Mr. Hellwarth is assistant superintendent of the Sunday school, and by all who know him is looked upon as a reliable man in all respects. His mother lives on the home farm near Stedeke.

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CHARLES HESS, one of the prominent citizens and a leading contractor and builder of Celina, was born on a farm near Carthagena, Mercer county, July 15, 1853. He is a son of John and Catherine (Kuhlmann) Hess, both of whom were natives of Germany, and are now deceased.

Charles Hess was reared on the farm until he reached his eleventh year, receiving in the meantime a good education for a boy of his age in the common schools, and at the age above mentioned his father moved his family to Celina. When he became seventeen years of age he began to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, continuing to work at it for two years. Then he began to learn the carpenter's trade, serving one year as an apprentice with Henry Klare. At the expiration of this period he entered into partnership with Mr. Klare, and the firm of Klare & Hess continued in existence for two years. This firm followed contracting and building with success, and gave success to their patrons. For five years afterward Mr. Hess worked for himself and then formed a partnership with Charles Gable, under the firm name of Gable & Hess, which continued for two years. Since that time Mr. Hess has been engaged in business on his own account.

Having begun, as Mr. Hess did, as a cabinetmaker, it is but natural to presume that he is a careful, skillful and close workman, and the nature of his work justifies the presumption. His success has been something remarkable, and he has erected a large number of the best buildings in Celina and Mercer county. He erected the large business block on Main street, between Market and Fayette streets, for Messrs. Schunck, DeFord & Scranton, which contains three storerooms, and which is one of the largest blocks in the city, as well as many other good and substantial buildings.

Mr. Hess was married July 25, 1875, to Miss Fena Fox, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Edward, Celeste, Ralph, Euleta and Carl Ceno, and two twin boys, that died, one at the age of four weeks, the other at six weeks of age. Mr. Hess and his family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church, and he is a member of Saint Joseph's Aid society. In politics Mr. Hess is a democrat, but he is not by any means an office seeker, though he is as loyal to party ties as if he held the most trustworthy positions and best paying offices within the gift of his party. He believes that to be a good citizen it is not at all necessary to be an office holder.

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**THOMAS J. HENKLE**, one of the prominent and progressive farmers of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Center township, December 16, 1865. He is a son of Isaac and Jane (Agler) Henkle, the former of whom was born in Mercer county in 1829, and was a son of Joseph Henkle, a very early settler of Dublin township, where he entered 160 acres of land, and where he passed the remainder of his days. Joseph was the father of four children, as follows: Abbie, wife of Amos Tellis, a gardener of Van Wert, Ohio; Isaac, father of the subject of this sketch; Washington, formerly of Dublin township, now deceased; and Jackson, of Rockford. After his first wife's death he married again, and by his second marriage had four children, as follows: Rachel (Mrs. Ralston), of Paulding county; Jefferson, of Rockford, Ohio; Susan, wife of John Sivey, of Rockford; and Ellen (Mrs. Stultz), now deceased. Joseph Henkle was in politics a democrat, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812.

Isaac Henkle was reared on the farm in Dublin township, was there educated, and married Jane Agler, a daughter of Joseph and Emma Agler, a biography of the former of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Jane Agler was born in Stark county, December 12, 1833, and was there married. To her marriage with Isaac Henkle she became the mother of eight children, as follows: James, of Center township; Martha, wife of Simon Bolton, of Mercer county; Rachael, deceased; Gilbert, of Center township; Thomas Jefferson, the subject of this sketch; Rhoda, wife of Sherman Steward, of Center township, and Cora, living at home with her mother.

After his marriage Isaac Henkle bought a tract of land in Dublin township, upon which he lived some years, and then bought a tract of eighty acres of excellent land, which he cleared from the woods, converted into a good farm, and lived upon the rest of his life. Politically he was a democrat, and religiously a member of the Church of God. His death occurred in September, 1883. His widow still lives on the home place, a woman possessed of many virtues, and a member also of the Church of God, although from the age of twenty-two until 1888 she was a member of the Presbyterian church, the change of membership, however, not having been made on account of any doctrinal point of difference between the two churches, but solely on account of the Church of God being near her home.

Thomas J. Henkle was reared on the farm, educated in the schools of Center township, and early in life learned the trade of carpenter. At this trade he worked two years, and on October 15, 1891, married Florence Eichar, a daughter of Jacob and Matilda (Dysert) Eichar. To this marriage there was born one child, Fannie Eunice, born May 25, 1894. Florence Eichar was born in Hopewell township November 10, 1868, and lived there until she was married. Her father, Jacob F. Eichar, was born in Mercer county, August 2, 1843, and was a son of Jacob and Sarah (Buck) Eichar, early settlers of Black Creek township. Jacob Eichar married Matilda Dysert February 9, 1868, a daughter of John Dysert, Sr., whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. To their marriage there were born two children, viz: Florence, wife of the subject, and Amanda, deceased. Florence Eichar was born in Dublin township, May 22, 1851, and died, a member of the United Brethren church, January 8, 1874. After his marriage, Jacob Eichar located on his present place in Hopewell township. It was a farm partially cleared, and upon this farm he lived until the death of his wife, when he removed to his father's farm, and there died March 21, 1877. He was a man of high character, a republican in politics, and was highly respected by all who knew him. After her father's death, Mrs. Henkle lived with her grandfather Eichar until her marriage.

Thomas J. Henkle, soon after his marriage to Miss Eichar, located on his present farm, consisting of 120 acres, ninety acres of which were cleared. He has himself cleared the remaining thirty acres, and now has it all under a high state of cultivation, well improved in every way, fertilized, drained, and having upon it good fences and good buildings. In 1893 he erected a fine, new barn, and all his other improvements correspond. During the greater part of his life he was a democrat, but for the past two years, that is, since 1893, he has been a populist. He is one of the prominent citizens of his township, leading in all good and public-spirited movements, especially where these movements are well calculated to advance the general interest of the community. Progressive and liberal in his views, he is at once a good and useful citizen, and one that has the respect of his fellow-men to a high degree.

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FREDERICK MARTIN HIGH, a well-known and successful farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Cincinnati, July 20, 1848. He is a son of John and Sophia (Sprain) High, the former of whom was born in Germany, in 1810, and died in December, 1848.

John High was a son of Frederick High, who owned two grist-mills, several farms and one entire town. He had two sons, viz: Martin, who died a bachelor, and John, father of the subject. John High was educated in Germany and was given a fine musical education, beside his scholastic training. About 1832 he came to the United States and was organist for a Catholic church in Cincinnati for some time. In 1840 he married Sophia Sprain, a daughter of Henry and Maria Sprain, and to this marriage there were born three children, as follows: An infant, that died; John, of Liberty township; and Frederick Martin, the subject of this sketch. Sophia Sprain was born in Holland in 1813, and came with her parents to the United States, they locating in Tuscarawas county, and afterward removing to Van Wert county, among the very earliest settlers of that county. John and Sophia High, after their marriage, lived for some years in Cincinnati, and there he died after a six years' illness of consumption. His widow then went with her children to Tuscarawas county, and remained there until 1850, and then she removed to Van Wert county, leaving the subject of this sketch with his grandmother. She worked in Delphos for eleven years, saving during this time $850, with which she bought seventy-five acres of land, in Van Wert county, and with her two sons went to farming. In this way they all worked two years. In 1869 the widow married Henry Lampe, a farmer of Union township, and she lived then in that township until her death, December 13, 1890, a faithful member of the Church of God. Mr. Lampe still survives, and is living on the farm in Union township.

Frederick Martin High was reared on a farm, and educated in Van Wert county, in a log school-house, in which the fire-place was in the middle of the floor and which had a large hole in the roof for the escape of the smoke. On February 18, 1871, he married Miss Lizzie Maurer, a daughter of Christian and Sophronia (Marble) Maurer, and to this marriage there were born nine children, as follows: John, a farmer at home; Ella, wife of Charles Putnam, a farmer of Union township, Mercer county; William, Otie, Arthur, Edward, Sophronia, Christian and Eva, all at home except Arthur, who is in school. Miss Lizzie Maurer was born in Tuscarawas county, October 21, 1852. Her father was a native of Holland, was born in 1823, and came to the United States in his youth. Her mother was also a native of Holland and came to this country with her parents four years later, they locating in Tuscarawas county, where the father died March 18, 1895. They were the parents of the following children: Susan, on the home farm; a son that died in infancy; Lizzie, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Frederick, deceased; Mary, wife of William Diegle, living near Mendon; Lydia, wife of Henry Evans, a minister of the Evangelical church of Elkhart, Ind.; and John, a farmer of Mendon. Mr. Maurer moved to Union township about 1855 and lived there the rest of his life. In politics he was a democrat and he was a member of the Evangelical church. His wife died in 1891.

After his marriage the subject located in Union township on a farm owned by himself, which was uncleared and unimproved, and upon this farm he lived until October, 1881, when he located upon his present farm, consisting then of 160 acres, to which he has since added eighty acres, making a good farm of 240 acres. On October 16, 1894, he lost his large barn by fire, the entire loss being $4,400, on which there was insurance to the amount of $1,900. This barn he replaced by one equally convenient. In politics Mr. High is a republican and has held a few of the local offices. He is, beside being a farmer, a carpenter and stone-mason, and a good workman in both trades. His wife is a member of the Church of God, or Winebrennarian church, and is looked upon as an excellent woman in every relation of life.

WALLACE F. HILEMAN, the popular and well-known livery, feed and sale stable proprietor, of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of Van Wert county, and was born October 24, 1861, a son of John A. and Annis (Firestone) Hileman, both now deceased.

The Hileman family are of German origin, but have for generations been natives of America, the great-grandfather of our subject having been born in Pennsylvania. He was married in Somerset county to a Miss Leichty, and reared a family of three children—Isaac, Christian and Sarah. The eldest of these three, Isaac, learned the shoemaking trade in the Keystone state, when a young man removed to Holmes county, Ohio, and in 1825 or 1826 purchased a farm in Chester township, Wayne county, which he conducted in connection with his trade. He married, near Mount Eden, Holmes county, Miss Margaret Anderson, who bore him nine children, viz: John A. (father of our subject), James, Thompson, Margaret, Hiram, Andrew (who died in the Civil war), Nancy, Harvey and Annis, of whom all the sons became farmers. The father of this family accumulated a competency and became a prominent citizen of Wayne county. He was one who kept pace with the times, was well-read, and was active as a member of the republican party, and he and wife were devout members of the Presbyterian church, in the faith of which both died, at the advanced age of eighty years each.

John A. Hileman, father of our subject, was born in Sugar Creek township, Holmes county, Ohio, April 24, 1819, but was reared in Wayne county after he had attained the age of seven years. He received but a limited education, but one that sufficed for the business affairs of life. December 8, 1842, he married, in Wayne county, Miss Annis Firestone, and in May, 1853, removed to Van Wert county, where he purchased 167 acres of woodland in section No. 35, Willshire township, which land he cleared up and thoroughly improved, converting it into a model farm, on which he passed the remainder of his days, dying in July, 1874, in the faith of the Presbyterian church. In politics he was a republican, but had never been an aspirant for public office, although a public-spirited and progressive citizen. To John A. and Annis Hileman were born the following children: Elsie Ann, who died in childhood; William W., a leading farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county; John L., on the home farm in Willshire township, and also doing an extensive business as a slater; Isaac A., twin of John L.; Rachael Ann, wife of John Bowen, of Willshire township; Harvey E., a prosperous farmer, also of Willshire township; Clara J., wife of J. H. Stetler, of the same township; Wallace F., the subject of this sketch; Ida V., married to M. J. Myers, of Willshire township, Van Wert county; Samantha Ellen, deceased wife of John Watters, also of Willshire township. The venerable mother of this large family expired in 1880, sincerely mourned by her children and her numerous friends and neighbors.

Wallace F. Hileman, our subject, was reared on the homestead in Van Wert county, Ohio, and educated in the public schools. At the early age of sixteen years he began the battle of life on his own account by working out by the month as a farm hand, and in 1882, at his majority, was able to purchase a farm of eighty acres in Liberty township, Van Wert county. The place had been but slightly improved, but he did considerable clearing and ditching, and also made other improvements, greatly enhancing its value. He resided on this farm some three or four years and then sold it at a fair profit. In 1888 he came to Rockford and purchased the livery establishment of Wager Bros., then a comparatively small concern, and continued to occupy the old stand for about a year, when he erected his present commodious barn on North Main street. The main structure is thirty-six by eighty feet, with additions for buggies and stabling purposes, making it the most complete establishment of the kind in Rockford. He keeps on hand an average stock of twelve or fifteen head of horses and a line of vehicles unsurpassed in the county. He is a thorough-going liveryman, obliging and accommodating, and consequently extremely popular. Fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias.

The marriage of Mr. Hileman took place, in 1882, with Miss Nannie Stetler, who was reared in Van Wert county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed by the birth of four children, as follows: Lucy, Minnie, Cecil and Jessie. Mrs. Hileman is a devoted member of the Presbyterian church and quite liberal in her contributions towards its maintenance. The family enjoy to the fullest extent the respect of their neighbors.

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FREDERICK HILL.—In 1778, in the little village of Hasken, Germany, Philip Hill was born. In his early boyhood he received an education such as was usually given to German youths of the time. When grown to manhood he married Christina, who was a daughter of Peter and Christina Neisel, and who was born in 1817. Her father was a tailor and weaver, and accompanied his daughter and son-in-law to America in 1836. On arriving in America, the recently-married couple settled in Butler county, Ohio, but soon moved to Hamilton county, near Cincinnati. Here they remained until 1841, when they moved to Black Creek township, Mercer county, and settled on the land of Peter Neisel, who had settled there on coming to this country and entered a tract of wild land, on which he built a log cabin, and was among the earliest pioneers in that section, but died a short time after locating there. Philip Hill took full charge after moving on the Neisel homestead, and was a very successful farmer; his family consisted of six children, viz: Christina, the wife of Casper Lichtenstiger, of this county; Philip, deceased; Anthony, who, at his country's call, enlisted, and now fills a soldier's grave; Frederick, the subject of our sketch; Philip, an invalid who lives with Frederick, and Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Althoen, whose sketch may be found on another page. Mr. Hill was a prominent member of the Lutheran church, and a charitable and liberal man. In politics he was a democrat, and was called away in 1843.

Frederick Hill, third son of Philip, was born in Dayton, Ohio, March 14, 1839, and when but two years old came to Mercer county, where he attended school and was reared. Being left an orphan when but four years old, he was obliged to make his own way in the world, and this he has well done. On October 31, 1859, he married Nancy Bolenbaugh, who was born in Van Wert county, in December, 1840, her father being John Bolenbaugh, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio and settled in Van Wert county in its earliest days. Her mother was Elizabeth Stetler; both parents died when their daughter was a small child, and she was taken care of by an older sister.

After his marriage, Frederick Hill located on the farm where he now lives and prospers, and where his family of children have been born, as follows: Sarah, the wife of Samuel Bowen, of Van Wert county; William B. and George M., both farming on the home place; Ida, the wife of Andy Stetler, of Van Wert county; John P., of Adams county, Ind.; Laura, deceased; Mahlon and Thomas, farmers in this township. Mr. Hill politically is a democrat, and works hard for party success, and by that party he has been elected to the office of township trustee, constable and several others. He is a prominent and progressive farmer and a public-spirited citizen, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him, and is active in all affairs that pertain to the welfare of the community. For years he has been a leading member of the United Brethren church, serving as class-leader, Sunday-school superintendent and trustee.

GEORGE McCLELLAN HILL, one of the most progressive young farmers of Black Creek township, was born in Mercer county, July 31, 1864. He is a son of Frederick and Nancy (Bolenbaugh) Hill, full reference to whom may be found on a succeeding page in this volume. He was reared on a farm in Black Creek township, and on December 24, 1885, was married to Mary M. Hurless, a daughter of George and Sarah (Harmon) Hurless. To this marriage there have been born three children, viz: Sarah Viola, born July 30, 1889; Charles Hurless, born September 14, 1892, and William Floyd, born August 22, 1895. Mary M. Hurless, wife of Mr. Hill, and the mother of these three children, was born in Van Wert county, April 10, 1865.

George Hurless, father of Mrs. Hill, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, April 17, 1833, and married Mrs. Sarah (Harmon) Chilcote, March 5, 1862. She was a daughter of George Harmon and was born in Fairfield county, July 20, 1827. To George Hurless and his wife there were born three children, as follows: John, deceased; Mary M., wife of the subject; and an infant, deceased. Previous to her marriage to Mr. Hurless, Sarah Harmon had been married to a Mr. Chilcote, by whom she had one child, George Chilcote. In 1854 Mr. Hurless removed to Van Wert county, where he purchased forty acres of woodland, which he cleared up and converted into a good farm. Upon this farm he resided until 1866, when he removed to Mercer county, having purchased a large tract of land in Black Creek township, which was partly cleared and improved, and upon this land passed the remainder of his life. His first wife died in January, 1888, and afterward he married Elizabeth Ash, who now resides in Wood county. In politics Mr. Hurless was a democrat and served as justice of the peace for several years; religiously he was a member of the radical branch of the United Brethren church, was prominent for many years in church work, and held the office of trustee as well as other offices in the church to which he belonged. He was one of the most public-spirited citizens and one of the most liberal and charitable men anywhere to be found. His life terminated somewhat suddenly, while he was on a visit to relatives in Wood county, May 25, 1894. Great-grandfather Harmon was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and grandfather Harmon served his country in wars against the Indians.

Richard L. Hurless, the father of George Hurless, was born in Virginia November 17, 1799, and was a son of George and Mary (Furl) Hurless, natives of Virginia and of Germany, respectively. They lived upon a farm, farming being Mr. Hurless's occupation. Richard L. Hurless was one of eleven children, and was only a boy when his parents removed to Harrison county, Ohio. There he grew to manhood, and there, on September 11, 1819, he married Mary Foutz, who was born in Maryland, near Hagerstown, October 31, 1801. She was a daughter of Michael and Catherine Foutz, the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of Maryland. Richard L. Hurless, after his marriage, located in Harrison county on a farm, upon which he lived until 1854, when he removed to Harrison township, Van Wert county, the death of Mr. Hurless occurring there in 1858, and since this time the widow has lived among her surviving children, of whom there were in all eleven, as follows: Michael, Emanuel, Jonathan, and Catherine, all deceased; Mary, wife of Elias Polen, of Iowa; George, deceased; Samuel, of Van Wert county; Hannah, deceased; John, of Van Wert county; Jacob, of Van Wert county, and Martha, deceased. The father of these children was a democrat in politics, and in religion a member of the United Brethren church. He was one of the very strong, robust men among the early settlers, was very energetic, and in all respects a typical pioneer, no hardship nor danger causing him to shrink from the performance of any duty when in his young or older manhood. At the time of his death he owned forty acres of land. Mrs. Hurless is a member of the United Brethren church, and is now living at the advanced age of ninety-nine years, quite strong physically and possessing her mental faculties to a most wonderful degree.

George McClellan Hill, after his marriage, located on his present farm, which was the Hurless farm, and he has lived thereon ever since. In politics he is a democrat and takes great interest in his party's welfare and success. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church and are active workers therein. Mr. Hill, it may be truthfully said, is one of the most progressive young men of the present day, and is highly respected for what he is and for what he has already accomplished.

* * *

REV. GEORGE HINDELANG, priest of the Trinity church, Cold Water, Mercer county, Ohio, was born April 12, 1868, in Kimratshofen, Bavaria, Germany. He is a son of Fidel and Agatha (Haibel) Hindelang, the former of whom was born at Hopferbach, Bavaria, Germany, was educated at Pfaffenhausen; began teaching when twenty-one years of age, and taught thirty-four years, and died October 25, 1895.

George Hindelang, the subject, received his fundamental education at home under the instructions of his father. When he became twelve years of age he attended Latin school in Guenzburg, which he continued to attend until he had reached his senior year, and then he emigrated to the United States, and upon arriving here in April, 1886, entered the congregation of the Precious Blood at Carthagena, Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, remaining there six years. He was ordained priest by Archbishop William Elder, of the diocese of Cincinnati, June 23, 1893, together with five others, as follows: Charles Notheis, who is now located at Casella, Marion township, Mercer county; Clement Schuette, who is a professor at Collegeville, as are also Max Walz and Mark Hamburger; the fifth ordinee, Chrysostrom Hummer, is located at Kalida, Ohio. After his ordination, Rev. Mr. Hindelang went to Philothea, Mercer county, and there took charge of a church composed of fifty families. After remaining there one year he was assigned to Cold Water, where he still remains. Rev. Philip Hartman was his predecessor in Cold Water, and is now priest at Saint Mary's Catholic church, in Celina. Rev. Mr. Hindelang's church contains 120 families, in good standing, and the school has two teachers—John Albers and William Mackey.

The Holy Trinity church at Cold Water was founded in 1870, by seven families, who had up to that time been compelled to drive to Philothea, a distance of five miles. The building cost about $3,000, exclusive of an addition, which was made in 1887, for the accommodation of the priest. The church was dedicated by Archbishop John B. Purcell, of Cincinnati, and was built by a committee consisting of Henry Callmeyer, John Miller, John Birkmeyer, Joseph Pohl and Joseph Gast. The priests who have officiated at Holy Trinity church have been as follows: Rev. Jacob Ringele; Rev. Henry Drees, ten years, now provincial of the community of the Precious Blood; Rev. Theobald Shock, five years; Rev. Pauline Trost, three years; Rev. George Fleisch, one year; Rev. Alphonse Crouse, two years; Rev. Joseph Heitz, one year; Rev. Philip Hartman, four years, and Rev. George

Hindelang, one year. The church has a fine location, has a pipe organ, beside property in Cold Water, and proposes during the years 1897 and 1898 to erect a new church edifice. It is thus in a prosperous condition financially, as it always has been spiritually. Much credit for this condition is due to the line of priests who have officiated at its shrine.

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HENRY HONE, a prominent farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, was born August 14, 1836, in Auglaize county, Ohio, and is a son of Richard and Mary (Monnon) Hone, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany, September 18, 1801.

Richard Hone was reared on a farm in Germany, educated in his native country, and married Mary Monnon in 1828. She was born in 1804 and became the mother of the following children: Frederick, deceased; Benjamin, who died in Maryland; Katie, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; and William and Harmon, both of whom died, the former at the age of twenty-two years, and the latter at two years. Not long after his marriage the father of the subject began working on a farm and so continued until 1832, when he brought his wife and family to the United States, the entire journey requiring six weeks. For the first two years of his residence in this country he was in Maryland working on a farm, at the end of which period he came to Ohio, locating in Troy, Miami county, where for some time he worked on the canal. In the fall of 1835 he removed to Auglaize county, where he entered forty acres of land, being among the first settlers in that county. In politics he became a democrat upon landing in this country, and so remained through life. His wife died in 1842, and he was married the second time to Elizabeth Brockman, who was born in 1804 and who died in 1878, he having died in September, 1868.

Henry Hone, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm, and was educated in Auglaize county in the German language, and afterward, by his own efforts, acquired a knowledge of the English language. At the early age of sixteen he learned the cooper's trade, at which he worked two years, and in March, 1855, went to California to seek his fortune in the gold mines. He remained in Eldorado county until 1859, when he returned to Auglaize county, Ohio, and in 1860 invested his savings in a cooper shop in New Bremen, and carried on the business of a cooper for two years. Then selling his cooper shop and trade he moved upon his father's farm. In September, 1868, he married Katie Otto, born in 1842, a daughter of William Otto, and to this marriage there was born one child, who died in infancy, the wife and mother dying soon afterward. On the 7th of June, 1861, he married Katie Meyers, a daughter of James F. and Lenora (Mohrman) Meyers, and to this second marriage there have been born ten children, as follows: John, now living on the home farm; Frank and William, both living in Liberty township; David, who died at the age of eighteen years; Christopher, Henry B. and George, all three at home; Edward, who died at the age of three months; and Katie and Andrew, both living at home. Mr. Hone's second wife was born in Auglaize county, July 30, 1838, was there educated and lived until her marriage to Mr. Hone. Her father was a native of Germany, born in 1803, and died in 1879, aged seventy-six. He was married in Germany, came to Ohio, settled in Auglaize county, and kept hotel in New Bremen for a number of years. His wife was born in Hanover, Germany, and died when the wife of the subject of this sketch was three years old. She has one brother, Benjamin, living in Illinois, and one half-sister, Rica Smith, of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio. Her father was a republican in politics, and a member of the Lutheran church.

Henry Hone lived on his father's farm until 1866, when he removed to Mercer county, where the fall previous he had purchased eighty acres of land. However, he rented a piece of land instead of settling on his own purchase, and lived on the rented farm five years. In 1869 he purchased his present farm, containing 120 acres, and which adjoins the first eighty purchased as above narrated, of the 120 acres there being only thirty acres cleared. In the spring of 1871 he removed upon this 120-acre farm, and has ever since lived upon it. He now owns, as will have been seen, 200 acres of land, 120 acres of which are cleared and under a high state of cultivation. Forty-five acres of his farm, aside from the 120 acres, is in pasture, and the rest is in timber. So that, besides being well cultivated, it is well proportioned as to the necessities of a model farm. In 1881 he erected a large, fine barn, 54x80 feet in size, and beside he has other valuable improvements. From 1886 to 1890 he was engaged in the manufacture of tile draining, which is greatly needed in this level and rich country. Otherwise he has been engaged in general farming and in raising various kinds of cattle and swine. He also buys and feeds cattle and hogs for the market, and in all has been unusually successful.

Politically Mr. Hone is a democrat, though leaning strongly toward the doctrines of the populist party. For thirteen years he was township trustee, and beside has held other local offices, though he has never been in any sense of the term an office seeker, believing in the good old democratic doctrine, that the office should seek the man. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, and stand high in its membership. Mr. Hone is a leading citizen of Liberty township, taking great interest not only in religious, educational and social questions, but also in industrial movements, knowing that agriculture is to a great extent dependent on industries that divert labor away from the farm.

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WILLIAM E. HUGHES, M. D., of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, and was born December 18, 1841, a son of Henry C. and Julia (Stembridge) Hughes, who came to America in 1849, and both of whom died in Canada.

The Hughes family seem to have instinctively inclined toward professional or financial occupations rather than to the mechanical or agricultural. The grandfather of our subject was a clergyman, two of his sons were lawyers, one was a merchant, and Henry C. Hughes, father of our subject, was not only a legal practitioner, but for many years clerk of the court at Aylmer, Canada, where he died at the age of sixty-two years. David J. Hughes, brother of Henry C., was also reared to the legal profession, and since 1853 has been on the supreme bench of Canada.

Dr. William E. Hughes is one of a family of five children, all of whom were reared in Canada, to-wit: William E.; Mary, deceased wife of Alexander Love; Sarah; Elizabeth, wife of John Dunnett, of Canada, and J. Henry, a dentist, of Goshen, Ind. The doctor received his preparatory schooling in the London public schools of Canada, from which he graduated at the age of eighteen years; he next entered Toronto college and graduated therefrom with the class of 1862; he then was employed in a drug store, where he utilized his spare time in the study of dentistry, in which art he perfected himself through a course of study in the Royal college of Dental Surgery at Toronto, from which he was one of the first to graduate, and entered upon the practice at Aylmer, where he pursued the vocation seven years, studying medicine during the interval. He then entered the medical department of the university of Buffalo, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1875, well prepared for the practice of both medicine and surgery—giving especial attention to the latter during the earlier years of his active professional life. He first located, after graduation as a physician and surgeon, in Custar, Wood county, Ohio, where he met with success that justified his remaining four years; he then removed to Portage, in the same county, where his professional services were so greatly in demand that he remained ten years, or until 1890, when, seeking a wider scope for the exercise of his learned vocation, he came to Rockford, where his success has since been of the most flattering character.

Dr. Hughes was united in wedlock, in 1869, with Miss Mercy Wood, a native of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and a daughter of Henry and Mercy (Truscott) Wood, and this union has been blessed by the birth of six children, viz: Alice, wife of J. A. Robertson, a farmer of Haskins, Wood county; Frederick S., who for the past five years has been engaged in teaching in the district schools of Mercer county; Henry T., for seven years a teacher in the district schools of Wood and Mercer counties, and a graduate from the Rockford high school with the class of 1893; Edward H., still at home with his parents, and two children now deceased.

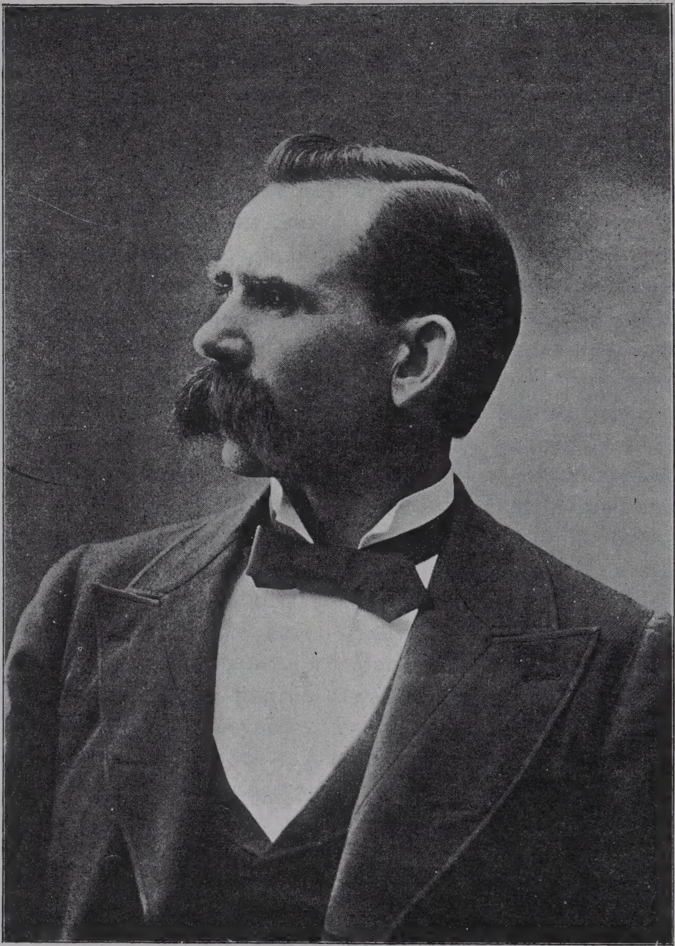
The doctor has had conferred upon him the following collegiate degrees: A. M., M. D. and L. D. S. He is a member of the Wood county Medical association, and was its vice-president when he removed from that county; he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and of Whitney lodge, No. 589, I. O. O. F., of which he was formerly district deputy grand master, and also district deputy grand patriarch of Green encampment. He is a gentleman of profound thought and is logical in deduction; he keeps well abreast of the advances made in his profession, and is a contributor to the medical journals of the day of essays based on incidents and lessons learned from his own practical experience—some of which have attracted widespread and favorable attention. He is, moreover, a genial and pleasant companion, is an expert player of the violin, and a musical composer far above mediocrity. His erudition, accomplishments and public spirit render him one of the most acceptable members of the society in Rockford and vicinity, by whom he is sincerely esteemed.

HUGH HAMILTON, one of the most prominent citizens of Union township, Mercer county, is a son of William Hamilton and Almira C. (Abbey) Hamilton, and was born May 16, 1832, in the township in which he now resides. His father, William Hamilton, was a son of Hugh Hamilton and Isabel Knox, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts, October 31, 1770, and the latter December 25, 1772. The former died in Richmond, N. Y., March 1, 1851, at the age of eighty years, four months and one day, and the latter October 5, 1856, aged eighty-three years, nine months and ten days. Hugh Hamilton was a son of David and Mary (Knox) Hamilton, the former of whom was born July 11, 1742, and the latter February 17, 1752. David Hamilton died March 23, 1817, and his wife died January 19, 1828, aged seventy-five years.

William Hamilton, father of the subject, was one of the first settlers of Union township. He was born in Blandford, Mass., January 20, 1804, and at the age of ten years went with his father to Ontario county, N. Y., his father being a farmer and miller by occupation, and in Ontario county young William spent the rest of his boyhood and young manhood on the farm and in the mill, securing such education as opportunity offered. In 1825, when he was twenty-one years of age, he left the state of New York, walking from Ontario county to Buffalo, and in that city embarked on the only steamboat on Lake Erie, named the Superior, for Detroit. From Detroit he took a schooner for Sandusky Bay, now Sandusky, Ohio, whence he walked through the woods by an Indian trail and on such roads as had been made, to Union township, Mercer county, going by the way of Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), Perrysburg, Defiance, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Shane's Crossing, now Rockford. Arriving in Union township he assisted his brother, Justin Hamilton, to mold and burn the first brick ever made in the township. In the fall of the same year he returned to New York on foot by way of Amanda, Wapakoneta, Bellefontaine, Upper Sandusky, Fort Ball, and Fort Seneca, to Lake Erie, thence by steamboat to Buffalo, and thence on foot to Richmond, where in 1827 he married Almira C. Abbey, who was born in Coeymans, Albany county, N. Y., January 16, 1804. A little more than a year after his marriage he returned to Ohio, with his wife, one child and his brother-in-law, Aaron Abbey, following the route he took on his first trip to this state as far as Defiance, Ohio, then passing up the Auglaize river to the mouth of Jennings creek, and thence through woods to Union township, arriving at his destination November 3, 1828. Upon arriving in Union township he had $115 in money, and with $100 of it he bought eighty acres of land, which is now a part of the Hamilton homestead. On this eighty-acre tract he erected a log cabin, which stood on what is now the southwest quarter of section No. 26, of that township. Fifteen dollars was all the money he had left and he had no stock of any kind, but by industry and strict economy he acquired a comfortable fortune for himself and his family. Upon this farm so purchased he lived the rest of his life, with the exception of eight years, from 1834 to 1842, during which time he was engaged in mercantile business, the first two of these years on commission at Shane's Prairie, and from 1836 to 1842 as proprietor of a stock of goods at Mendon, Ohio. In 1842 he returned to his farm, which afterward received his personal supervision until called to his final rest.

Mr. Hamilton was the first postmaster at Mendon and the second clerk of Union township. He served forty-two years as justice of the peace, and died September 10, 1879, aged seventy-five years. Mrs. Hamilton died May 5, 1892, aged eighty-eight years. Mr. Hamilton was an Odd Fellow, and in politics a republican. The children that still survive are as follows: Polly Ann Shepherd, Lois H. Hussey, Hugh, the subject of this sketch; Sally H. Barber, Isabel, Murlin and William. Maria Hamilton, daughter of Mr. Hamilton, was the first person to be buried in Bethel cemetery, in 1836. Alvira W. Harrison and Susan are also deceased. At his death Mr. Hamilton owned 160 acres of land, and had given his children 450 acres, showing that as a business man he was an exceptional success.

Hugh Hamilton, the subject of this sketch, from the time of his birth in his father's cabin up to the present time, has lived upon a farm, with the exception of the period of his service in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion. He enlisted as a member of company K, Eighty-eighth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, June 30, 1863, and served until July 3, 1865, when he was discharged. On January 3, 1857, he married Angeline Dobson, who



P. E. Kenney.

Mrs. P. E. Kenney.

was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., April 13, 1836, and who is a daughter of Joseph Addison and Eliza (Ribkee) Dobson, the former of whom was of English parentage, having been born shortly after the arrival of his parents in the United States from England. Mrs. Hamilton's grandfather was the true inventor, so far as the United States is concerned, of the jenny for spinning flax and cotton. While he was on his way to Washington with his model, with the view of securing a patent, he was supposed to have been killed and his model stolen from his wagon, as nothing was ever heard from him afterward. It is well known that in England the inventor of the spinning jenny was James Hargreaves, who brought it out in 1767, and secured his patent in 1770. The parents of Angeline Dobson removed to Ohio in 1849, locating in Meigs county, and removing from there to Auglaize county in 1853. Mr. Dobson was born November 25, 1812, and died July 24, 1890, at Mendon, aged seventy-eight. His wife was born in 1816 and died December 17, 1884, at the age of sixty-eight. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living.

Hugh Hamilton now owns 169 acres of good land three and a half miles from Mendon. He and his wife have had three children, viz: William Allison, born November 23, 1857; Mary Etta Upton, born September 9, 1859, and died August 4, 1895; and Joseph Harrison, born September 27, 1861. Mr. Hamilton is an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a republican, and has served as township trustee, assessor and appraiser of land. He was elected justice of the peace, but declined to serve. He is an unusually popular man, a genial gentleman, and has hosts of friends. Both he and his wife stand very high in the estimation of the entire community in which they live.

**PATRICK E. KENNEY**, member of the legal firm of Mattingly & Kenney, of Celina, Ohio, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 11, 1854. He is a son of Michael and Bridget (McHale) Kenney, both of whom are natives of Ireland, and who came to the United States in the latter forties. The facilities for ocean travel at the time of their coming to this country were limited to sailing vessels, and voyages were necessarily much longer than at present. The ship in which Michael Kenney came over was seaworthy, and although encountering many storms, completed the voyage in safety. That on which Bridget McHale embarked, however, was old and inadequately manned, and the voyage was fraught with exciting incidents. Many times the ship was driven out of its course by storms, and twice it caught fire and narrowly escaped destruction; and finally, after a period of three months and two weeks, it landed at New Orleans. For nearly a week prior to the landing the passengers were without food, and many of them died a few days later from the effects of their famished condition; among those who died being her brother, Michael McHale, also a nephew and a sister-in-law.

Michael Kenney and Bridget McHale were married at Cincinnati, and resided in that city about seven years. Subsequently, in 1857, they removed to Adams county, Ind., which county was then practically a wilderness, abounding in wild animals and game—venison and smaller game affording the chief subsistence of many of the hardy settlers. Here Michael Kenney purchased forty acres of land, which he at once engaged in clearing and improving, making of it a comfortable little home. He has added to this original purchase, from time to time, until now he owns several excellent farms, well stocked, and equipped with all modern farm implements, and is, beside, financially independent. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kenney are still living on the old farm, enjoying good health, and the respect and esteem of all who know them. To Michael and Bridget Kenney were born seven children, five sons and two daughters. The daughters and two of the sons are deceased. The three sons still living are Patrick E., the subject of this sketch; James, a quite extensive and successful farmer, of Adams county, Ind.; and John T., member of the law firm of TouVelle & Kenney, of Celina, Ohio.

Patrick E. Kenney was reared on his father's farm, assisting his father in all kinds of farm-labor until he was twenty-three years of age. In 1877, his twenty-third year, he was married to Miss Nora Laughlin, who was born in Indiana. Three years later she died, leaving two children, one of whom, Mary Alice, is still living, the other and younger child surviving her mother but seven months. After the death of his wife, he determined if possible to acquire an education. Being twenty-seven years old, and never having enjoyed other educational advantages than such as were afforded by the old-time Hoosier school-master and the primitive little log school-house, the task seemed prodigious, but, having been accustomed to toil and difficulties, he did not hesitate to encounter them in the role of student. He first attended the Ohio Normal university at Ada, Ohio, and later the Normal school at Valparaiso, Ind. He afterward taught school for one year in Indiana, and three years in Mercer county, Ohio. In Mercer county he taught both the English and German languages, having acquired the German language while attending the Ada Normal university.

In March, 1885, he began reading law in the office of Le Blond, Le Blond & Loughridge, of Celina, Ohio, and on July 9, 1887, was admitted to the bar. He immediately began the active practice of his profession, continuing until the present time. On April 16, 1890, he formed a partnership with R. L. Mattingly, the firm name being Mattingly & Kenney, as it remains at present. His success in his profession has been most gratifying to himself and his friends, and justly ranks him among the leading members of the Celina bar. In politics he is a democrat, and has been quite active and prominent in the councils of his party. He served for four years as a member of the board of school examiners of Mercer county, serving part of an unexpired term and one full term of three years, declining a re-appointment to a third term, and was succeeded by his brother, John T. Kenney. During his incumbency he raised the standard of qualifications, instituted many radical reforms in methods, and filled the position with entire satisfaction to all interested in the proper management of the schools.

Mr. Kenney was again married in 1885 to Miss Lena Schmidt, who was born in Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of F. W. and Margaret Schmidt, of New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio. To this marriage have been born three children: Margaret Adelaide, born October 14, 1886; Grover John, born March 8, 1888; and Claudia Valeria, born August 17, 1890. Mr. Kenney and his family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church, of Celina, and are highly esteemed members of their church and of society.

Lena Kenney, wife of Patrick E. Kenney, was born at Honesdale, Pa., February 21, 1864. She is the eldest daughter of Frederick W. and Margaret Schmidt (née Neuman). Frederick W. Schmidt was born in Germany, April 16, 1836, and came to the United States in 1857. Margaret Neuman was born in Germany, June 24, 1836, and came to the United States in 1857. They were united in marriage at Honesdale, Pa., in 1859. There were born to them six children, all of whom, except a daughter, Hannah, are still living. They are Lena, of whom we write; John H., a retail merchant of Chicago, Ill.; Rev. Joseph Schmidt, Catholic priest, ordained at Cincinnati, Ohio, in June, 1892; George, hotel proprietor of New Washington, Ohio, and Mary, who resides with her father at New Washington, Ohio. Mr. Schmidt is engaged in the clothing and merchant tailoring business at his present place of residence. He survives his wife, she having died in November, 1894. Mr. Schmidt owns valuable property at New Washington, and by industry and frugality has provided a competency for his declining years. By his integrity and consistent conduct he has won the esteem of his neighbors and acquaintances. Lena Schmidt was married to Patrick E. Kenney, December 29, 1885, in her twenty-second year. She has a cheerful disposition and is devoted to her home and family. She is fond of music and flowers, and takes great delight in the cultivation of both. Mrs. Kenney is a devout Catholic, and like all christian mothers zealously attends to the moral training of her children.

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IGNATIUS DABBELT, dealer in all kinds of farming implements, including harvesting machines, with headquarters in Saint Sebastian, Mercer county, Ohio, was born May 8, 1855. Barnard Dabbelt, his father, was born in Prussia in 1811, and was reared upon a farm, upon which he continued to work until his first marriage, by which he became the father of four children, as follows: Margaret, Hubert, Anna and Elizabeth, all of whom married, and all of whom are dead but Hubert. The mother of these children died, and subsequently Mr. Dabbelt married Miss Gertrude A. Capelle, by whom he became the father of four children, as follows: Ignatius, the subject of this sketch; Amelia, Henry and August, all of whom married, and all of whom are living but Henry. Both wives were members of the Catholic church, both were natives of Germany, and the second died December 24, 1863.

Mr. Dabbelt left Germany for the United States with his family in 1857, landing in New Orleans after a voyage of eight weeks and two days. Upon reaching this country he was in good circumstances, so that it was far easier for him to get a fair start than for most foreigners who come to this country. From New Orleans he came to Cincinnati by steamboat, and thence to Minster by rail. From Minster he went to Sebastian, where he rented sixty acres of land for four years, and when this period had expired he bought a tract of wild land containing eighty acres. This he cleared of its surplus timber, and later bought sixty acres more, making 140 acres in all, it being of the best land in Mercer county. He lived in Mercer county from his arrival there in 1857 until his death, which occurred March 6, 1874. At time of death he was in comfortable circumstances, and a man very popular in his own community. Politically he was a democrat, and all his life he was a farmer, liberal in his dealings, and public-spirited in his feelings and actions toward everything which promised to benefit the community at large.

Ignatius Dabbelt was two years old when brought by his parents to the United States, and remained with his father on the farm until he was married, January 11, 1881, to Miss Caroline Koch. In 1880 he had established himself as an agent for agricultural implements and machinery, which he has followed for the past sixteen years with great success. When he left home, at the age of twenty-one, he had just three dollars in bank notes, while now he is among the richest men in Mercer county. Politically he is a strong democrat.

and a faithful member of the Catholic church. He is a very liberal and charitable man, and popular with all, as is indicated by his having acquired a large amount of property in the business in which he is engaged. He and his wife are the parents of the following children: Catherine and Amelia, twins; Louis, Joseph, Rosa, Elizabeth, Minnie, Ida and Leo. All are living but Catherine.

Caroline Koch, wife of the subject, was born January 22, 1859. Her father, Ferdinand Koch, was born May 3, 1815, in Germany. He lived on the farm until he came to the United States. Upon landing in this country, he immediately went to Darke county, Ohio, where he married, in Greenville, Miss Mary Bealer, a native of Germany, by whom he had the following children: John, Jerusha, Mary, Catherine, Caroline, Rosa and Joseph, all living but John. Afterward Mr. Koch removed to Marion township, where he bought a farm, on which he lived until his death in 1893. Politically he was a democrat, and both he and his wife were members of the Catholic church. Mr. Koch was well liked by everyone with whom he came in contact, and was unusually liberal with his means and in his views.

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G. W. JOHNSON.—One of the prominent and successful farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, is George W. Johnson, son of Peter and Mary (Holsbury) Johnson. He was born April 5, 1834, in Barbour county, W. Va., then a part of old Virginia. His grandfather, John Johnson, was a native of Maryland, of Scotch descent, a son of Robert Johnson, presumably a native of Scotland, and passed his life on a farm. In early manhood, John Johnson married Elizabeth Poling, and to them seven children were born. Peter, the next to the oldest, was born November 21, 1810, and was reared on his father's farm in West Virginia, and when grown to manhood chose the profession of civil engineer. In 1830 he married Mary, who was born in Barbour county, a daughter of John and Mary (Poling) Holsbury. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and served in the war of 1812.

For many years Peter Johnson was the county surveyor of Barbour county, W. Va., and knew the mountains of that mountainous country well. He was the father of seven children: Rosanna, the wife of Anthony Weston, of West Virginia; George W., the subject of our sketch; Reason, living in West Virginia; Almira, the wife of Rev. Hamilton Poling, of Pennsylvania, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, south; Martin, who served in the Confederate army, and fought in the famous battle of Gettysburg, was taken prisoner and confined at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, during the latter part of 1863, in 1864 volunteered to go west to fight the Indians, and in 1866 returned home and soon died; Amanda, the wife of Isaac Stems, of Randolph county, W. Va., and Almeda, the wife of Alphaus Poling, of the same state. Both husband and wife were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. October 8, 1853, the wife was called away to her long home, aged forty-three years, eleven months and five days. She was buried a full communicant of the Methodist Protestant church, in which she had held membership since in her early womanhood. Peter Johnson next married Sarah Stemple, who became the mother of seven children: Mary Catherine, the wife of John Harsh, a farmer living in West Virginia; Lewis, of this township; Albert, now deceased, who was a teacher and minister in the United Brethren church in this township; Chester, deceased, who was a teacher in West Virginia; Norville, Andrew and Isaiah, all three living in West Virginia. Mr. Johnson was a democrat in politics and held numerous offices beside that of county surveyor, before mentioned. He was a prominent and popular man, and respected by all. On March 26, 1887, death called him away. He was buried in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal church, south, of which he had always been an active member.

George W., oldest son of the above, was reared on a farm in West Virginia and attended school two miles away from his home. It was a log building, of small size, with greased paper for windows, puncheon seats and floor, with a large fireplace in one side, and the school was conducted on the subscription plan. In such a building and under such circumstances he received the education which has been of much service to him in later life. On Christmas day of 1857 he married Mrs. Nancy Maria (Neptune) Majors, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, May 18, 1825, and by her first marriage was the mother of one child, Isabelle, the wife of Nathan Figley, of this township. Mrs. Johnson's father was a miller by trade and in the war of 1812 served with our subject's grandfather Holsbury, who was his brother-in-law. After marriage George W. Johnson located in Indiana and farmed until 1860, when he came to Mercer county, Ohio, and located on the land where he now lives, which was then all a forest. He built a log cabin, and having fixed his family as comfortably as surroundings would allow, he set to work clearing a farm, and improving it. Four children came to bless this union, viz: James D., an attorney of Celina, whose sketch will be found on another page; Coleman, who died in infancy; Frances, the wife of Ed. L. Swihart, an ice dealer, of Toledo, Ohio, and Mary M., the wife of Jefferson Pond, a merchant and farmer of this township. Mrs. Johnson died in 1874, and in February, 1876, Mr. Johnson married Mary, the daughter of David and Melinda (Sinclair) Morrison [see sketch of David Morrison]. She was born in Wood county, W. Va., January 21, 1846.

In 1872, Mr. Johnson built his present comfortable home, and with him lives his wife's father and a granddaughter, Maud B. Johnson, who was born July 8, 1882, and is being reared by her grandparents. Mr. Johnson and wife are prominent members of the United Brethren church, in which he has held the office of trustee, leader and others. He follows in the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him, and votes with the democratic party, and has held the office of township trustee and several other local offices. He is a Mason and a member of Shanes lodge, of Rockford, Ohio, and is held in high esteem by his brothers. He is a charitable and liberal citizen, a prosperous and successful farmer, and is foremost in all measures for the good of the community. He is honored and respected by all who know him.

David Morrison, mentioned above, now a retired farmer, and formerly one of the strong and active pioneers of Mercer county, is a son of William and Mary Ann (Meyers) Morrison. He was born in Wood county, Va., July 6, 1814. William Morrison was a native of Ireland, and when fourteen years of age emigrated to the United States. His trade and occupation were those of a weaver, and upon arriving in this country he located in Pennsylvania. Later he removed to Virginia, and there married Mary Ann Meyers, a daughter of Frederick Meyers. To this marriage there were born eight children, David being the only son. William Morrison was a soldier in the war of 1812, and early in his life he was in politics an old-line whig, but later he became the strongest kind of a democrat, casting his first democratic vote for Andrew Jackson for president, when he ran for the office the second time. His wife died in 1839, and he died in 1843.

David Morrison was reared on the farm, and attended school in the little log schoolhouse, which had a puncheon floor and seats, and holes in the walls covered with greased paper for windows. There was a large fire place in one end with a stick and clay chimney, for want of brick, as these useful articles were not then extensively manufactured in the United States. This school-house was three miles away from his home, so that six miles each day was the distance he walked while in pursuit of knowledge, such as was then supplied in the country academies. However, by dint of hard study and much perseverance, he contrived to secure a fairly good education, sufficient at least to carry him through the life he found it necessary to live. His marriage occurred June 7, 1838, to Malinda Sinclair, a daughter of Thomas and Dollie (Davis) Sinclair, and to this marriage there were born six children, as follows: A daughter that died in infancy; William, who died during the late war, in Clarksville, Tenn., a member of the Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry; Thomas, a farmer of Van Wert county who died February 19, 1896; Henry C., a farmer of Black Creek township, and who was a member of the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, during the late war; Mary, wife of G. W. Johnson, whose sketch appears above, and Dollie, wife of John Groves, a farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county.

The mother of these children was born in Harrison county, Va., August 12, 1814, and she was there educated. When a young woman she removed to Wood county, in the same state, and was there married to David Morrison. After their marriage they settled down on the old Morrison homestead, in Virginia, where they lived until 1860, when they removed to Mercer county, Ohio, where Mrs. Morrison died, and in which county Mr. Morrison still lives. In politics Mr. Morrison is a democrat, and during his early life was a Methodist, but since his removal to Ohio he has united with the United Brethren church, and has ever since been one of its most prominent and useful members. He is now more than eighty years of age, retired from active business of every kind, and is living with his daughter, Mrs. G. W. Johnson. He has always been a strong man physically, as is indicated by his great age. He has always been industrious, honest and fair in his dealings with his fellowmen, and now he is looked upon by all that know him as one of the finest specimens of manhood that has ever been seen in Mercer county.

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HON. JAMES D. JOHNSON, state senator from the Thirty-second Ohio senatorial district and a member of the well known and popular law firm of Armstrong & Johnson, of Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Adams county, Ind., November 26, 1858, a son of George W. Johnson, at present a prosperous farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio.

George W. Johnson, father of our subject, was born in Barbour county, Va. (now West Virginia), April 5, 1834, whence he moved to Adams county, Ind., in the spring of 1858, and in 1860 came to Mercer county, Ohio, and settled on eighty acres of land in the wilds of Black Creek township. This land he has cleared and converted into an excellent farm, on which he still resides, giving his individual attention to its tillage. The marriage of Mr. Johnson took place in his native county with Mrs. Nancy Majors, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, was reared in Adams county, Ind., and died in Mercer county, Ohio, in 1874, the mother of two sons and two daughters, of whom one of the sons died in infancy. (See sketch of G. W. Johnson.)

James D. Johnson, subject of this memoir, has been a resident of Mercer county since he was seventeen months old and was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Black Creek township. He received his elementary education in the district school and next passed through the Willshire (Van Wert county) high school with credit, after a two-year course of study, and then entered the Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware, Ohio, where he passed another period of two years in assiduous study, following which, in April, 1882, he located in Celina, and until October of the same year read law in the office of the Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey, when he entered the Cincinnati School of Law, from which he was graduated, in June, 1884. While pursuing these various courses of study, Mr. Johnson continued to assist his father on the home farm in the summer and for several years, during his vacations, utilized his time in teaching school, thus earning the means to defray his college expenses; and during the months he was engaged in reading law in Celina he also served as deputy treasurer of Mercer county—thus early evidencing the possession of an energy and industry that have since been more fully developed and have materially aided him in reaching his present exalted position. In 1881, before his leaving Black Creek township, he had been elected clerk of the township and held the office one year. Immediately after graduating, in 1884, he was admitted to the bar and began the active practice of his profession in Celina, meeting with instant recognition as a lawyer and practicing successfully on his sole account until January 1, 1887, when he formed a partnership with Stephen A. Armstrong, a firm which now stands in the front of the legal practitioners of Mercer county.

In the spring of 1885 Mr. Johnson was elected justice of the peace for Jefferson township (in which Celina is situated), and for six years filled the position as might one who had sat on a higher bench, as none of his decisions were ever reversed by a higher court, for the reason, perhaps, that but few appeals were taken from his own. In 1893 he was nominated by the democratic party of the Thirty-second Ohio senatorial district (comprising the counties of Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Allen, Auglaize and Mercer), the largest, geographically speaking, of any senatorial district in Ohio, and inhabited almost exclusively by an agricultural population. At the ensuing election Mr. Johnson won the office by a majority of 2,979. This majority, in ordinary times, might have been considered a fair democratic average, with but two candidates in the field, but in the campaign of 1893 it was more than significant of the esteem in which Mr. Johnson was held and indicative of his popularity, as in that year there was a dissension among the democrats and a split in Mercer county. He was again selected as the nominee and elected in the fall of 1895 by a large majority. While in the senate, Mr. Johnson served on the following committees: Judiciary, corporations other than municipal, public works and public lands, ditches and drainage, federal relations, medical societies and colleges, and the committee on rules—and intelligently and effectively performed his duty in every instance. His work in the senate, was highly commended by the press throughout Ohio, and he was earnest and conscientious in what he did, and when he believed he was in the right left nothing undone but eloquently defended the rights of the people. The Columbus papers expressed the most favorable comment, by saying that Mr. Johnson was the most effectual and eloquent speaker in either branch of the general assembly.

In the debate on Thursday, March 8, 1894, Mr. Johnson made one of the most forcible speeches probably ever heard within the walls of the senate chamber. In alluding to this, the Columbus correspondent of the Celina Standard wrote as follows: On Thursday, last, one of these bills (senate bill No. 31), empowering municipalities to construct city passenger railways, and operate the same, came up for final passage. Senator Johnson took an active and most effective part in the defeat of the measure. His speech was so much elevated above the ordinary discussion, which usually attends the passage of a bill, that it is worthy of notice. He divided his remarks into four heads, as follows:

1st. The cost of constructing, maintaining, and operating can not be made so small as by private capital.

2nd. It is not profitable for muncipalities to engage in that kind of business.

3rd. If this bill should become a law, it would be a great harvest for political bosses, for they would surely run it.

4th. This kind of legislation is against the fundamental principles of our government.

To each of the propositions Senator Johnson gave stout, lucid, cogent, and eloquent reasons. To the fourth, however, he spoke with much force and effectiveness and thus concluded:

"None of us will disown the magnificent epoch in which we live—the masculine age of humanity. It is not in the magnificent palaces, nor in the beautiful creations of art lavished on its public edifices; not in the costly libraries and galleries of pictures; not in the number of wealthy cities that we find a nation's glory. The ruler may gather around him the treasures of the world amid a brutalized people; the senate chamber may retain its faultless proportions long after the voice of patriotism is hushed within its walls; monumental marble may commemorate a glory which has forever departed. But the true glory of a nation is the living temple of a loyal, industrious, upright, virtuous, free and independent people. The busy click of machinery, the weary ring of the anvil, the lowing of the peaceful herd, the songs of the honest home, are sweeter music than the poems of departed glory or the songs of triumph in war.

"There is dignity in honest toil which belongs not to the display of wealth or the luxury of fashion. The man who drives the plow, or swings his ax in the forest, or with cunning fingers applies the tools of his craft, is as truly the servant of his country as the statesman in the senate or the soldier in battle. We ought not traduce the principal of freedom by enacting such a law. When you take away from the people, or deprive them of unlimited freedom of thought and action, you crush their ambition. It is only in the province of a government, a state, or a municipality to control and not to own. When you establish a system of law that interferes with individual enterprise, and render competition unavailing, you paralyze the best element of American manhood. This bill does all of this and I think it ought to be defeated." The bill was defeated by a large majority.

The above extracts will probably be sufficient to give the readers of this volume an idea of the stamina of the subject of this sketch, as well as of his caliber. Aside from the care and toil necessary to the faithful discharge of his numerous and arduous legal duties, Mr. Johnson finds time to devote some attention to agriculture. He operates a farm in Black Creek township, and also owns one in Washington township, and another in Recovery township, Mercer county; and he also finds the time to fulfill his fraternal obligations as a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Johnson was most happily united in marriage, June 23, 1886, with Miss Rebecca Darrah, who was born in Missouri, August 20, 1869, a daughter of the late Rev. James A. Darrah—although her home was in Celina, Ohio, at the time of her marriage. This union has been blessed with one son and one daughter, viz: Jesse D., born February 25, 1888, and Ruth, born February 24, 1895. In all his relations in life Mr. Johnson has been honest, conscientious and high-minded; in his profession he is held in high repute both by his fellow-members of the bar and by the general public, and in politics he has been loyal to his party and earnest in the support of its principles—qualities that in themselves deserves recognition and reward.

* * *

LEWIS N. JOHNSON, one of the most prominent and most successful teachers and farmers in Mercer county, was born February 22, 1860, and is a son of Peter and Sarah (Stemple) Johnson. Full reference is made to the life of Peter Johnson in the sketch of G. W. Johnson, which precedes this memoir. In this connection it may, however, be said that he was married to Sarah Stemple, as his second wife, about 1856. She is a daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Wilt) Stemple. To this second marriage of Peter Johnson there were born seven children, as follows: Mary Catherine, wife of John Harsh, a farmer of Randolph county, W. Va.; Lewis N., the subject of this sketch; Albert G., a teacher, and also a minister in the United Brethren church, of Black Creek township, now deceased; Chester, formerly a teacher, now deceased; Norville, Andrew, and Isaiah, all three farmers of West Virginia.

Sarah Stemple was born in Barbour county, Va., and was one of the following family: Jackson, a farmer of Calhoun county, W. Va.; Ahab, also a farmer of Calhoun county; Rebecca, wife of John Poling, a farmer of Marshall county, Ind.; Sarah, and Nancy, wife of John Stout, a farmer of Calhoun county, W. Va. Isaac Stemple, the father of these children, was a native of Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent, while his wife was a native of Germany.

Peter Johnson was by occupation a farmer, and for some sixteen years was also county surveyor. He also held some other minor offices. During the war he was a democrat, and the sheriff; was at one time captured by the rebel forces; being held at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, seven months as a hostage. His nephew, J. R. Phillips, was a captain in the Confederate army, and is now a farmer and teacher of Valley Furnace, W. Va. He is a prominent politician, an able orator and a man of great influence in his part of the state. William Johnson, of Meadowville, W. Va., a first cousin of Peter Johnson, was a colonel in the Mexican war, and was also a representative in congress from his district. A son of his, named Martin, was a captain in the Confederate army, and was killed at Upper Sinks, W. Va. His second son, Isaac Van Derver Johnson, was a school-teacher, later county clerk, and at the present time is the auditor of state of West Virginia. Levi Johnson, also a cousin of Peter Johnson, is a prominent and successful attorney of Glenville, Gilmer county, W. Va., and has served as county clerk. His two sons, Granville and Albert, are both graduates of the West Virginia State university, and are prominent teachers of that state.

Lewis N. Johnson was reared on the farm in West Virginia, and educated at Meadowville, where, in 1879, he began teaching a school, which was located on the battle ground of Carrick's Ford, at the junction of Black fork and Shaffer's fork of Cheat river. In 1880 he taught one term at Calhoun, and on October 28, 1881, removed to Mercer county, Ohio, almost immediately after arriving there passing successfully an examination for a teacher's certificate. He first taught one year in Dublin township, and in 1882 and 1883 taught in the Manly district in Black Creek township. In the spring of 1884 he was elected superintendent of the Rockford high school, receiving a unanimous vote over six other applicants for the position. This position he held until 1886, giving entire satisfaction to all concerned. During the summer of 1886 he purchased eighty acres of land in Black Creek township with money saved from his salary as teacher, and he has lived upon his farm ever since, farming and clearing his land during his vacations. At the present time all but five acres of his eighty is under cultivation.

July 28, 1883, he married Sarah C. Addy, daughter of John and Catherine Ann (Albert) Addy, and to this marriage there have been born five children, as follows: John Ray, born June 21, 1885; Walter LeRoy, born October 21, 1886; Retta A., born February 28, 1888; Addy D., born August 12, 1890, and Nellie Belle, born September 28, 1892. Miss Sarah C. Addy was born in Mercer county, Ohio, October 24, 1851, and is a member of the United Brethren church. Her father, John Addy, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1825, and with his father removed to Mercer county in 1848. These two, father and son, purchased 160 acres of what for years had been considered worthless lands, being too swampy for any one else to buy, paying therefor $160.50. Upon reaching this land, in 1849, and buying some meat, a barrel of flour and a cow, Mr. Addy had no money left. He then worked for other farmers, assisting them in clearing land, in order to get something for his family to live upon, in intervals clearing some of his own swampy land. Later he commenced a system of draining his land, which, together with his industrious tillage, has converted the once worthless swamp into a good farm—one of the best in the county, and some say it is the best. Two of Mr. Addy's brothers were in the war, William and Jabez, the latter dying in the hospital at Nashville, Tenn, while in his country's service.

Lewis N. Johnson taught school five terms in Black Creek township in 1886 and 1887, in district No. 8; two years in district No. 9, and two years in district No. 4. He then returned to district No. 9, and taught six months. After this he taught one term in No. 8, and in 1894 and 1895, two terms in Liberty township. During the winter of 1895-96, he taught the Center school in Black Creek township, the last school that he has taught so far. He holds a three years' certificate as teacher, and has always been successful. His farm land is considered among the best in the county. This farm he constantly keeps in cultivation, and in addition to his teaching and farming has for some time been practicing law, though as yet only in a justice's court, as he has not been admitted to the bar. His first plea in a justice's court was thus commended by the Rockford Press:

"Mr. L. N. Johnson was attorney for the defence. Mr. Johnson, although a farmer, is a fluent speaker. * * * His plea to the jury was one among the best we ever listened to in a justice's court, and Lewis's many friends predict a bright future for him in the legal profession, for which he is qualifying himself."

He has since plead many cases, and with the exception of his first, has not lost a case. Next year he will attend a law school and will then apply for admission to the bar, and without doubt will be a bright and shining light in the profession of the law. The stuff he is made of is indicated by the fact that although he started out in life without a penny to his name, he has by his own indomitable energy, and determination to succeed, accomplished much, both in the way of accumulating property, and in making a name for himself before the world. In politics he is a strong democrat and has served frequently as delegate and as committeeman. He is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., has held all the offices in his lodge, and is held in high esteem by all the members, as well as by the public at large.

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JACOB S. KEITH, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Baltimore county, Md., August 6, 1824, and is a son of John and Mary (Shafer) Keith, both natives of Maryland, who removed to Ohio in 1834, locating in Madison county, where they lived one year, and in 1835 removed to Van Wert county. In York township of that county John Keith entered upward of 1,000 acres of land, upon which he caused to be erected a log cabin without doors or windows or even floor, and into this rude abode he moved his family in this then new country, but which he improved and made habitable as soon as he could. There he lived and labored until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-nine years of age. He was a man of much energy, industry and determination, as well as enterprise, as is indicated by the quantity of land entered by him. His family consisted of twelve children, as follows: Polly, deceased wife of John Frazier; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Moses Goodwin; Sarah, deceased wife of Joshua Goodwin; Delilah, deceased wife of Jacob Goodwin; Alice, deceased wife of Josiah Klink; Catherine, who died when she was eleven years of age; Johnzey, deceased, in his day one of the most enterprising young men of Spencerville, Ohio; Jacob S., the subject of this sketch; and four others, that all died in infancy.

Jacob S. Keith was but eleven years of age when his parents brought him to Van Wert county. Here he was reared on the farm and received such education as could then be obtained in the subscription schools, for that was before the day of common schools supported by means of taxation, and this education was therefore very limited; but after leaving school he studied by himself and thus acquired sufficient knowledge of the elementary branches to enable him to transact any business or perform any duty that has come to him, and to carry him through a long life of activity and usefulness. He remained at home with his father until his marriage, on September 10, 1847, to Miss Amanda A. Webb, and after that his father lived with him until he removed to Mercer county in the spring of 1849. Upon reaching Mercer county he purchased 110 acres of land in sections Nos. 35 and 36, Dublin township, where he lived until 1885, when he removed to Mercer village. In the meantime he increased his landed possessions to the extent of 300 acres, all of which he subsequently sold except the original 110 acres, which, in 1885, he gave to his son, Oscar F. While Mr. Keith was conducting his farm he gave considerable attention to raising and also to buying and selling stock, especially during the war, when he bought and shipped large numbers of cattle, hogs, etc., and in this way made a great deal of money.

Mr. Keith has all his life been more or less interested in politics, for the last twenty-seven years having held the office of justice of the peace. He has always adhered to the democratic party and been interested in its success and prosperity. He and his wife have had born to them two children—Harrison, born April 1, 1849, and died March 20, 1851, and Oscar F., born December 31, 1851. The latter now resides on the old home farm, which he is conducting with signal ability and great success.

Jacob S. Keith has done much to build up the county in which he has lived so long. While this country was new he endured many hardships for the sake of a future home, and labored faithfully to clear up his farm, to improve it, and to promote the general prosperity of the community. There was no pioneer difficulty that he did not encounter and overcome. Many a grist of corn meal has he ground in the hand mill familiar to the pioneer, but which probably few of younger generations have ever seen. He went to mill many a time through the woods with a sack of corn or wheat on horseback, and was gone from home two, three or more days at a time, in order that his family might have food. Packs of wolves and droves of deer and flocks of wild turkeys were for many years after his arrival here a familiar sight; and in all things pertaining to the progress of the country and its material advancement, Mr. Keith did not hesitate to take a hand. He is a man of the highest integrity and honor and has a large circle of warm and admiring friends, and all interests of the community, religious, educational, moral and social, as well as political, have ever found in him a strong and ready defense.

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KETCHAM & COTTERMAN, the gentlemanly furniture dealers and funeral directors, have been engaged in business in Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, since 1884, as successors to Legg & Webster, the present firm being composed of William Ketcham and Samuel Cotterman. When these gentlemen took charge of their present extensive establishment, it was a small concern, comprising a stock worth about $400; it now contains the largest and best assorted and finest stock of furniture, wall paper and undertaking goods to be found within the bounds of Mercer county; they are also the owners of two fine hearses, and are well equipped for embalming, in which art they are experts. Their show room occupies a space 105 x 20 feet, to which is added a rear room, 35 x 35, besides an upstairs room 20 x 45 feet, every foot of all three being occupied with stock or the accessories of their business.

Samuel Cotterman, of the above firm, was born in Perry county, Ohio, January 25, 1858, and is a son of Israel and Magdalena (Martzolff) Cotterman, of German descent, and both now living in Hocking county, Ohio. The father, Israel Cotterman, is a native of Ohio, and several generations of his family were born in Pennsylvania, but his wife, Magdalena, is a native of Germany. The Cotterman family have been almost exclusively employed in agricultural pursuits and have been residents of Ohio ever since the days of our subject's great-grandfather, who was the first of the family to come from the Keystone state and settled in Perry county, where he reared a large family and passed the remainder of his days—since when, most of his descendants have continued to be residents of the Buckeye state. In religion the family have always been zealous members of the Lutheran church. To the marriage of Israel and Magdalena Cotterman have been born eight children, of whom seven are still living, and, with the exception of the subject, reside in Hocking county.

Samuel Cotterman was reared to farm life and received a good preparatory common-school education, that qualified him for teaching a country school. He then attended the normal college at Lebanon, Ohio, for seven terms, with the view of preparing himself for a life of educational work, and at the age of nineteen years began his career as an instructor in the schools of Hocking county, where he taught five consecutive terms; at the age of twenty-five years, he came to Mercer county, located in the village of that name, and taught in the vicinity for two years; in the spring of 1885 he moved to Rockford, where, the previous fall, he had secured an interest in his present furniture establishment, which with him is a secondary or auxiliary consideration from a business point of view. After locating in Rockford he taught for some three years outside the town limits, but for the past seven years has been employed as an instructor in the Rockford public school proper, and is recognized as one of the advanced educators of the county. In 1887 he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of county school examiners, and, as a democrat, was twice elected afterward to the same office—filling the position eight years.

The marriage of Mr. Cotterman took place April 1, 1883, with Miss Mary A. Primmer, a native of Hocking county, but who, about 1886, came to Mercer county with her parents, John A. and Elizabeth (Brown) Primmer. To the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Cotterman have been born three interesting children, named Heber S., Edith A., and Ruth M., who are being well prepared, under their father's care, for future school attendance. The parents are fervent members of the Presbyterian church, in which faith they are rearing their offspring. Mr. Cotterman is a self-made man in the sense in which this term is colloquially used, being in a large measure self-taught. With a keen perceptivity as to matters of trade, he ably assists, during his spare hours from his professional duties, his worthy partner, Mr. Ketcham, in the management of their furniture business. The firm have thriven, for the reason that both parties use their best efforts to please the public and refrain from taking any undue advantage in overcharging their patrons, but keep their profits down to the lowest living limits.

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JOHN KETTENRING, one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, and a son of Henry and Margaret (Fenning) Kettenring, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, August 31, 1846. Henry Kettenring was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1813, was reared on the farm, received an excellent education in his native country, and followed teaming for a living for some years in Germany. Full reference to Henry Kettenring and his family is made in connection with the biographical sketch of George Kettenring, on another page in this volume. Though it may be added here, to what is stated there, that George was a democrat in politics, that he inherited but $400, and accumulated a considerable property, and was considered one of the very best farmers in the township in which he lived. At the time of his death he owned 230 acres of land and had money at interest.

John Kettenring was reared on the farm, educated in Mercer county, and was married December 26, 1871, to Catherine Leininger, daughter of Theobold and Catherine (Maury) Leininger. To this marriage there were born five children, as follows: Margaret, Mattie, Ella, John and Ivy, all living at home. The mother of these children was born in Mercer county, Ohio, August 8, 1853. Her parents were early settlers in Mercer county, and her mother died in Washington township, February 17, 1896. Soon after his marriage John Kettenring bought a farm in Washington township, upon which he lived four years, and in 1875 purchased his present place in Black Creek township. This farm he has cleared and greatly improved, and at the present time he has 240 acres of excellent land. In 1884 he built a fine house, and in 1892 a large barn, 40 x 80 feet in size. As a democrat he has held the office of township trustee two terms, and as a member of the Lutheran church he is an active worker in the cause of religion, always ready to aid his own congregation, and having assisted to build several churches for other denominations. A general farmer and stock raiser, he is a progressive and public-spirited citizen, well-to-do so far as this world's goods are concerned, and is one of the most useful of men.

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GEORGE KETTENRING, one of the most prominent and successful young farmers of Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in this county November 25, 1856, and is a son of Henry Kettenring and a grandson of Lewis Kettenring. Henry Kettenring was born in the village of Saltzvogue, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany, in 1813. He was reared on the farm, educated in Germany and for some years followed teaming for a living, was married in 1834, and became the father of four children, only one of whom is living, Mrs. Jacob Leininger, to whom fuller reference is made in the biographical sketch of Jacob Leininger, elsewhere published in this volume. In 1838 Mr. Kettering came to the United States, and located in Holmes county, his parents, Louie and Elizabeth Kettenring, coming with him. His wife, Magdalena, died after arriving in this country, and on March 14, 1844, he married Margaret Fenning, daughter of George and Mary (Minchover) Fenning. To this second marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Henry, a farmer of Washington township; John, of Black Creek township, whose biography is published close at hand; Caroline, widow of Henry Bobenmoyer, of Washington township; Sarah, wife of John Smoyer, of the same township; Jacob and George, at home; Mary, wife of Jacob Bacher, of Black Creek township, and Margaret, deceased wife of J. P. Wright. Margaret Fenning was born June 21, 1824, in Alsace, France (now Germany), and when four years old was brought to the United States by her parents, who located in Holmes county. She has two brothers living in Washington township, viz: John and Phillip Fenning.

After his marriage Mr. Kettenring cleared up his farm and lived upon it until 1853, when he removed his family to Mercer county, and bought eighty acres of land in Washington township, only four acres of which were cleared. This farm he cleared and improved, and from time to time added other acres to the original purchase until, at the time of his death, March 2, 1871, he owned 173 acres. Mr. Kettenring was a very industrious man, a successful manager, active in the support of his church, the Lutheran, and always ready and willing to bear his share of the burden of life in any way, religious, political, social or industrial. Whatever tended to promote the public welfare had in him a stanch friend and supporter. His second wife still lives on the home place, surrounded by many warm-hearted and admiring friends.

George Kettenring was reared on the farm and educated in both German and English. With the assistance of his brothers he carried on the home farm until he became a man, when he and his brother Jacob bought out the interests of the other heirs, and still live on the home place. In 1893 he made a trip through the western states, and again, in 1895, he made another trip throughout the entire west, including California, and he also, during the same year, visited Germany, the home of his ancestry. Since buying out the heirs to his father's estate, they have purchased other land, until at the present time they own 240 acres of excellent land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Mr. Kettenring is a trustee and a deacon in the Lutheran church, and in politics is a democrat. He is fond of travel, an intelligent and progressive and good citizen, and is well known far and near, and as highly esteemed as widely known.

HENRY KEVELDER, general merchant of Maria Stein station, was born July 4, 1865, at Saint Rosa, Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio. He is a son of Anthon Kevelder, who is a native of Holland, was born October 26, 1826, and who at an early age came to the United States, landing in New York, being penniless when he landed. He went immediately to Cincinnati, and there learned the trade of shoemaker, and was a member of the Western Fire company. After leaving Cincinnati, he located in Saint Rosa, Mercer county, where he followed his trade of shoemaking, and later started a general store, with which he met with unusual success. Late in life he retired to a small farm, upon which he still lives. He was married to Catherine Harrman, a native of Germany, and to this marriage there were born the following children: Elizabeth, deceased; William, Theodore, Henry, Anthon and Elizabeth, twins. Only two are living, Elizabeth and Henry. The father of these children is a democrat and a member of Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church. Catherine Harrman, wife of Mr. Kevelder, was born in 1832, and like her husband is a member of the Catholic church. Both are still living and are among the best known citizens of Mercer county.

Henry Kevelder, the subject of this sketch, was born, as stated in the beginning, in Marion township. Up to his fourteenth year he attended the common country schools, and then, his school days being over, he worked at general labor until his marriage to Miss Mary Hartings, January 19, 1886. Then becoming a butter maker, he worked at this trade for about two and a half years, and then became a general merchant at Maria Stein station, in June, 1895. Here he has met with satisfactory success. He is a democrat in politics, and in religion is a member of the Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church. He and his wife have the following children: Anthony, Millie and Edward.

Mary Hartings, the wife of the subject, was born March 25, 1864, at Saint Rosa, Mercer county. She lived with her parents until her marriage to Mr. Kevelder. She is a member of the Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church, is a good woman, wife and mother, and is highly thought of by all who know her. A full biography of her father will be found on another page of this work.

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D. C. KINDER, mayor of Rockford, Mercer county, was born in Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, October 9, 1847, and was the tenth child born to Capt. George and Eliza (Schnof) Kinder. His father was one of the first of those inland mariners, who, early in the 'thirties, navigated the Miami canal, that great water way of the state, which aided so largely in developing the resources and advancing the rapid settlement of that portion of the state through which it passed. His mother was of Pennsylvania-German extraction, born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1846. Our subject had three brothers, the eldest of whom, William R. Kinder, was with the party which ran the boundary line between the United States and Mexico after the close of the Mexican war. He was afterward editor and proprietor of the Hamilton Telegraph, which, under his direction, was one of the most influential newspapers in the southern part of Ohio. Upon his election to the office of probate judge of Butler county, however, he disposed of the paper, and died before the expiration of the term of office for which he was elected. The next brother, John E., was for a long time connected with the revenue department of the government service, and his death occurred at his home in Miamisburg, where his son Charles is now postmaster and the owner and editor of the Miamisburg News. The third brother, Clinton B., is the editor and proprietor of the Rockford Free Press, at Rockford, Ohio. From the above it is clearly to be seen that the family has been well represented in journalistic ranks.

D. C. Kinder located in Ladoga, Ind., in December, 1879, and purchased the printing material of the Journal, and immediately started the Ladoga Leader, which filled every expectation of the people, and was known as a superior publication of its kind. June 15, 1880, he was married in Ottawa, Ohio, to Miss Mary E., eldest daughter of G. S. and Hannah Rollins. Their family are George R. and Jean R. In 1883 Mr. Kinder came to Shanes Crossing, now Rockford, and established the Press, which he still publishes. Mr. Kinder has been closely identified with the prosperity of the town, having served eight years as clerk, nine years as a member of the board of education, and is at the present time mayor of the village of Rockford.

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FRANCIS M. KIRBY, M. D., of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Carroll county, March 7, 1858, a son of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Bear) Kirby. He was educated primarily in the district schools of Carroll county until sixteen years of age, then for a year attended the academy of Hagerstown, Carroll county, Ohio, and next attended Scio (Ohio) college three terms, and then began reading medicine under Dr. H. G. Tope, of Perryville, Ohio, but formerly of Rockford. In August, 1879, he entered the Columbus (Ohio) Medical college, studied one term, and the following August went to Cleveland, Ohio, where for fourteen months he studied under Dr. H. J. Herrick, giving especial attention to surgery, and at the same time attended lectures in the medical department of the Western university. He next returned to Columbus, where, February 24, 1882, he graduated from the Columbus Medical college. He selected Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, as his first location for practice, but was taken ill with smallpox, which disarranged his plans. After recovery he went to Harper, Kans., intending to locate, but was again taken sick and returned to his home in Carroll county, passed the winter there, and in the spring of 1883 located in Montpelier, Ind., practiced until February, 1885, then practiced in Carroll county, Ohio, until November, 1887. He then moved to Moorefield, Harrison county, Ohio, where he practiced until 1890, when he came to Rockford, Mercer county, which has since been his home and where he has since been engaged in the active and successful practice of his profession, and where his skill has established him in the favor of the people and secured him a large and constantly increasing patronage.

The marriage of Dr. Kirby took place at Montpelier, Ind., October 9, 1884, while in practice at that place, with Miss Carrie Barbour, of Rockford, Ohio, where she was born June 24, 1864, a daughter of Charley and Caroline Barbour. One child, Cecile, has come to bless the home of the doctor and his wife and to add to their domestic happiness. Fraternally, the doctor is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M.; politically he is a stanch and active democrat and has represented his party very ably in both county and senatorial conventions; he is clerk of the school board of Rockford, and his professional ability has been recognized by his appointment, in 1893, as a member of the board of county pension examiners. The doctor in his deportment, is genial and affable, qualities he carries with him into the sick-room, and which frequently are as efficacious as medicines; he is broad minded and liberal of thought, progressive and public spirited, and freely contributes of his means to the support of church, school and public improvements. He has a pleasant home on South Main street, Rockford, and his social relations are of the most refined and desirable character.

Ephraim Kirby, father of Dr. Francis M. Kirby, was born near Baltimore, Md., January 27, 1808, and was but a child of three or four years of age when he lost his father. In 1824, in company with his mother and their children, he came to Ohio and located in the woods of Carroll county, where he underwent all the hardships of pioneer life, but eventually became one of the prominent men of his county, and held, as a democrat, all the public offices of his township. In religion he was an ardent and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He married in Carroll county, May 17, 1832, Miss Elizabeth Bear, who was a native of that county, born May 17, 1815. To this marriage were born nine children, as follows: Samuel, in 1833—now a farmer of Carroll county; Mary Ann, born June 11, 1836, married John Hagey, and died June 1, 1895, the only one of the nine children so far deceased; Van Buren, born in 1838, in the hotel business at Scio, Ohio; Harry, born in 1840, is an attorney at law in Carroll county; Kate, born in 1843, and wife of Howard Thompson, of Decatur, Ind.; William N., born in 1845, and a farmer and stock-dealer of Carroll county, Ohio; Ellen, born in 1852, and wife of Thomas Neely, of Great Falls, Mont.; Jacob J., born in 1854, farmer and stock-dealer of Carroll county, Ohio, and Dr. Francis M., our subject. Of these children, Samuel enlisted in the Ninety-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry for the suppression of the Rebellion, but was shortly afterward discharged on account of disability, and Harry enlisted, in 1861, in the Eightieth Ohio infantry, was soon commissioned captain, and as such was mustered out at the close of the war.

Ephraim Kirby, the father of the above family, was a prosperous, self-made man, accumulated upward of 400 acres of land, and devoted his attention chiefly to sheep raising, of which he owned immense flocks. He was progressive and public-spirited, and gave his children every possible educational advantage. He became very influential in his community, and died, deeply lamented, September 4, 1888, his widow surviving until December 15, 1894. His son, Dr. Francis M. Kirby, has well availed himself of the educational advantages bestowed upon him by his father, and has won a high reputation in his profession, both as a physician and surgeon.

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**GEORGE W. KLINGER**, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, was born July 30, 1842. He is a son of John and Mary (Prough) Klinger, the former of whom was born in Hocking county, January 11, 1817, and was a son of John and Elizabeth (Pressler) Klinger, both natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. After their marriage they removed to Hocking county, where in the year 1800, Mr. Klinger entered eighty acres of government land, upon which he followed the occupation of an agriculturist the rest of his life. While he did not serve in the war of 1812, on account of being a cripple, yet he had two brothers who were soldiers in that war, and was in full sympathy with the government in its efforts to defend American rights against the encroachments of England. In politics he was a whig, and he was the father of seven children, four sons and three daughters, the father of the subject of this sketch being the third child.

Three sons survive him, as follows: Joseph, living near Delphos; Henry, of Hocking county; Daniel, of Eureka, Kans.

John Klinger, Jr., son of John and Elizabeth Klinger, was reared upon a farm in Hocking county, and on February 2, 1840, married Mary Prough, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Grubb) Prough, and to this marriage there were born eleven children, as follows: Sarah, wife of John Weaver, of Missouri; George W., the subject of this sketch; Samuel, who was a member of company H, Fifty-eighth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and who died in July, 1862, in hospital at Memphis, Tenn.; Benjamin, who was killed by lightning, June 19, 1889; David, a ranchman in Clark county, Kans.; Mary, wife of E. B. Dolson, a farmer and stock raiser of Sumner county, Kans.; Delilah, wife of Aaron Beery of Nebraska; Elizabeth, who died in infancy, as did also Andy; and John A., a physician of Fountain, Col. The mother of these children was born in Fairfield county, March 23, 1818, her father having been a native of Pennsylvania as also was his wife. They removed to Fairfield county in 1813, entered eighty acres of land near Tarlton, and in 1829 removed to Hocking county, purchased a farm, and resided there until 1841, when they removed to Indiana, afterward removing to Illinois, where he died. He was a democrat and a member of the Lutheran church, and both were excellent people, always ready to do anything within their power for the good of their neighbors and the community at large.

After his marriage the father of the subject located on the home farm in Hocking county, where he passed the remainder of his life. In politics he was a republican and held several local offices of a minor character. In religion he was a member of the United Brethren church, and for years took a prominent part. Until a church was built in his neighborhood, religious services were conducted in his house, this being continued for three years. This church building, which was the first erected by the United Brethren denomination in the neighborhood of his home, he aided largely to erect, and until the time of his death, May 8, 1882, he was held in the highest esteem. At that time he had twenty-nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. For the last thirty-two years of his life he was a member of the church, and always lived a consistent Christian life. His wife still survives and since 1891 has made her home with the subject of this sketch.

George W. Klinger was reared on a farm and educated in Hocking county. The academy building in which he received his first instruction in the rudiments of an English education was constructed of logs, and it had a stone chimney, an unusual thing for those days. He was ten years old before going to school at all, the first school he attended being a subscription school and lasting forty days. He remained on the farm until October 15, 1861, when he enlisted in company H, Fifty-eighth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and served during the remainder of the war. The battles in which he participated were as follows: Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Germantown, Iuka, Corinth, Chickasaw Bayou, Fort Arkansas; and as the regiment was badly cut to pieces at Chickasaw Bayou, it went back to Vicksburg, was there placed on gunboats and sent up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Pittsburg, afterward serving in the marine service, participating in the following engagements: Haynes' Bluff, running the blockade at Vicksburg, Grand Gulf, Fort Beauregard, Shrevesport, and afterward returning to Vicksburg, where the regiment was re-organized and performed miscellaneous duties, sixty of the regiment being detailed, the subject being one of the sixty, to go to the exchange post on Big Black river, where they remained until after the assassination of President Lincoln, when the regiment was ordered to Jackson, Miss., whence each company was sent to a different county seat in that state, company H going to Grenada, where it remained until October, 1865. Then it was sent to Jackson, thence to Vicksburg, where the members of it were mustered out of service, and were discharged at Columbus, Ohio, two weeks later. Mr. Klinger was wounded twice—first at Grand Gulf and secondly at Vicksburg, but not severely enough to cause him to leave the service.

The war having come to a happy conclusion, Mr. Klinger returned to Hocking county, Ohio, where he remained nine days, and then went to Indiana, Michigan and Iowa, on a tour of observation, and on his return passed through Mercer county, and was so well pleased therewith that he purchased his present place, consisting of eighty acres of woodland. After a month's visit at home with the "folks," he returned to his Mercer county purchase, and began the work of clearing his land, boarding with different families two years before his marriage, which occurred October 10, 1867, in Hocking county, to Miss Melinda Patten, a daughter of Benjamin Patten, but then an orphan, who was born February 15, 1844, near Logan, in Hocking county. To this marriage there have been born five children, as follows: Martha A., who died when sixteen years old, May 17, 1885; Effie Dell, wife of L. M. Kraner, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; John, a farmer at home; Estella, wife of Edward Stiverson, of Neptune, Ohio; and Blanche living at home.

After his marriage Mr. Klinger returned to his farm, built a log cabin, and began the work of his life in earnest. Ever since settling down on his Mercer county farm he has been engaged as a general farmer and stock raiser, giving attention to Jersey Red hogs, and fine horses and cattle. His wife died August 20, 1891, a prominent member of the United Brethren church, a good woman, loved by all for her many excellent, womanly qualities of head and heart. Mr. Klinger is a republican in politics, has served as township trustee for three years, and as a member of the township board of education. He has been a member of the United Brethren church since 1863, and is now a member of Drury post, No. 372, of Neptune, Ohio, having served as quartermaster-sergeant of the post. In 1879 he erected a fine barn, and, in 1885, a commodious dwelling house. Recently he has added forty acres to his original eighty-acre farm, and now has 120 acres in all, most of it under a high state of cultivation. He has a spendid farm, well brought up to a high standard of excellence, and is a progressive, industrious, and public-spirited man, self made in the best sense of the term, and highly regarded by all who know him.

It is proper to add, in closing this sketch, that the great-grandfather of the subject, on the father's side, was one of eleven brothers, seven of whom served as soldiers in the Revolutionary war. His grandfather Brough was a near relative of Gov. John Brough, whose biography may be found among the sketches relating to the governors of Ohio, elsewhere in this volume.

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CHARLES A. KLOEB, one of the most prominent citizens of Celina, and member of the formerly well known insurance firm of Kloeb & Purpus, for years one of the leading real estate, insurance and loan companies in the city of Celina, was born at Piqua, Miami county, Ohio, April 17, 1859. He is a son of Joseph A. and Emma Kloeb, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who came to the United States about 1845. They were married in

Cincinnati, and from that city removed to Piqua, Ohio, where the father died about 1860. The mother survives and still resides in Piqua.

Charles A. Kloeb was reared in Piqua and was there educated in the parochial and public schools, securing both a German and an English education. After leaving school Mr. Kloeb learned the cigar-maker's trade, at which he worked for some time, and then, when about nineteen years of age, engaged in manufacturing cigars in Piqua, continuing at that business until 1879, when he removed to Celina. At Celina he took charge of a cigar factory for a time and later engaged in the cigar manufacturing business for himself. In 1886 he was appointed to a place in the United States revenue department, as deputy United States internal revenue collector, for the Fourth division of the Tenth district. This office he held about three years, and was the last democrat removed from office under the Harrison administration. Previously to his appointment to this position Mr. Kloeb held the offices of city and township clerk, resigning these positions to accept the position of deputy internal revenue collector.

In 1889 he engaged in the insurance, real estate and loan business, and in August, 1894, the firm of Kloeb & Purpus was formed, Mr. Hugo J. Purpus being the junior member of the firm. This firm was dissolved in January, 1896, since which time our subject has been engaged in the real estate and loan business alone.

Mr. Kloeb was married January 14, 1885, to Miss Emma LeBlond, daughter of ex-Congressman F. C. LeBlond, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. To this marriage there have been born a daughter and a son, viz: Annie L., and Frank L., both bright and promising children. Mr. Kloeb and his family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church, and are held in the highest esteem by all classes of people in Celina and Mercer county. Mr. Kloeb was nominated on the democratic ticket for auditor of Mercer county in April, 1896.

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WILLIAM KOCH, one of the leading business men of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and who has for many years been engaged in the tannery business in that place, was born January 31, 1834, in the kingdom of Prussia, and is a son of Frederick and Charlotte (Koch) Koch. While the mother was of the same name, she was not related by consanguinity to her husband. Frederick Koch was of the family of Rünke, but the custom of the country at that time was for the husband to take for his name the name of the wife's farm, when married, and as his wife, Charlotte, owned a farm, which had been in the family for generations, Frederick Rünke became Frederick Koch, and at the same time a farmer. To him and his wife there were born seven children, as follows: Wilhelmina, Henry, William, Charlotte, Henrietta, Louisa and Anna. All of these children were born in Prussia.

Frederick Koch and his family came to the United States in 1845, sailing from Bremen in the ship Canton, a sailing vessel, the voyage across the sea occupying thirteen weeks, whereas now the same passage in one of the "ocean greyhounds" would be made in half as many days. However, the ship Canton was delayed by head winds and severe storms. Mr. Koch and his family landed in Baltimore in the latter part of November, 1845, and finally settled near New Bremen, in the edge of Shelby county, where he bought fifty acres of land, which he partially cleared. However, he did not live long after reaching this country, dying in October, 1856. Mr. Koch was a hard-working, industrious man, was a member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife, and he was one of the most highly respected men in his community.

William Koch, son of Frederick, was educated in Germany, and when brought to the United States, in 1845, was but twelve years of age. He well remembers the voyage across the stormy Atlantic. After reaching Ohio he attended the common school in New Bremen, and in 1849 began to learn the trade of tanner, at New Bremen, of Harmon Wellman. Working as a journeyman at New Bremen and Saint Mary's until 1864, he then removed to Fort Recovery, and in March of that year bought the tannery of Isaac Lotz, then a very small concern. This property he gradually improved and kept on improving until at the present time he owns one of the most complete tanneries anywhere to be found. It is well equipped for the business and turns out all kinds of leather, such as kip, upper, and harness leather. In 1866 he erected his present commodious and handsome residence, and by industry and economy has become a well-to-do citizen, independent and honored by all who know him. In addition to the property above mentioned he owns twenty acres of land outside, and two acres inside, the corporate limits of Fort Recovery.

Mr. Koch married October 8, 1857, at New Bremen, Ohio, Dorothea Backhouse, who was born in Germany, in the kingdom of Hanover, July 30, 1831, and a daughter of Henry and Margaret Backhouse. Her father came to the United States in 1846, settling in New Bremen, being a brick-maker by trade and withal a much respected citizen. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Henry, Frederick, William, Dorothea, Sophia and Detrick. The father of these children died at the age of seventy years, an industrious and highly esteemed citizen. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. William Koch there have been born the following children: Lucella, Frank, Minnie, Flora, Edmund and Carrie, who are now living; Alvina, William, Julia and Henretta, all deceased. Politically Mr. Koch is a republican, and both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. His fellow-citizens have honored him by election to the town council, and also to the school board of his township. He has always been an industrious and hard-working man, economical and careful in his investments, and straightforward and honest in all business transactions. He is still tanning hides in the good, old-fashioned way, nine months being required to tan a hide, and he produces a high grade, excellent leather. By careful and conscientious processes he has established a reputation which extends far and wide, and which is worth much money to him every year, as he is always able to dispose of the products of his vats. He is noted everywhere for high character and conscientious dealings with his fellow-men, and as a conseqence enjoys the confidence of the public to an unlimited degree.

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JOHN M. KRAMER, senior member of the firm of John M. Kramer & Bro., Henry Kramer being the junior member, was born February 2, 1859, and is a son of Henry Kramer, who was born in Hanover, formerly the capital, but now only the chief town, of the province of Hanover, Germany, October 4, 1826. He was reared on a farm, and in 1835 was brought to the United States by his parents. They landed in Baltimore, and upon landing were in reality worth nothing at all. They went direct to Cincinnati, remaining there six months, and then moved to Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, where they settled down, on a farm of eighty acres of timber land. This farm the father purchased in 1836, paying therefor one dollar per acre. Later he added forty acres, making 120 acres in all. On this farm he lived until his death, which occurred September 14, 1862.

Henry Kramer, father of John M. Kramer, married, June 17, 1838, Miss Margaret Reichert, a native of the United States. He was in business a successful man, and at his death left his family in comfortable circumstances. In politics he was a democrat, and he was a member of the Catholic church. In all ways he was a liberal man, always ready to help those in need, and to aid public enterprises to the extent of his ability. His wife died, July 3, 1885. She was also a member of the Catholic church, and bore her husband three children, viz: John M., the subject of this sketch; Mary, and Henry, of whom a sketch of the latter appears elsewhere in this volume.

John M. Kramer was born in Marion township on his father's farm, on which he remained until he reached the age of thirty-one. In 1890 he went into business, with his brother for a partner. This firm, besides selling boilers, engines, gasoline engines, steam and hand pumps, sawing machines, etc., also manufacture the Champion manure spreader, the Gem wind-mill regulator, the Ideal feed cooker and the Eureka iron cutter, and beside, are especially well prepared to do all kinds of repair work. In addition to all this, they operate a lumber yard, an elevator, and a hardware store, in all of which they have met with gratifying success. John M. Kramer was married, May 28, 1884, to Miss Catherine Hausfeld, and to this marriage there have been born two children: Henrietta and Eleanora. The mother of these two children died September 19, 1895. Mr. Kramer is in politics a democrat, and is a member of Saint John's Catholic congregation. In all he is liberal and charitable, and is highly esteemed as a good citizen.

Bernard Hausfeld, the father of the deceased Mrs. Kramer, was born in Germany, September 8, 1831. Until coming to the United States, which was at an early age, he was reared on a farm. Landing while yet single in New York, he came direct to Ohio, located in Auglaize county, and some time in the 'fifties he removed to Marion township, Mercer county. On April 22, 1856, he was married to Elizabeth Swinefus, a native of the United States, and to this marriage there were born the following children: Anthony, Agnes, Mary, Catherine and Elizabeth. His wife is still living at Saint John's, and both are highly esteemed members of the Catholic church, and stand well in the community at large.

HENRY KRAMER, junior member of the firm of Henry Kramer & Bro., the senior member being John M. Kramer, the firm dealing in grain, seeds and country produce, as well as salt, lime, stone, lumber, hardware and groceries, was born January 16, 1862, in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio. He was reared on his father's farm and remained upon it until 1881. He then took charge of a mail route between Maria Stein and Saint John's station, on the T., D. & B. railroad, at the same time having an express office in Maria Stein, he also running the express wagon until December, 1885, when he retired from the route. In September, 1884, he had taken charge of the ticket and freight office of the Toledo, Delphos & Burlington railroad, charge of which he retained until April 1, 1893. As mail carrier he endured many hardships and much exposure, as there was no depot erected until December, 1881, and he had in the meantime to wait for the trains, which were very frequently late, finding no shelter except such as the standing timber afforded. In September, 1887, he purchased the property of J. Rumping, consisting of a house, two lots and a sta-

Gideon Alspach, of Miami county, Ind.; James; Louis; Harrison, who died in childhood; William, who also died young, and Matilda. The mother of this family died in June, 1843, and in November of the same year John Kensler married Louisa Flemming, and to this union were born the following named children: Sally Mona, John, David, Alfred, who died young, and Martha. In 1851, John Kensler went to Fulton county, Ind., and bought a farm, but in 1855 removed to Madison county, Iowa, where he bought another farm, on which he resided until his death, in November, 1859.

Thomas C. Kensler was reared on the home farm until he was nineteen years of age, when he went out to work, at $12 per month; three months later he hired out by the year, at $110 for the first year, and at $120 for the next three years following. At about the age of twenty-five years he had saved some money, and he then purchased a small piece of land in Delaware county, Ohio, and also rented a farm of his uncle; at the age of thirty years he was married, April 8, 1858, to Miss Phebe Ketcham, which union was blessed by the birth of three children: John W., who married Irene Cramer, who became the mother of Fred, Ray, Wilbur, Thomas and Virgil; the second child born to our subject was named Charles, and died at the age of twenty years, and the third child, Eva, died in childhood.

In 1863, Mr. Kensler came to Van Wert county, having previously purchased eighty acres of wooded land in Ridge township and also eighty acres in Jackson township. His possessions now comprise 180 acres in Van Wert county, as he has disposed of a part of his original purchases. Mr. Kensler, on his first coming to his present home, found it necessary to labor hard one-half day in order to chop a pathway within his building site. The cabin that first sheltered his little family on this farm yet stands in his doorway.

March 10, 1882, Mr. Kensler had the sorrowful misfortune to lose his helpmate, who had been a devout member of the Methodist church from twelve years of age—of which church, also, Mr. Kensler has been a communicant since 1875. Mr. Kensler has served his fellow-citizens as infirmary director, filling the position six years, and also served as township trustee for three terms. He is a gentleman in whom the people of Ridge township place every reliance and feel that they can implicitly trust, as there has never been a word uttered that would in any way impugn his honor or integrity. He is, as will be perceived, an entirely self-made man, and well deserves the confidence which is placed in him by all who know him.

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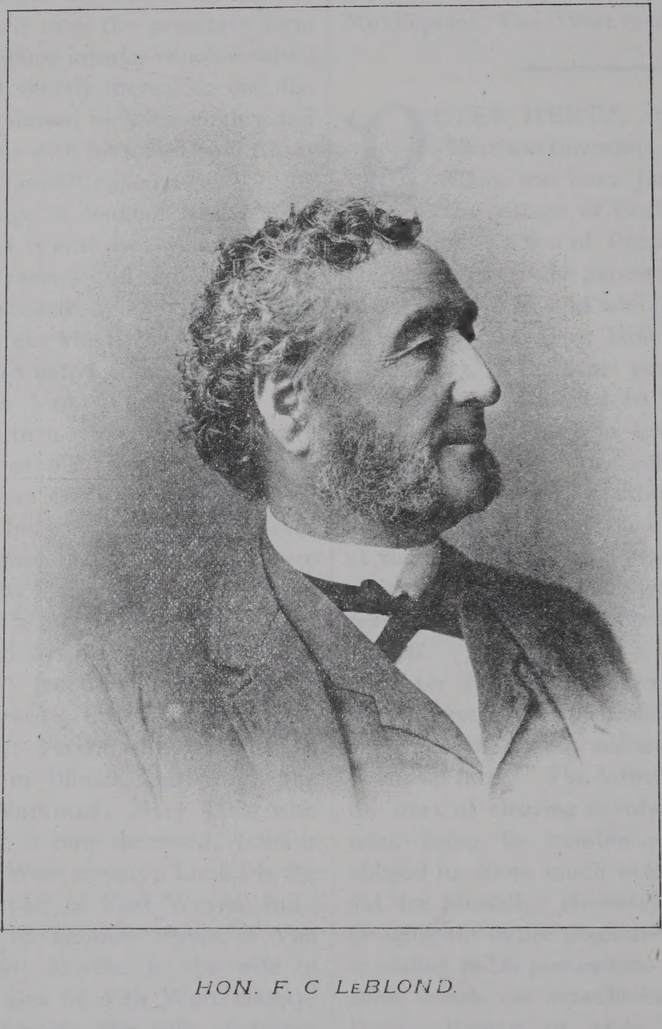
SAMUEL KESLER, deceased, of late one of the most experienced and well-to-do farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in July, 1812. His parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Bowman) Kesler, were natives of Pennsylvania and had born to them, beside Samuel, the following-named children: Abraham, who settled on a farm in Allen county, Ohio, and there died in 1890 or 1891; Polly, who died in early womanhood; Jakey, who died in boyhood; Barbara, now the wife of Reuben Timbers and residing in Ridge township; Milly, now Mrs. Zeigler of Illinois; Eli, who died about the year 1881; John, who was a soldier in the late war and died from disease; Anna, wife of Charles Sterling, of Illinois; Betsey, who died in early childhood, and Peter, who still resides in Fairfield county, Ohio. About the year 1852, the parents of our subject, who had settled in Fairfield county, Ohio, made a trip to Allen and Van Wert counties to see their boys, and shortly after their return to Fairfield county, while preparing on a Sunday to attend church, their horse, which was being held by Mrs. Kesler, suddenly became unmanageable and broke away, throwing the lady to the ground. The wheels of the vehicle to which the animal was attached passed over the prostrate form of Mrs. Kesler, inflicting injuries which resulted in her death, and shortly thereafter the disconsolate husband moved to Allen county and there made his home with his eldest son, Abraham, until he was himself called away.

The first marriage of Samuel Kesler took place, when he was twenty-two years of age, to Miss Louisa Frazier, and for four years after this event worked by the day on his father's farm and elsewhere; he also farmed on rented land in his native county until 1840, when he came to Van Wert county, and entered 160 acres in a dense forest in Ridge township—a part of his present farm. His first care here was to erect a cabin in which to shelter himself, his wife and three children. After that time more than 1,000 acres were bought and sold by him, and at his death he was still owner of a magnificent farm of 295 acres. To Mr. and Mrs. Kesler were born the following children: Jacob, who was a soldier in the late war, served a little over two years, and died in 1865; Peter, who was also a soldier, now lives in Illinois; Barbara, is the wife of George Workman; Mary Jane, who was twice married, is now deceased; John is a resident of Van Wert county; Louisa is the wife of Mr. Griswold, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Sarah is married to Thomas Hyers, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Martha is the wife of Emanuel Baker, also of Van Wert county, and Ellen, who became the wife of Loren High, is now deceased. The mother of this family having died, Mr. Kesler married, in 1885, the widow of Benjamin Fisher. Mr. Kesler was a member of the Lutheran church, stood high in the good opinion of the people of the township and county, and in the Lutheran faith. Mr. Kesler was called away November 20, 1895. In politics Mr. Kesler was a democrat and for two terms served as township trustee. His respected widow still resides in Middlepoint, Van Wert county.

PETER HERTZ, an early pioneer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born January 31, 1820, in the village of Becher, Coburg, Germany, and is a son of Peter and Anna (Klein) Hertz, who were the parents of two children—Mary and Peter—and who came to America in 1837, and located in Holmes county, Ohio, October 13, of the same year, but a month or six weeks later moved to Van Wert county, and settled in Harrison township on the 160 acres, where Peter, our subject, now resides. August 28, 1838, a log cabin was erected, and here the father, Peter, died the year following, at the age of sixty-nine years, his widow surviving a few years and dying at the age of seventy-one—both members of the Evangelical church.

Peter Hertz, our subject, it will be seen, was between seventeen and eighteen years of age when the family settled on the Harrison township farm. The father dying a year later, the work of clearing devolved on our subject, who, being in humble circumstances, was obliged to do as much work for others as he did for himself. However, he succeeded in bringing the entire place under subjection, and in adding to his possessions until he owned 290 acres, beside 100 acres he has given to his son Peter. January 17, 1840, Mr. Hertz married Mary M. Germann, daughter of Henry and Anna (Reidenbach) Germann, natives respectively of Hesse and Homberg, Germany, who came to America three years prior to the coming of the Hertz family and settled first in



HON. F. C LEBLOND.

trustee, was justice of the peace for a number of years, and served also as township clerk. His wife was a member of the Church of God.

George W. Kuhl has lived on his present farm ever since his marriage. In 1890 he erected his present fine house, which makes a most comfortable home. If the expression is permissible, general farming has been his specialty, and he has always made it a success. He is one of the most prominent and at the same time one of the best men in his township, every one looking to his example and listening to his advice. In politics he is a democrat, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Rockford, as also is his wife, who is equally as highly esteemed as himself.

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HON. FRANCIS C. LEBLOND, the oldest member of the bar of Celina and ex-member of congress from the Fifth Ohio district, was born in Knox county, Ohio, February 14, 1821. He is a son of Evera C. LeBlond, who was born in Paris, France, May 22, 1789, and was sent to America by his parents to avoid being pressed into the military service of France by Napoleon I. His wife was Elizabeth Holderman, who was born in Lancaster county, Pa., January 9, 1793. Evera C., died in Bellville, Ohio, January 16, 1851, and his wife died in same state April 28, 1861.

Francis C. LeBlond was educated at Norwalk, Ohio, under Edward M. Thompson, late bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, and then read law in Norwalk with John Whitbeck, being admitted to the bar in the fall of 1843. On December 24, of the same year, he located in Saint Mary's, Ohio, which place was then in Mercer county, and in the spring of 1848 he removed to Celina, where he has ever since resided and practiced his profession. In the fall of 1847 Mr. LeBlond was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer county, and was re-elected in 1849; in 1851 he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly of Ohio, was re-elected in 1853, and was chosen speaker of the house by the democratic members. During his first term in the legislature the present school laws of the state were enacted, Mr. LeBlond having charge of the measure when it was before the house, a fact that gives him more pleasure and pride than any honor that has come to him during his long and eventful public career. In 1853 Mr. LeBlond was the nominee of the democratic party for common pleas judge, but was defeated by the know-nothing party by a small majority; in 1862 he was elected to congress from the Fifth congressional district, and was re-elected in 1864. During his second term in congress he became quite prominent on account of his position in regard to the reconstruction measures introduced in 1866. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, had introduced his measure of reconstruction providing for the disfranchisement of the southern people who had attempted secession from the Union until they had demonstrated their repentance and their loyalty to the government, and for the enactment of laws for the reduction of the seceding states to a territorial condition. The debate on this measure was participated in by all the leading members of congress, and was most vigorously and hotly contested. Mr. LeBlond, securing the floor by request of Mr. Harris, of Maryland, who was expounding the democratic doctrine of secession, proceeded to give his ideas of the true democratic doctrine on this question—which were that a state once in the Union was always in the Union until it seceded therefrom by successful revolution. This the southern states had failed to do, consequently they were still a part of the Union, and as such were as much entitled to representation in congress as ever. So forcibly and eloquently was this idea expounded and defended by Mr. LeBlond that the leaders of the opposition did not attempt to reply, and the incident brought Mr. LeBlond into such prominence that during the remaining portion of the term he was the recognized leader ot the democratic forces on the floor of the house.

Another incident occurred during this term which added to the prominence of the member from the Fifth district and showed him to be a ready and witty debater and strong in repartee and sarcasm. Mr. Raymond, a member from New York, occupied a contradictory and very strong position during the debates and balloting when the reconstruction measure of Mr. Stevens was pending, inasmuch as he would openly oppose such measures both on the floor and on the outside. He had even gone so far as to make a speech in opposition to the measure; yet, when it came to a vote, he was always whipped into line by Mr. Stevens. This course naturally irritated the members on both sides, and Mr. LeBlond determined that, when occasion presented itself, he would take the wind out of the member from New York. An opportunity soon came, the occasion being furnished when a certain measure was reported by the committee on naval affairs, of which committee Mr. LeBlond was a member. Mr. Raymond had the floor and was speaking in opposition to the measure. He was interrupted by Mr. LeBlond, who requested the privilege of asking a question. The privilege being granted Mr. LeBlond inquired: "How is the gentleman going to vote on this measure?" Mr. Raymond replied, with severity, "If the gentleman from Ohio will listen to my remarks he will be able to inform himself as to how I will vote." Mr. LeBlond quickly replied: "Judging the future from the past, the gentleman will surely vote for the measure pending, notwithstanding his speech in opposition to the same, as his record shows that during the pending of the reconstruction measures he had invariably opposed them in his speeches, but had always voted for them. That the gentleman from New York at the beginning of the term had placed one foot upon the shoulder of President Johnson and the other upon the shoulder of the honorable member from Pennsylvania, and as the two distinguished gentlemen had become separated further and further as the session had advanced, the legs of the gentlman from New York had become so stretched that his friends feared for his life."

This utterance of Mr. LeBlond utterly demoralized Mr. Raymond, who attempted no reply. Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, predicted that within forty-eight hours Raymond would be caricatured by the press, and the prediction proved true, as sheets having the caricature of the member from New York, in the attitude represented by Mr. LeBlond, were soon afterward placed on the desks of the different members, and a subsequent issue of a New York illustrated paper contained a similar caricature, though somewhat different in details. Mr. LeBlond was a delegate to the democratic national convention held in New York city, in 1868, when Horatio Seymour was nominated for president, and in 1876 he was a delegate from the Fifth congressional district to the democratic national convention which met at Saint Louis, and nominated Samuel J. Tilden for president.

From the date of his admission to the bar, in 1844, until the present time Mr. LeBlond has been actively engaged in the practice of the law. All his life he has held a front rank among the attorneys of Mercer and adjoining counties, and has met with unusual success.

Mr. LeBlond was married at Saint Mary's, Ohio, on September 6, 1853, to Miss Louisa E. McGinley, and to their marriage the following children have been born: Charles M., who served as a member of the legislature for Mercer county, and is now practicing law in Cleveland, Ohio. He married the daughter of Mr. Luke Brennan, one of the well known contractors of Cleveland; Emma L., now the wife of Charles A. Kloeb, the leading insurance and real estate agent of Celina, and Frank C., who married Miss Vannetta, of Colorado, and is now residing at Hilo, Hawaiian islands. Mrs. LeBlond is a Methodist in her religious faith.

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LOUIS M. KRANER, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Hopewell township, Mercer county, and a son of William H. and Sophia (Crider) Kraner, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 10, 1860. William H. Kraner was also born in Fairfield county, and was a son of Michael Kraner, whose father, Henry Kraner, came from Germany when quite young, landed in Baltimore county, Md., about 1775, and was married while there to a French maiden, Elizabeth Keys. He afterward emigrated to the state of Ohio in 1809 and located one mile east of Pickerington, Fairfield county, where he entered 160 acres of government land. He was born in 1759, and died May 27, 1838, aged seventy-nine years. His wife, Elizabeth (Keys) Kraner, was born in 1765, and died November 27, 1845, aged eighty years. They were buried on the land they entered from the government, where they died. To them were born eight children: Mary, Michael, Henry, William, Anna, Susan, Ellen and Eliza.

Michael Kraner, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1789 in Baltimore county, Md., and came with his parents to Ohio in 1809 and located with them east of Pickerington, on a farm. His father afterward entered a tract of 113 acres of land one mile northwest of said village, which he subsequently deeded to his son, Michael, upon which he (Michael) located and lived until his death, in 1873, aged nearly eighty-five years. Michael Kraner was married to his first wife, Sarah, May 14, 1820, and to them were born two children: Eliza and Louisa. Of these, Eliza, born September 14, 1821, was married to Nathanial Bowen, they locating near Peoria, Ill., where they died and are buried; to them were born two daughters, Sarah and Emma. The second child of Michael (Louisa), died a married woman. Sarah Kraner died October 27, 1853, and Michael was next married, September 22, 1825, to Nancy Nolen (nee Warner), who was born in Walnut township, Fairfield county, in 1806, and died May 19, 1858. She and Michael were buried in the old cemetery at Pickerington. To this last union were born twelve children, as follows: Anna Winders, born August 27, 1826, died in infancy; Ellen Jane, born June 21, 1828, married to Solomon Weaver, a prominent politician and county official of Fairfield county; to them were born eight children: William H., Ethel, Viola, James M., Virgil, Homer, Charles and Elmer. Solomon Weaver is now deceased. Demarius Kraner was born June 26, 1832, and married to Hegeman Jeffries; to them were born three daughters, Minerva (deceased), Adda and Florence. Demarius died March 13, 1863. Elophius Clayton Kraner was born September 26, 1834, dying in infancy; Wesley Manier Kraner was born May 14, 1836, and died in infancy; Jephtha Kraner was born March 20, 1838, and died October 3, 1859; Michael Louis Kraner was born March 3, 1840, and died January 11, 1863; Elizabeth Keys Kraner was born May 3, 1843, and died March 20, 1849; Alpheus Hayden Kraner was born February 9, 1842, and died in infancy; Mary Ann Kraner was born October 14, 1847, and died December 13, 1864; Sarah Melissa

Kraner was born November 13, 1851, and died in infancy.

William Henry Kraner, father of the subject of this sketch, was born August 6, 1832. He received an education such as was furnished by the common schools of his day and began battling life for himself at the age of nineteen in 1851, by working on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at eighty cents per day, boarding himself, after which he began "farming on shares." Engaged in this way about five years, and accumulating $450 in cash, he started west on a tour of observation in 1854, on horseback, and arrived in Des Moines, Iowa, fourteen days after leaving home. Douglas and Lincoln were having their joint debate at that time and this equestrian traveler sided with Douglas, becoming a democrat. He entered eighty acres of land in northeastern Iowa, and, spending a few weeks in that state, he sold his horse and returned to Ohio by rail, where he again took up the vocation of farming, and while thereat engaged with his brother-in-law (Solomon Weaver, heretofore mentioned) in 1856 and 1857, he made the acquaintance of a young school miss, Sophia Crider, and after a courtship of about three years they were married at the home of the bride's parents, in Walnut township, Fairfield county, on the 22d day of May, 1859, by Rev. T. Drake, the bride being engaged in teaching at the time.

The newly wedded pair at once began the work of life in earnest by settling upon his father's farm of 113 acres in Violet township, which William H. afterward pnrchased of his father in April, 1864, at $30 per acre, and which is known as the old home farm. The next farm bought was an eighty-acre tract in the same township in 1869, at $40 per acre, and in November, 1877, he bought 160 acres in Jasper county, Ill., at $20 per acre. Again, in January, 1879, he bought eighty-two acres, adjoining the home farm, at $83 per acre, where he and his wife, and children yet at home, now reside. Mr. Kraner is a prominent, honorable and highly respected citizen, has held various elective positions of honor and trust, and is recognized as an example in public enterprises and one of the pillars of the church. Husband and wife became members of the Methodist Episcopal church on January 13, 1863. The husband was connected with the old Methodist Episcopal church at Pickerington in 1866, under the gospel of Rev. Adair, and the wife in 1871, under the gospel of Rev. Berthauser.

To the above happy union were born eight children: Louis Maxwell, the subject of this sketch; Franklin McClellan, born April 3, 1862, a prominent stock-dealer of Pickerington, who married Emma Madora Hempy, May 13, 1891. There have been born to them two children: Harry Paul, March 9, 1892, and Guy Lucellie, January 12, 1894. William H., born September 20, 1864, died in infancy; Jacob Crider, farmer and portrait artist, was born March 27, 1867, was married to Lizzie Stemen, October 1, 1893. There was born to them one child, Verlin Boydelle, November 6, 1895. Jacob is now living on the old home farm; Etta Hortense was born October 8, 1869, and is married to Samuel Edward Kull, a college graduate, August 20, 1890; born to them one child, Flossie Leonia, June 9, 1891. Mr. Kull is now engaged in mercantile and grain business at Pickerington, Ohio. Pearl Atlanta, a farmer, is conducting the farm upon which his father now lives, and was born August 20, 1872; Laura Belle, at home, was born April 27, 1875; John Henry, born March 3, 1878, is at school, where he will soon graduate, preparing himself for a professional career.

Sophia (Crider) Kraner, mother of these children, was born in Fairfield county, in 1841. Her father, Jacob Crider, was born in

Lancaster, Pa., about 1799, and was a son of Henry and Barbara Crider, the former of whom was a native of Canton Basil, Germany, where he married, and whence he emigrated to Lancaster, Pa.; there he lived a number of years, and in 1805, when Jacob was six years old, removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, entering in this county eighty acres of land, which he partially cleared and sold, and bought and sold other farms before his death. Henry Crider was the father of three children, viz: Jacob, father of the mother of the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth (Mrs. Jacob Soliday); Catherine (Mrs. Jacob Hansel), all three now deceased. The father of these children died in 1820, and the mother in 1840.

Jacob Crider was educated in Ohio in the German language, and by his own efforts acquired a knowledge of the English. In Fairfield county, about 1823, he married Elizabeth Lorish, a daughter of Henry and Barbara Lorish, who was born in 1801. To this marriage there were born the following children: Rebecca, deceased wife of Levi Soliday, to whom was born two daughters: Elizabeth, married to Willis Morris, residing at Toledo, Ohio; Almeda, married to John Schleckman, of Lancaster, Ohio, died in 1877. Henry L., deceased May 10, 1896, a prominent dentist of Lancaster, Ohio, married to Sarah Wise; to them were born five children: John, an attorney now in Kansas; Elizabeth, deceased; George, a dentist, deceased; Jacob, a Western Union telegraph operator; Lida, married. Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Weaver, a farmer of Hopewell township, to whom were born ten children, as follows: Sylvester H., carpenter and president of Mercer county Agricultural society, born August 18, 1849, married to Anna Wagner; Edwin C., farmer, born July 16, 1851, married to Mary Jane Carr; Lieutissia, born November 23, 1852, married to Noble King; Jacob Monroe, farmer, born December 23, 1855, married to Lewiza Morrow; Charles M., farmer, born December 15, 1857, married to Lewtilda Wagner; Andrew Franklin, born February 22, 1860, married to Jane Howts; Willis S., born February 16, 1863, married to Samantha Wilson; Della, born December 15, 1865, married to James L. Morrow; Minnie, born December 15, 1865, at home; James, born May 15, 1870, married to Millie E. Fisher. Maria, widow of John Cook, a farmer of Hopewell township, to whom was born four children: Jacob C., deceased; Sarah, married to Landon Tavner, of Celina; Rancy, married to John E. Smith, an Evangelical minister; Elva, married to Jesse Wilcutt, farmer. Susan, married to George Ricketts, a farmer, has borne three children: Sarah, married to J. L. Montgomery, a carpenter of Baltimore, Ohio; Pearle, married to John A. Wilson, a prominent teacher and farmer near Celina. Charles, a farmer, married to Almeda Fast. Catherine, deceased wife of Jonas Weist, of Hopewell township, to whom was born four children: Pet, married to Joseph Hayes; William H., married to Emma Clutter; Charles, photographer at Rockford; Clyde, at a medical college, Columbus, Ohio. Delilah, died in infancy.

Jacob L. Crider on January 26, 1856, married Eliza Ann Walters, a daughter of Mary Magdalene (Foster) Walters. To this marriage four children were born, as follows: Therrasa J., deceased wife of John James, a machinist; James, a deceased merchant of Rockford, Ohio; Maggie, wife of George Morrow, a marble dealer of Van Wert, Ohio, and Della, wife of Jacob Raach, both of Ada, Ohio, connected with the normal school—she a musician, he a teacher.

Henry Lorish, the grandfather of these children, was born in Germany. There he married his wife, Barbara, and to them were born three children: Catherine, wife of

Frederick Soliday, who still lives at Newark, Ohio, and is eighty-two years of age; Henry, deceased, and Elizabeth, deceased. Henry Lorish, the father of these three children, came to the United States in 1803, having served three years in the German army. He was a weaver by trade, and upon reaching Ohio, located in Fairfield county, where he passed the remainder of his life.

Louis M. Kraner, the subject of this sketch, was educated in Fairfield county and afterward in the Reynoldsburg high school. After teaching school in Mercer county, in 1877, he returned to Fairfield county, and there engaged in the mercantile business in Pickerington for three years. In 1881 he learned telegraphy and for thirteen months operated telegraph offices for the T. & O. C. railroad. Resigning this position he moved to Mercer county March 29, 1888, locating on a sixty-acre farm, and since then has been engaged in farming and in raising registered stock, Oxford Down sheep and Duroc-Jersey swine. He also took up printing and engraving, having a natural artistic taste. He is now engaged in job printing and engraving, making these branches of art a specialty in connection with his stock raising and farming.

On January 27, 1889, he married Effie Dell Klinger, a daughter of George W. and Melinda (Patten) Klinger; she was born in Hopewell township, May 1, 1870. For full reference to her family history the reader is referred to the biography of George W. Klinger on another page. Mr. Kraner was elected justice of the peace in 1890 and still holds the office, being now in his second term. On the day he cast his first vote he was elected township clerk and clerk of Pickerington corporation, and resigning the latter office, he was re-elected to the former office for a second term.

The multiplicity of Mr. Kraner's enterprises can not well be understood unless it is stated that beside the lines mentioned above in which he is engaged, he also raises barred Plymouth Rock, and single comb brown Leghorns, and Black Minorcas and Buff Pekin bantams. He has also been very successful in raising high grade swine, to the rearing of which he is concentrating his best energies and sparing neither pains nor money to make his herd (The Excelsior Herd of Registered Duroc-Jersey swine) second to none in the country. By careful crossing, guided by a practical knowledge of the laws of heredity, he is achieving a degree of success that will soon make older breeders scramble for first honors. His herd was established in 1892.

For about fifteen years Mr. Kraner has been an occasional contributor to the press upon various topics, and his more recent articles written for the Ohio Farmer have been illustrated from drawings executed by himself.

Formerly Mr. Kraner was a democrat, but of late years he has aided the populist movement. He is a member of Violet lodge, No. 709, I. O. O. F., of Pickerington, and was also a member of Enterprise lodge, No. 5301, F. M. B. A., now abandoned. Though not now a member of the church, yet while he lived in Fairfield county he was a most active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath-school. The improvements upon his farm he has made himself, and he is in all respects one of the most public-spirited and enterprising citizens of his township and county.

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FREDERICK KUHN, one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Liberty township, as well as one of its early pioneers, was born in Bavaria, April 28, 1829. He is a son of Henry and Margaret (Bollenbacher) Kuhn, fuller mention of whom is made elsewhere in these pages. Frederick Kuhn was reared on the farm and educated in the excellent schools of his native land, and in June, 1847, came with his parents to the United States, reaching Mercer county in June of that year. While in Germany he partially learned the wagon-maker's trade, but after arriving in this country he worked for five years on the farm upon which he now lives, going to Iowa in 1852 and there learning the mason's trade, at which he worked until the breaking out of the Civil war. Soon after the war commenced he enlisted for three months, and after this period of service had expired, he returned to Mercer county, and again enlisted on August 12, 1862, for three years or during the war, as a member of company F, Ninety-ninth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the war came to an end. He joined his regiment in Lima, Ohio, and participated in the battle of Stone River, his first experience with the real horrors of war. Afterward he was in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga. He was also in the battle of Ringgold, Ga., and Cleveland, Tenn. For nine months he served as provost guard at the headquarters of Gen. Matthews, and while in camp at Cleveland, Tenn., was wounded by the falling of a tree, which broke one leg. In consequence he was in the hospital two weeks, and then secured a furlough home, which it was found necessary to extend, and in June, 1864, he went to Columbus, where he cooked for the inmates in the hospital until October 4, when he went to Chicago and there acted as guard to the rebel prisoners in Camp Douglas until he was discharged, in July, 1865.

Mr. Kuhn then returned home and followed farming until his marriage, February 8, 1866, to Miss Minnie Wellmeyer, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Brune) Wellmeyer. To this marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Jacob Henry, deceased; Mary Wilhelmina; Frederick Theodore, a farmer living at home; Philip Wilhelm; Elizabeth Margaret; Isabella Rebecca, and Esther Berdella. The mother of these children was born in Tecklenburg, Prussia, February 25, 1842. Her father, who was born at the same place, January 16, 1812, died September 24, 1886. Her mother, who was born January 12, 1811, died December 2, 1893. The following of their children survive: Abraham Frederick, wholesale grocer at Dayton, Ohio; Minnie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Henrietta, wife of Henry Hoge, of Auglaize county; Mary C., wife of Frederick Lanfersieck, a manufacturer of steel plows, cultivators, etc., of Bremen, Ohio. The father of these children came to the United States in 1852, bought a farm in Auglaize county, lived upon this farm until 1865, and then moved to Saint Mary's, where he died, his wife afterward living with the subject of this sketch until her death. They were both members of the German Reform church, and good people, and in politics he was a democrat.

After his marriage Frederick Kuhn located where he at present lives. He has cleared and improved his farm, erecting all the buildings himself. In all he owns 140 acres of land, all but forty-five acres of which are in a fine state of cultivation. His barn he built in 1869, his house in 1875, and for the past five years he has kept putting up such new buildings as his varied agricultural processes require. While as a general thing he has confined his operations to what may be called general farming, yet he has given considerable attention in later years to the raising of blooded stock, especially Hereford, short horn and Jersey cattle, Poland China and Berkshire hogs, as well as fine horses. In politics he is a democrat and is an all-round good man, public spirited and progressive in all things, taking a lively interest in public affairs, and is a member of the Lutheran church. Few men if any stand higher, socially, morally and industrially.

HENRY KUHN, one of the most prominent farmers of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of Henry and Margaret (Bollenbacher) Kuhn, was born December 3, 1831, in Bavaria. Henry Kuhn, Sr., was born in Baerne, Bavaria, in 1804. He was a son of Frederick Kuhn, also of Baerne, who was the father of four sons, Henry being the third in order of birth. He was reared on a farm and learned the wagon-maker's trade, which he followed for some years in his native land. In 1826 he married Margaret Bollenbacher, an aunt of Charles Bollenbacher, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. To their marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Katherine (Mrs. Hartzog); Frederick, living on the old homestead in Liberty township; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Abraham, deceased; Adam, who served during the war of the Rebellion three years, as a member of company F, Ninety-ninth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, losing a leg in the Atlanta campaign, and now deceased; Elizabeth Mary, wife of John Hartzog, of Indiana; Phillip, formerly of Black Creek township, now deceased; and Caroline, wife of John B. Duer, of Indiana.

Margaret Bollenbacher, the wife of Henry Kuhn, Sr., was born in Bavaria, in 1805, and died soon after locating in Mercer county, July 16, 1847. Henry Kuhn, Sr., followed his trade in his native land until he emigrated to the United States, in 1847, locating in Mercer county, in June of that year. He was only three weeks in crossing the sea, and it required two weeks to travel from New York city to Mercer county, a journey which would now require only two days. Upon reaching Mercer county he purchased 100 acres of woodland, which, with the assistance of his sons, he cleared, and upon this farm he lived the rest of his life, dying December 12, 1871, a member of the German Reform church.

Henry Kuhn, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm and educated in the schools of his native country, coming to the United States with his parents in 1847. On September 25, 1856, he married Maria Duer, a daughter of John and Mary Jane (Morrison) Duer, and to this marriage there have been born six children, as follows: Rebecca, wife of G. Camp, of Michigan; William, of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio; John H., who was killed by a runaway team; Emma J., wife of Frank Landfair, of Black Creek township; Adam, who is farming the home place, and who married Della Leistner; Elnora, widow of David Roof, and living at home. The mother of these children was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, August 25, 1833, removing with her parents in 1838 to Holmes county, where she was reared and educated. Her father, who died February 8, 1884, at the age of eighty-three, was of English descent, and her mother, who died July 10, 1863, was at the time sixty-two years old. John Duer was a native of Ohio, his parents having come to this state at a very early day.

Henry Kuhn, one year previous to his marriage, purchased the farm on which he now lives, and has lived upon it ever since his marriage. At the time of its purchase it was covered with timber, but Mr. Kuhn has been a hard-working and industrious man, and has cleared most of it, and placed it under a high state of cultivation. The first house in which he lived on his farm was a log cabin erected by himself, and in this he lived until 1874, when he erected a fine, two-story house, 18x36 feet in size, with a wing 26 feet square. In 1864 he built a log barn which still stands, but which was supplemented in 1881 by a new barn. Mr. Kuhn is a successful and progressive farmer, having fifty-five acres of his land under cultivation. As a democrat he has served as township trustee for a number of years, and also as a member of the school board, and was township treasurer for thirteen consecutive years, a fact which is sufficiently indicative of the confidence placed in him by his fellow-citizens. While he has always carried on general farming, he has also made a specialty of raising Durham cattle, and for three years he was engaged in buying and selling stock, mainly cattle. Mr. Kuhn is, in the usual sense of the term, a self-made man. What he possesses has been acquired by his own exertions and by careful management, and he is not only a prominent farmer and citizen, but is also a man of true and honest character. He and his wife are both church members, he of the German Reform, she of the Methodist Episcopal. He is also one of the patriotic citizens of Mercer county, and is justly proud of having served his country during the time of the great Rebellion. Enlisting in October, 1862, as a member of company I, Fifty-sixth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, which regiment he joined at Helena, Ark., he served therein one year, and participated in the battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863; at Champion Hills, May 16, 1863, and also in the siege of Vicksburg. While never wounded nor taken prisoner, yet he ran the risk of death and was only fortunate in not being called upon to sacrifice his life for his country. Being discharged at Vicksburg, in August, 1863, his term of enlistment having expired, he returned to his farm, and has since been engaged in the honorable occupation of agriculture. His wife had two uncles, Mark and Thomas Duer, in the Mexican war.

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**JOHN G. KUHN**, one of the prominent farmers of Butler township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a justice of the peace, was born in Oberlandbach, Bavaria, May 27, 1843. He is a son of George and Julia (Schnider) Kuhn, both of Bavaria, where they were married and where they lived until 1847, he in his own country having followed farming. At that time he emigrated to the United States, crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel, and being eleven weeks on the voyage, which was very rough and stormy. Landing at New York he came direct to Ohio, and to Auglaize county, most of the way by canal. In Auglaize county he purchased a tract of land, which had a small improvement upon it, but was for the most part covered with heavy timber. Upon this farm he remained the rest of his life, dying May 8, 1866. In politics he was a democrat, but never sought nor aspired to office. He was content to live in the land of the free, and to pursue the even tenor of his way unmolested and devoted to his own private interests and the care of his family.

To his first marriage there were born three children, viz: Barbara, wife of Peter Wolf, he being her third husband; George J., a farmer of Mercer county; and Catharine, the wife of H. Everman. The mother of these three children died in Bavaria, and the father married there the second time, the mother of the subject, Miss Julia Schneider, to whom there were born three children, viz: Theresa, who married P. Bustetter, and later died; Barbara, single, and an inmate of a nunnery; and John G., the subject of this sketch. The mother of these three children died July 12, 1894, at the age of eighty-five years and two months. Both parents were members of the Roman Catholic church.

John G. Kuhn, upon coming to America with his parents, was but four years of age. His education was in both German and English. For some years he worked on a farm, and when eighteen years old he began to learn the wagon-maker's trade, at which he worked until 1861, when he enlisted in the three-months' service, served about four months, and received an honorable discharge. Returning home, he there remained until August, 1862, when he again enlisted, this time in the One Hundred and Sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war. His regiment was consigned to the army of the Cumberland, and he served until the close of the war. He saw much hard service, was in eleven engagements, and received two wounds in the left leg, but was never taken prisoner, though he was constantly at the front. During the entire term of his service he had but fifteen days' furlough. When the war was over, he was mustered out at Nashville, and received an honorable discharge at Camp Dennison, July 12, 1865.

Returning to his home he soon afterward established himself at his trade at Saint Mary's, where he worked for some time. In 1867, moving to Mercer county, he located at Chattanooga, where he bought an acre of land, upon which he built a house. Afterward he traded that house and an acre of land for a small farm in Black Creek township. To this farm he moved in 1869 and lived upon it until 1875, when he sold out and bought a farm near Decatur, Ind., where he remained about eight years. At the end of this time he sold his Indiana farm and returned to Ohio, settling in Butler township, Mercer county, buying eighty acres of land, fifty acres of which were cleared, and there was a house already on it. At the present time he has sixty-six acres cleared, ditched and underdrained, and in a high state of cultivation. His buildings, some of which he has himself erected, are reasonably good, and, taking it all in all, he has a very comfortable home, which is located about one mile east of Cold Water. Mr. Kuhn has always been an industrious man, and a good manager, by which means he has accumulated a handsome property.

Mr. Kuhn is a democrat in politics and has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He has been several times honored b his fellow-citizens with their confidence, hav ing been elected justice of the peace, townshi trustee, school director, and to all the othe township offices. He has been a justice of th peace since 1886, and the term for which h was last elected began in November, 1895. I 1888 he was appointed township clerk, an has served in that office ever since; was re elected April 6, 1896, to serve until Septembe 1, 1898.

Mr. Kuhn was married first to Miss Ba bara Nuse, daughter of Daniel and Francisc (Steine) Nuse, the former of whom was farmer of Bavaria. To this first marriag there were born three children, viz: Willia H., who resides in Indiana; Emma L., wife B. Walters and residing in Cold Water, an Edward, a barber by trade. The mother these three children died November 27, 187 a devoted member of the Roman Cathol church.

Mr. Kuhn, for his second wife, marri Miss Anna M. Straubinger, who was born Bavaria, and was a daughter of Antho Straubinger, a farmer. To this second ma riage there have been born seven childre viz: One that died in infancy; Frederick A now employed in the oil fields of Indian Frank T., Anthony A., Michael, Julia, a Mary T., all five at home. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church. M Kuhn has always been somewhat of a hunte and it may be well to record the fact here th in 1886 he killed the last wild turkey that h been killed in his township, as far as know

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ALVIN LACY, one of the most prom- nent and influential citizens of Fran- lin township, Mercer county, Ohi is a native of the township in whi he lives, and was born September 13, 185

He attended the common schools, and there secured a good education. He is a son of William and Amelia (Beauchamp) Lacy, the former of whom was born in Hamilton county and was a son of Thomas Lacy.

Thomas Lacy came from Pennsylvania to Ohio at an early day, bringing with him his family (wife and one child), on horseback, and he had but one horse. The Lacy family was of Scotch-Irish descent, emigrated from Ireland, and intermarried with Dutch people, so that now the ancestry is traced back through the Irish and Dutch races to the English. William Lacy, the father of the subject, was twelve years old when he came to Mercer county in 1836. His father bought a tract of new land, which he cleared and converted into a good farm. He also entered a large tract of government land, enough for a farm for each of his children. After getting well started in life in this state, his farm well improved, a comfortable house built, and other valuable improvements made, he died in 1852, leaving his wife and three sons. When he and his family came to this county but little had been done in the way of clearing up the forests, and there were but few of even the earliest of the settlers here. The father of the subject secured his education in the common schools before coming to the county in 1836—that is, before he was twelve years old, though afterward he pursued certain studies by himself, and by his own industry in this way became much more than an ordinary scholar for those days. He began teaching school in his neighborhood when he was but little more than thirteen years old and taught for eighteen years, being in reality the only competent teacher in the locality in which he lived. He was one of the best mathematicians in the county. Beside teaching school in the winter season, he assisted in the summer in clearing off the timber and in improving his father's farm. At the age of nineteen he was married, and settled down on a piece of eighty acres of land his father had given him. After some time spent in improving this land he sold it and bought 120 acres, all heavily timbered. This he improved and lived on many years. At length he sold this, and in 1888, moved to Dakota, where he still lives. From the time he became a voter to the time of leaving Ohio he was almost constantly in office, having been elected first to the office of township clerk. Then he was elected to other offices and so on up to county commissioner. He was one of the most useful and public-spirited men of his day, always ready to help any other pioneer or to aid any public improvement that needed his assistance.

He married Miss Amelia Beauchamp, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, September 13, 1826. She was a daughter of William Beauchamp, of South Carolina, and is of English descent, though in all probability of ancient French ancestry, judging from the orthography of the name. Previous to his removal to Ohio he married in South Carolina. He came to Mercer county about 1832, and entered the land where Montezuma now stands, cleared up a farm and laid out the town. He was the means of securing a post-office for Montezuma, and was appointed first postmaster, holding the position for many years. At the same time he kept an old-fashioned tavern, bar and grocery store for many years. There he reared his family, though they are now scattered throughout the western states. At length, after his family become thus scattered, he broke up his home, and lived among his children, being at the home of a daughter in Madison county when he died, in 1867. Originally he was a whig, but later became a republican. Among his other qualifications, he was a practicing physician for many years.

He and his wife reared a family of thirteen children, ten of whom grew to mature years, the mother of the subject of this sketch being the youngest child. One of his sons, Noah, was the first to die in the neighborhood, and as there was no saw-mill, nor lumber to be had, one of the neighbors, Lot Trim, cut down a black walnut tree, hewed out the lumber and made the coffin. The names of most of the ten Beauchamp children are now forgotten. When the family first settled on the present site of Montezuma there were plenty of wild animals in the woods, and also of Indians. One day the mother of the subject of this sketch discovered a mulberry tree near the cabin, full of bees, which her father afterward cut down and cut up into sections for beehives. For twelve feet up the hollow the tree was full of honey. The locality of this bee tree was in what is now the center of Main street, Montezuma. To the marriage of Mr. Lacy and Miss Beauchamp there were born ten children, viz: William B., a rancher of North Dakota; Thomas W., who died in Indiana; Francis M., of North Dakota; Lavina, deceased wife of W. H. Carter; Mary A., wife of Henry Long, a farmer of Indiana; Alvin, the subject of this sketch; George W., of North Dakota; Homer, died at the age of seventeen; Dora E., wife of Charles A. Burdge, a farmer of Franklin township, Mercer county, Ohio, and Kate, widow of Joseph Walkup, of Dakota.

Alvin Lacy married Miss Mahala C. Long, a native of Franklin township, born November 29, 1857, and a daughter of Daniel Long. Daniel Long removed to Mercer county from Hamilton county, about 1859, purchased a farm and became a very prominent man. He held many of the offices in the township and was a viewer of the first turnpike in the county. He served as land appraiser and filled many other important positions. Mr. and Mrs. Long were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom grew to mature years. The names of the twelve are as follows: William, John S., Miles K., Clemency, Mary E., Henry, George, Susan, Mahala C., wife of the subject; Frank, Robert and Joshua. The parents of these children were members of the Christian, or Disciples', church. Mr. Long died January 1, 1881, and the widow still survives.

Alvin Lacy, by his marriage to Miss Mahala C. Long, became the father of four children, viz: One that died young; Mellie, born August 11, 1886; George M., born June 9, 1888; and Dora A., born November 30, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy are members of the Disciples' church. He is a democrat and takes great interest in public affairs. He was first elected justice of the peace in 1886, and is now serving his third term. He is also superintendent of two turnpikes—the "Short pike" and the "Preston pike." He is also a member of the board of education for his township, and was the main instrument in securing the erection of the first brick school-house in the township. He has been chairman of the democratic county central committee, is one of the most public-spirited citizens of the county, and always takes an interest in its prosperity and improvement. He has assisted in viewing many of the turnpikes throughout the county, and is in every way a most useful and honored citizen.

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JOHN LATIMER.—The name of Latimer is a noted one in history. This is particularly true of Hugh Latimer, one of the last two martyrs in England to their religious faith, the other being Nicholas Ridley, and the two being burned at the stake October 16, 1555. It is well known that there are descendants of Nicholas Ridley in Tennessee, and that descendants of Hugh Latimer, or of a lateral branch of the family, are living in the United States is in no way improbable.

John Latimer is one of the most prominent and successful of the farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio. He was born March 16, 1840, in Richland county, and is a son of William and Nancy (Wilson) Latimer. William Latimer was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1804, his father, George, having been a native of the same county, and of Irish extraction. George Latimer was a farmer of prominence, was a successful man; and was the father of eight children, the only one of whom now living being Mrs. Martha Gilbert, of Ada, Ohio. He was one of the earliest settlers of Richland county, was a strong democrat in politics, and a true Presbyterian in religion. William Latimer, the second of his children, was reared on his father's farm, and was educated in Richland county, Ohio, being but a small child when his parents settled there. He received a better education than did most boys of his time, and became a school teacher in Richland county. Having a fine voice, to the training of which he gave considerable attention, he became a good singer, and engaged in teaching singing-school, as well as public school. About 1833 he married Nancy Wilson, a daughter of James and Mary (Hunter) Wilson, by whom he had seven children, as follows: Elizabeth Jane, widow of Samuel C. Warden, of Iowa; George, a farmer of Richland county; John, the subject of this sketch; Wilson, who died at the age of twenty-four; Mary Ellen, wife of James Houston, of Richland county; Marjory Ann, wife of John Gilder, of Richland county, and William S., a farmer of Black Creek township. The mother of these children was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., about 1813, and her father was an early settler of Wayne and Richland counties. He was a patriotic man and enlisted in the army of the United States during the war of 1812-15 he was a democrat in politics, and died at the great age of eighty-one.

William Latimer, after his marriage, lived on his farm in Richland county until his death which occurred in November, 1848. In politics he was a democrat and served as justice of the peace for twenty years. He was a prominent member of the Presbyterian church, and for years held the position of chorister. His widow is also a member of that church, and lived on the home farm in Richland county until 1893, but at present resides in Richland county with her daughter.

John Latimer, like his father before him was brought up on a farm in Richland county and, beside securing a good education and a knowledge of farming, also learned the trade of carpenter, which trade he followed exclusively until his marriage, and afterward he followed his trade in connection with farming His marriage occurred January 7, 1869, to Miss Emily Stevenson, daughter of John and Jane (Grimes) Stevenson. To this marriage there were born three children, viz: Charles born February 22, 1870, and now living at home; Effie, born November 25, 1871, and now the wife of Frank Morrison, of Black Creek township, and Lenora, born March 6 1874, and now the wife of Frank Springer, also of Black Creek township. Emily (Stevenson) Latimer was born in Richland county November 22, 1844, her parents having been also natives of that county. She was one of twelve children, as follows: Mrs. Mary Fackler, deceased; Jane, who died at the age of twenty-two; Elizabeth, who died at the age of sixteen; Emily, wife of the subject; Levi, a farmer of Richland county; John, deceased Ambrose, deceased; Elmina, wife of Alexander Dick, farmer of Ashland county; Alva and Alma, twins—the former deceased, the latter the wife of Oliver Wolfe, of Richland county; Augusta, wife of Judson Patterson, of Huron county, and Hattie, wife of William Martin, of Richland county. John Stevenson was born in 1816 and died in 1887, and his wife was born in 1818 and died in 1884. After his marriage Mr. Latimer lived in Richland county on his farm until 1871, when he removed to Mercer county and purchased his present property. His present residence he erected in 1884, and built a large barn in 1887. This barn was destroyed by fire in 1893, causing him a loss of $2,000. In 1894 he erected his present barn.

Politically Mr. Latimer is a democrat and has served as justice of the peace for five years. He is also a member of the school board; was a charter member of Shiloh lodge, No. 158, I. O. O. F., of Richland county, and is a charter member of Rockford lodge. Mr. Latimer has at the present time one of the best farms in the county, which is saying a good deal, for there are many excellent farms in Mercer county, containing, as it does, so much rich land. His buildings are of modern style and arrangement, and well adapted to the uses for which they were designed; and Mr. Latimer is at the same time a most public-spirited and progressive man. Always on the lookout for improvements, he is sure to detect them when they are first made, and is as ready to adopt anything that shows itself to be an improvement as to continue on with what is good until it is actually superseded by something known to be better.

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JACOB LEININGER, a prominent and leading farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, was born in Stark county, Ohio, November 11, 1832. He is a son of John and Margaret (Gaws) Leininger, the former of whom was born in Alsace, France, but now a portion of Germany, in 1801, and was a son of John Leininger, who was the father of four children, and was a blacksmith by trade.

John Leininger, the father of the subject, was reared on the farm in Germany, educated in his native land, learned the blacksmith trade, and was married about 1824. His wife, Margaret Gaws, was also a native of Alsace, and they were the parents of seven children, six sons and one daughter, the latter dying in infancy. The sons are as follows: Theobold, of Allen county, Ind.; George, of Kosciusko county, Ind.; John, of Oregon; Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Henry, of Nebraska, and Samuel, of Oregon. John Leininger remained in Germany, following his trade, until 1827, when he emigrated to the United States, locating in Stark county, Ohio. There he purchased a tract of land and followed farming until 1835, also working at his trade and in an iron furnace. In the year last mentioned he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, entered 120 acres of government land in Indiana, and bought eight acres in Mercer county, Ohio, building on the eight acres in order to take advantage of the educational facilities of this state. Later he entered eighty acres in Marion township, where he lived two years, then moving to the state line, where he passed the remainder of his life, improving his land, and erecting good buildings, among them a brick house, with other buildings to correspond. His death occurred in the fall of 1866. In the German Lutheran church he was an active worker, and was a strong democrat. His pioneer experiences were similar to those of others who came into the country about the same time. His wife died in 1887, spending the last years of her life with the subject of this sketch.

Jacob Leininger was reared on the farm in Mercer county, and received his education in the little log school-house of pioneer days, which had a fire-place at one end, puncheon floor and seats, and desks running all round the room next to the wall, the children sitting facing the wall. He remained at home until he was of age, and then by working out by the month earned sufficient money to buy eighty acres of land, directly across the road from his present farm. There he began the work of clearing up his land and continued to improve his farm. On Ascension day, in May, 1856, he married Catherine Kettenring, a daughter of Henry and Magdalene Kettenring. To this marriage there have been born ten children, eight living, as follows: Margaret, wife of Frederick Betsel, of Liberty township; Theobold, a farmer of Black Creek township; William H., also a farmer of the last named township; Christina, wife of Anthony Harb, a farmer of Black Creek township; Mary E., wife of Frederick Schaadt, a farmer of Van Wert county; Phebe, wife of Henry Broehm, of Liberty township; John, on the home place, and George, at home. Catherine Kettenring, wife of the subject, was born in Bayern, Germany, July 13, 1836, and came to the United States with her parents in 1837. Educated in Holmes county, she removed in 1850 to Mercer county, with her parents. For fuller mention of her parents the reader is referred to the biography of George Kettenring, who is her half-brother.

After his marriage the subject of this sketch built a log house and carried on farming until 1885, when he moved across the road onto eighty acres of land which he had previously purchased. About this time he erected a fine brick residence, in which he has lived ever since. His land is mostly under cultivation. As a democrat he has been elected township trustee for four terms, and also a member of the school board. As a member of the Evangelical church he has held most of the offices, and both he and his wife are in good standing in their church. As a prominent farmer, and a progressive citizen, he is highly respected by all that know him. As a general farmer, stock buyer and raiser, he has been much more than ordinarily successful, the best breeds of hogs, cattle and horses being the only kind he handles in any way. With horses particularly he has met with success, taking premiums at fairs for years. Of late years, however, he has been living a retired life, letting his sons do most of the work and manage the farm. All in all, Mr. Leininger is one of the best of men, a good citizen, a good neighbor and a kind and true friend, caring little for public honors, but ready always to bear his share of the public burden, when called upon by his fellow-citizens so to do.

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FORD LEWIS, a prominent photographer and ex-school teacher of Mercer county, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, near Goshen, October 20, 1848, and is a son of James S. and Nancy (Bone) Lewis, the former of whom was a native of New York state, and the latter of Ohio. James S. and Nancy Lewis were the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth.

Ford Lewis received his primary education in the district schools of Butler and Clinton counties, and afterward he attended the National Normal university at Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, one year. At the Western Normal school, at Ada, Ohio, he took a scientific course of study, completing his education there and graduating in the summer of 1876. In the meantime he had taught school five terms, and upon leaving the school at Ada he gave his entire attention to teaching school, and taught six years in Van Wert county, at the end of which time he returned to Ada and there took a review course of study during the summer of 1884. Then going to Wyandot county he took charge of the public schools at Wharton, and resided there one year. From Wharton he went to Nevada, Wyandot county, and there had charge of the public schools one year. In 1886 he turned his attention to photography, purchasing a gallery at Nevada and remaining in the business there one year. In 1887 he removed to Celina, opening a new gallery at that place and has continued in the business of a photographer there ever since. In 1894 he met with the misfortune of having his entire stock destroyed by fire; but in 1895 he erected a new block, a beautiful brick building, two stories high, and 50 x 22 feet on the ground. The lower story is used for offices and the upper one for his own photographing business, he having the finest and best equipped gallery in this part of the state, his instruments being of the latest and most improved designs.

Fraternally, Mr. Lewis is a Knight of Pythias and is a member of the Royal Arcanum. Politically, he is a republican. In 1890 he started the movement which resulted in the organization of the Northwestern Ohio Photographers' association, the organization being effected at Lima, and Mr. Lewis being elected president. He held this position until a re-organization was effected at Columbus, Ohio, in 1891, and then he was re-elected president of the organization, the name of which was, however, changed to the Photographers' association of Ohio (P. A. of O.), and he has been re-elected president of the association two times since. As such president he has been instrumental in bringing the order to a very high degree of efficiency and has made it of great benefit to all photographers of the state. Since the organization of this Ohio association nearly every state in the Union has a similar one, showing how rapidly a good idea is acted upon by the American people.

Mr. Lewis was married March 14, 1878, to Miss Alice Sylvania Clippinger, who is a daughter of Samuel and Johanna (Valentine) Clippinger and was born July 10, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Clippinger have been for many years residents of Van Wert county, in which county Mr. Clippinger was a prominent farmer. Mrs. Lewis, previous to her marriage, was for six years a teacher in the public schools of Van Wert county, and she has taught several terms since. Both she and her husband are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Lewis being active and interested in the work of his church. Both are excellent people, not only in a religious sense, but also in a general sense, standing high in social circles and having many friends among all classes of people.

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GOTTFRIED LINN, a prominent and successful farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born September 23, 1856, in Rhinefaltz, Germany, and is a son of Philip and Gertrude (Fuchs) Linn. He was reared on a farm and educated in Germany and also in the United States, having come to this country in 1872, with his three brothers, Jacob, Philip and John, the former two locating in Mercer county, Ohio, where they purchased land and became prominent farmers; the latter first located in Buffalo, but is now living in Massachusetts. The trip from Germany to Mercer county was made in three weeks, those that came to this county arriving in June, 1872. Here the subject of this sketch remained one week, and then went to Willshire, Van Wert county, where he worked for eight months in the furniture store of Henry Atheon, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. Afterward he returned to Mercer county, where he remained with his brothers three weeks, and then made an engagement to work on a farm for nine months. In this way he continued to work until January 23, 1883, when he married Mary Fennig, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Hulshire) Fennig. To this marriage there have been born three children, as follows: Lewis, born January 11, 1884; William, born March 31, 1888, and Martha, born March 13, 1893. The mother of these children was born in Washington township, May 4, 1857, her father having been born in Elsass, Germany, in 1822, and having come to this country with his parents when yet a small boy. Jacob Fennig married Catherine Hulshire, who was born in Germany about 1829, and who came to the United States when seven years old. Seven children survive their parents, as follows: John, of Washington township; Barbara (Mrs. George Yager), of Indiana; Mary, wife of the subject of this sketch; Maggie (Mrs. Fred Steinbauer), of Van Wert county; David, of Liberty township, Mercer county; Daniel, of Washington township, and Caroline, living at home. The parents lived in Washington township until the father's death, which occurred in 1878—the mother still living with her son Daniel. The former was a democrat in politics, a member of the Lutheran church, and in every respect a man of ability and high character.

Gottfried Linn, after his marriage, purchased his present farm, 120 acres of woodland, ninety-three acres of which he has since cleared and improved, and placed under a high state of cultivation, permitting the remainder to remain timber land, which is perhaps about the proportion of timber that each farm should have as a part of it. In 1883 he erected his present house, which, however, he has since remodeled. In 1895 he erected a fine, large barn, 35x66 feet in size, and has made many other improvements. Mr. Linn is a general farmer and stock raiser, giving his attention to the best breeds of stock, and in this line of industry, as well as in his farming operations, has been unusually successful. As a democrat he has held several minor offices, such as member of the township school board. In religion both he and his wife are Lutherans, and stand high in the church to which they belong. A self-made man, a prominent citizen, he has accumulated his present possessions by means of industry and economy, the only means by which a man starting without money or property of any kind can hope to become wealthy under the present industrial order of things. In 1880 he had sufficient money saved up to purchase forty acres of cleared land, which he afterward sold at a handsome profit, and he now owns 120 acres of as good land as there is in the county, and upon this farm he is making a splendid living and is also accumulating a surplus. In every way Mr. Linn is a public-spirited and much respected citizen, worthy of the highest regard and esteem.

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PETER LINN, one of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Bierbach, Bavaria, March 4, 1859, and is a son of Daniel and Gertrude (Fuchs) Linn, the former of whom was born in Rhinefaltz, Bavaria, March 2, 1812. He was reared a farmer and learned the weaver's trade, and in 1836 married Gertrude Fuchs, who was born in the same place, January 26, 1815. To this marriage there were born nine children, as follows: Jacob, a farmer of Mercer county; Philip, also a farmer of Mercer county; George, a shoemaker of Saint Ingerbert, Germany; Henry, a farmer and weaver of Germany; Michael, a grocer of Celina, Ohio; John, a shoemaker in Massachusetts; Gottfried, a resident of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio (spoken of above); Peter, the subject of this sketch, and Mary, deceased wife of Jacob Hine. For some time after his marriage Daniel Linn lived in

Germany, farmed and carried on weaving, then came to the United States with his son, Peter, the subject of this sketch, in 1874, remained four years, and then returned to his native land, where he died May 29, 1886. In religion he was a Protestant, while his wife was a Catholic, she having died January 31, 1871.

Peter Linn was reared on the farm in Germany, was there educated in part, finishing his education in the United States. In 1874, the year of his arrival in America, as stated above, he located in Mercer county, Ohio, where he worked on the farm by the day until he married, May 29, 1881, Caroline Menchofer, a daughter of John and Catherine (Flenhauped) Menchofer. To this marriage there have been born six children, as follows: Mary, who died in infancy; Senoma, born July 11, 1883; Anderine, born May 10, 1885; Annie E., born January 9, 1888; Bertha, born May 27, 1891, and Walter, born August 16, 1892. The mother of these children was born in Washington township, Mercer county, and there she lived until her marriage. Her father was born in Elsass, Germany, in 1810, and died in 1875. His wife was born in the same place in 1815, and died in 1880. Seven children survive them, as follows: John and George, of Washington township; Kate (Mrs. Leason Adams), of Washington township; Margaret (Mrs. Andy Koch), of Liberty township; Mary (Mrs. William Houser), of Bryant, Ind.; Caroline, wife of the subject of this sketch, and Salome, wife of John W. Adams, of Washington township. The parents of these children came to the United States in 1850, entered 160 acres of land, upon which they lived the rest of their lives. John Menchofer served seven years in the German army, was a democrat in politics after reaching the United States, was a member of the Lutheran church, and was a wealthy man.

Peter Linn, the subject of this sketch, soon after his marriage located on the farm of his father-in-law, upon which he lived some time, and then removed to his present place, of which at the time twenty acres were cleared, the rest being heavily timbered. At the present time he has sixty-five acres cleared and under a high state of cultivation and well drained. For the most part he has followed general farming and stock raising, meeting with success in both lines. Politically he is a democrat, and has served as township trustee for three years, and also as a member of the township school board. His present fine house he erected in 1882, and his barn in 1893. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, in which he has held several of the offices, filling them with satisfaction to the members of the congregation. Taking great interest in religious affairs, he has always performed his part toward supporting his church. Outside of religious matters he is public-spirited and progressive, and is in every way a worthy citizen, highly respected by all who know him.

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LEWIS POSTLE LISLE, M. D., one of the most prominent and successful physicians of Celina, was born at Columbus, Ohio, March 23, 1853. He is a son of William and Sarah (McWilliams) Lisle, both of whom were born near Columbus, Ohio, the former in 1811, the latter in 1825. The Lisles are of Scotch descent, and the McWilliams family of Irish ancestry. William Lisle, having followed farming most of his life, is now living retired and is the oldest man in Prairie township, Franklin county, Ohio. His father, Washington Lisle, was one of the pioneers of that county, emigrating from Kentucky to Ohio at a very early day. William Lisle has lived on the farm on which he was reared for the past fifty-four years. He has been a very active, industrious and successful farmer, and now owns a tract of 600 acres of land in Franklin county, six miles from the city of Columbus. He also owns a fifty-acre tract of woods, which has never been culled, and so is in its primeval condition.

Dr. Lisle was reared on his father's farm up to the age of sixteen. The education he received in the district schools was previous to this time, and he then went to Lebanon, where he attended school for three terms. For four terms he was then engaged in teaching school, and afterward returned to Lebanon, where he graduated in the scientific course in 1874. After graduating from the National Normal university he began reading medicine with Dr. Hamilton, of Columbus, as his preceptor, remaining under the instruction of Dr. Hamilton two and a half years, doing considerable office work during the last half year. In 1876 he graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine & Surgery, with high honors, being one of the five that received the mark of 100 per cent on their examination. Almost immediately after his graduation he located in Florence, Marion county, Kans., and there practiced his profession three years. In 1879 he returned to Ohio, locating in Columbus, and practicing there until 1881, when he went to New York, and entered the Bellevue Hospital Medical college, graduating from that institution in 1883. He also took private instruction under Dr. Joseph E. Bryant, of Bellevue Hospital Medical college, in operative surgery, and in surgical dressing, and also private instruction of Profs. A. A. Smith and W. H. Katzenboch, of Bellevue, in physical diagnosis, and also private instruction under Prof. Ogden Doremus, of Bellevue, in urinary analysis and examinations for poisoning. Returning to Columbus, Dr. Lisle resumed his practice there, which he continued until November 4, 1891, when he came to Celina, where he has since practiced in connection with his wife. Dr. Lisle is a member of the Ohio State Medical association, and also of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

Dr. Lisle is one of a family of four sons and two daughters: J. M. Lisle is a practicing physician of Columbus, Ohio; W. J. Lisle is a practicing physician of Pataskala, Licking county, Ohio, and has served two terms in the Ohio legislature; George, the youngest son, is now at home in Franklin county, and is a successful and thrifty farmer. Dr. and Mrs. Lisle were married June 24, 1886, and a brief sketch of Mrs. Lisle follows:

Mrs. Lida C. Lisle, of Celina, Ohio, was born in London, Madison county, Ohio, April 11, 1865. Her preliminary education was obtained in the public schools of London, and she completed her literary education in Otterbein university, graduating from this institution with the class of 1884, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Her professional education was obtained in Starling Medical college at Columbus, Ohio, she graduating from that institution in 1888, with the degree of M. D. Previous to entering the latter mentioned college she read medicine with her husband, about two years. Immediately after graduating she began the practice of medicine in connection with her husband, and has ever since continued with unusual success. Mrs. Lisle is a daughter of Rev. Levi Cunningham, deceased, who was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was born in Washington county, Ohio, in 1812, and his death occurred in Westerville, Ohio, in 1885. His widow, who now resides at Westerville, bore the maiden name of Isabel Chetely, and was born near Belfast, Ireland, in 1825, coming to America, in 1835, with her parents. They located in Philadelphia, where they both died a few years after arriving in this country. When a young woman she removed to Virginia, where she lived until she was married to

Rev. Mr. Cunningham, who was a member of the Ohio Methodist conference for forty years.

Mrs. Lisle is the mother of one child, William Stanley, who was born August 11, 1889. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, is a fine scholar outside of her profession, and taught school two terms, one in Kansas and one in Ohio, previous to her marriage. She is also a thorough musician, having graduated in the musical department of Otterbein university. Mrs. Lisle is thus a lady of much more than ordinary intellectual ability and of rare accomplishments, and is an ornament to society as well as a most conscientious woman, wife and mother.

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JAMES E. LLOYD, proprietor of the extensive carriage manufactory of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Gallia county, August 25, 1858, a son of Einon and Elizabeth Lloyd, natives of Wales, who came to America in 1840, and were married in Gallia county, Ohio, where Einon, the father, had purchased a farm of 120 acres, and where he followed agriculture until 1870, when they removed to Jackson county, Ohio, where they still reside, devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and parents of two children—James E., our subject, and Esther, wife of W. L. Darling, also of Jackson county.

James E. Lloyd, our subject, was reared to farm life, and was educated in the common schools. At the age of eighteen years he entered upon an apprenticeship at carriage-making in Delphos, where he passed five years, and then established himself in Rockford, on his own account, for the manufacture of carriages, buggies, wagons, etc., adding a repair shop. He has built up a large trade, employing constantly from eight to ten workmen, and making a specialty of the lighter class of vehicles, such as buggies, and has turned out some of the finest specimens ever produced in this part of the state. He also handles other makes beside his own, and in both does a large and lucrative trade. Mr. Lloyd was united in marriage September 9, 1880, with Miss Caroline Shuck, daughter of Peter Shuck, of Delphos, and to this matrimonial union have been born five children, named as follows: Hattie, Eddie, John, Nellie and Mary. Since the above was written, little Mary died at the age of seven years. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Lloyd is a trustee; in politics he is a stanch republican, being at the present time a member of the village council as well as of the school-board.

Mr. Lloyd has earned a competence through his own industry and business ability, having begun at the bottom of the hill and climbed unaided to its summit—building up and augmenting his trade as he climbed, and erecting his shops as well as his dwelling—the latter being a neat, tasty, comfortable and substantial structure. He is honored for his morality and business integrity, and respected for his many good qualities of mind and heart, in which respect his amiable wife very largely participates.

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JAMES G. LOUGHRIDGE, a leading member of the Celina bar, and a member of the well known law firm of LeBlond, Loughridge & Schlosser, was born in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio, December 29, 1839. He is a son of William C. Loughridge, one of the pioneers of Mercer county. He was born in Wilmington, Del., November 10, 1813. The Loughridge family originated in Scotland, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch being the youngest of seven sons, all of whom emigrated to the

United States, though they came direct to this country from Ireland, having some time previously to their emigration hither gone to Ireland from Scotland. The grandfather of the subject settled first in Wilmington, Del., where he remained about four years. He then came to Ohio, settling either in Jefferson or Harrison county, in both of which he at different times resided.

William C. Loughridge was reared in the above named counties until about 1835, and then, after spending a few months in Cincinnati, he removed to Mercer county, settling on land in Washington township, and there he resided and followed farming until his death, which occurred September 6, 1887. In 1837 he was married in Mercer county to Miss Elizabeth Ann Grimes, who was born ten miles north of the city of Baltimore, Md., in 1821. She is a daughter of James Q. Grimes and Charlotte (Towson) Grimes, both natives of Baltimore county, Md. She and her mother, the latter being the grandmother of the subject of this sketch, were both born in the same house, viz: Towson House, in Lime Kill bottom of Baltimore county, Md. The town of Towson was laid out by an uncle of Charlotte Towson, and was named in his honor. She is now residing on the old home place in Mercer county, and is in her seventy-fourth year. Of the eleven children born to her and her husband, nine, four sons and five daughters, are now living, two daughters having died.

James G. Loughridge is the oldest of the family. He was reared on the home farm in Mercer county, and obtained an excellent education in the common schools of Fort Recovery, Saint Mary's and Celina. At about the age of seventeen years he began teaching school, first for a term two miles west of Macedon, and afterward in Macedon. He also taught one term at Montezuma, and then went to California, via New York and the Isthmus of Panama, landing in August 17, 1863. He remained in California about twenty months, eleven months of which time he was bookkeeper for the Saint Nicholas Hotel in Marysville, and agent of the Marysville and Downieville stage line, with his headquarters at Marysville. After that he taught school eight months at Camptonville, Yuba county, near the summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains, eighteen miles from Downieville. He then returned to the states, stopping at San Francisco, and coming by way of the Nicaragua route, landing at New York in 1865.

Mr. Loughridge read law for about eighteen months in the office of T. J. Godfrey, in Celina, and in 1866 went to Cincinnati and there entered the law office of the late Bellamy Storer, where he read law and at the same time attended lectures at the law school of the Cincinnati college, and was graduated from this institution April 17, 1867. On the same day he was admitted to the bar by Judge Jacob Brinkerhoff, of the supreme court of Ohio. After being admitted to the bar he formed a partnership with John R. Perdue, and engaged in practice at Portland, the county seat of Jay county, Ind. Remaining there about one year, he then located in Celina, October 29, 1869, and for about six months afterward was in partnership with John Protzman. He then formed a partnership with D. J. Callen, the firm name being Callen & Loughridge. This partnership was in existence about six years. In 1876 he removed to Independence, Kans., where he practiced law and ran a hotel, which was known as the Independence House. There he remained a little less than three years, when he returned to Celina, arriving there February 14, 1879. Soon after his return to Celina he formed a partnership with Willis Conklin, which lasted about three months. He then formed a partnership with F. C. & C. M. LeBlond, the firm being known as Le-

Blond, LeBlond & Loughridge. This firm continued until October, 1888, when C. M. LeBlond withdrew and removed to Cleveland, Ohio. The Celina firm then became LeBlond & Loughridge, and so continued until June 19, 1891, when John M. Schlosser became a member thereof, and the firm name became that of LeBlond, Loughridge & Schlosser.

In July, 1870, Mr. Loughridge was appointed a school examiner for Mercer county, a position which he filled for six years. In July, 1895, he was appointed by Judge Mooney, of the common pleas court, in connection with Christian Schunck and Henry V. Hinton, a committee to investigate the books, papers, and accounts of the auditor's and treasurer's offices of Mercer county.

Mr. Loughridge was married November 12, 1871, to Miss Mary J. Nickel, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Julia A. Nickel, pioneers of Mercer county, they locating in that county in 1836, emigrating from McVeytown, Mifflin county, Pa. To this marriage there have been born three children, as follows: Myrtle M., and William Benjamin, both born in Celina, and James Leslie, born in Independence, Kans. Mr. Loughridge and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, are of high standing in the church and equally so in general society.

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HENRY M. LOWRY, one of the pioneers of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Lorraine, Jefferson county, N. Y., May 23, 1827, and is a son of Benajah Lowry, who was one of the early pioneers of Clarke county, Ohio. On his father's side of the family the subject of this sketch is of English ancestry, while on his mother's side he is of Irish stock. His mother, whose maiden name was Philena Grinell, was born near Schenectady, N. Y., June 7, 1796, and was married to Mr. Lowry, March 3, 1819.

Benajah Lowry, father of the subject, was born in Lorraine, N. Y., January 15, 1796, and served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, as follows: Betsey C., born December 11, 1819; Electa L., born September 12, 1821, and died in infancy; Aaron M., born May 14, 1823; John M., born April 22, 1826; Henry M., born May 23, 1827; Thaddeus M., born March 29, 1829, and Asenath L., born April 18, 1834. The mother of these children had previously been married to a Mr. Shaw, by whom she had one son, Alva B. In 1838 Benajah Lowry moved with his family to Ohio, settled in Clarke county, and was engaged in the mercantile business for some years at Vienna Cross Roads. In the spring of 1854 he removed to Mercer county, bought land in Gibson township, and there made a home. His death occurred in this county in September, 1878. He was a hard-working industrious man, in politics a republican, and highly respected by all that knew him.

Henry M. Lowry, the subject, received but a limited education, and began working for himself when fourteen years of age. He began to learn the saddler's trade in Vienna, Clarke county, when about sixteen years old, and continued to follow that trade for three years. Not liking his trade, he followed farming, and was married, the first time, in Butler county, Ohio, to Olive J. Barnhart, who died eight months after marriage. Mr. Lowry removed to Mercer county in 1851, bought part of his present farm, then consisting of eighty acres of woodland, which, by diligent labor, he cleared and converted into a good farm and home. He married, for his second wife, Margaret Grant, a widow, whose maiden name was

Replogle, and who was born in Germantown, Ohio, June 26, 1826, and was a daughter of Philip and Betsey (Gossard) Replogle. Her father was of sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and a farmer by occupation. He and his wife were the parents of fourteen children, eleven of whom lived to the age of maturity, as follows: Katie, John, Frederick, Susan, Philip, Betsey, Nancy, Jacob, Mary, Margaret and and Sallie. Polly died when she was fifteen years of age, the rest dying still younger.

Philip Replogle was a cooper as well as a farmer, and in 1834 removed to Darke county, becoming one of the earliest of its pioneers, long before the Indians left the country. He was the first settler at Rose Hill, and there entered eighty acres of land, his nearest neighbor being nearly four miles away. He was a great hunter, and killed many deer, turkeys, wolves, wild cats, and bears. He was also a famous bee hunter and found in all fifty-seven bee trees. Mr. Replogle was known far and wide as a straightforward, honorable man, a good citizen, and was highly respected by all, dying when he was fifty-six years of age. He and his wife were members of the United Brethren church, and in early days the meetings were held in his house.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowry, after their marriage, settled on their present farm and worked with great industry and faithfulness to make a good home for themselves and their family. At first Mr. Lowry erected a log cabin, and improved his farm, later erecting a good frame house and now has a comfortable home. To Mr. Mrs. Lowry there have been born four children, as follows: Francis M.; Rosetta, who died when seventeen years of age; Elnora, and Violetta. Mrs. Lowry had been married to Alexander Grant, a pioneer of Mercer county, Ohio, for fuller reference to whom the reader is referred to the biography of James Z. Mott, elsewhere in this volume. By Mr. Grant she was the mother of two children, Sarah L. and Mary E.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowry are both members of the Christian church, and in politics Mr. Lowry is a republican. He has served as member of the school board and as supervisor. Having been an industrious, hard-working man, and a careful manager, he has prospered beyond the average citizen, and owns a good farm of 180 acres of land, and his son, Francis M., who is a single man, owns 133 acres. The family is among the most highly respected in the county, standing high in every respect. The daughter, Sarah Louisa, although reared when schools were poor, is well educated, mainly through her own efforts, and has been a school-teacher in the county. All are industrious, moral and religious, and stand socially high among their fellow-citizens.

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CHARLES F. LUTZ, one of the successful farmers of Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, May 13, 1847. He is the only child of Frederick and Frederika (Hopf) Lutz, who were married June 28, 1846. In company with his mother, Frederick Lutz and his younger brother, Ludwig, he emigrated to the United States in 1853, his youngest brother, John, having preceded him to this country by about two years, for the purpose of evading service in the German army. The family landed in New York May 1, 1853, started immediately for what was then the "Far West," and ended their journey westward at Eaton, Preble county, Ohio. Here they remained until the autumn of 1854, when they removed to Center township, Mercer county, where they remained up to the time of their death, the father, Frederick, dying April 11, 1888, and the mother, Frederika, May 7, 1893. Mary Lutz, the paternal grandmother of the subject, died in Mercer county, Ohio, in 1864, when she was seventy-eight years of age. Upon landing in the United States Frederick Lutz at once renounced his allegiance to his native country, and as soon thereafter as possible became a citizen of the United States. He allied himself with the democratic party, and remained a loyal supporter of that party until his death. By occupation during his whole life he was a farmer, and in religious faith he was a member of the Church of God, or Winebrennerian denomination, of whom there were in the United States 22,511 members at the time of taking the census in 1890.

Charles F. Lutz received his education in the public schools of the neighborhood where he now lives. He was married September 28, 1871, to Miss Elizabeth Berry, who was born June 30, 1853. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Mary, an infant that died unnamed, Benjamin Franklin, Margaret, Elizabeth Grace, Nellie and Charles F. Benjamin Berry, father of the wife of the subject, was a son of Christopher Berry, who settled in Center township at an early day, on land which he pre-empted from the government, and of which he gave to each of his six children 160 acres. Benjamin Berry died February 18, 1873, leaving a large family in comfortable circumstances.

The paternal grandfather of our subject died in Germany. The maternal grandfather of our subject was named Charles Hopf. He also died in Germany. Both grandfathers were farmers.

The farm of Charles F. Lutz contains 120 acres, finely improved, which was all timber when he was a boy. Mr. Lutz knows how the farm was cleared, and has a keen recollection of much of the muscular labor he expended to that end; but he has the satisfaction of knowing that he now owns one of the best farms in Center township.

Charles F. Lutz served six years as a member of the board of infirmary directors, and has also served as trustee of his township; has filled other minor offices, and for a number of years was a member of the democratic central committee of Mercer county. He is a very progressive man in every respect, being unusually full of public spirit, and devoted to the best interests of the county in which he lives, as well as to the entire country. He fosters educational institutions, believing that only through an intelligent citizenship can the government stand, and he also believes in the support of religious institutions, for the reason that they are the conservators of the morals of the community.

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JAMES McAFEE, one of the early settlers of Washington township, Mercer county, and a prominent man at the present day, was born in Richhill township, Muskingum county, Ohio, March 11, 1827. His education was obtained in the subscription schools, the only kind there was in the county at that early day. He is a son of John T. and Elizabeth (Magee) McAfee, the former of whom was born in Ireland, the latter in Pennsylvania. John T. came to America in early life and settled in Ohio, where he was married, remained in Ohio all his life, and died near Chandlersville, in Muskingum county. His wife afterward went to live with a son in Kansas, and died in that state. Both were members of the United Presbyterian church, and were the parents of ten children, viz: James, the subject of this sketch; John, a prominent farmer of Washington township; Robert and William, farmers of Kansas; Thomas, who died while in the service of his country in the war of the rebellion; Francis, a farmer of Kansas; Elizabeth, who married Samuel Edgar, of Kansas, and three that died in infancy.

James McAfee remained at home with his parents until he was of age, this being about the time of his father's death. He then took care of his mother and carried on the farm until he was twenty-three years of age, when he married, this being in 1849. Then he rented a farm and was engaged in farming on his own account six years, when, having saved up some money, he removed to Mercer county and bought the 160-acre tract of land on which he yet lives. It was covered over with heavy timber at the time of his purchase, but he soon began clearing it away, improving the cleared portions as rapidly as possible, and soon had a good farm. He now has 100 acres cleared, underdrained, and in a high state of cultivation. He has a commodious two-story frame house, a large barn and all other buildings necessary to the complete equipment of a modern farm conducted on modern principles. In his early farm life he was accustomed to deal somewhat in cattle, and ever since he began farming he has raised sufficient stock to keep up his farm. A few years since he bought a residence at Fort Recovery, thinking that sooner or later he would retire thereto from the farm, which, however, he has not yet done.

Mr. McAfee married Miss Eliza J. Clapper, who was born in Muskingum county April 11, 1829. She is a daughter of Jacob and Ermina Clapper, of Pennsylvania—he of German ancestry, she of Irish parentage. They settled near Chandlersville, and spent their lives in that vicinity, he dying in 1879, at the ripe age of ninety-one, she in January, 1867, aged seventy-one. They were the parents of the following children, one of whom died young, the others being: Alford, who now resides at Wooster, Ohio; William, who died at Bellefontaine, Ohio; John, who died in Wisconsin; James, who died in Indiana; Eliza J., who married the subject of this sketch; Melissa, who resides in Kansas, the widow of Jabez Hunt; Amanda, wife of John Gay, who resides near Chandlersville, and Almon, who lives near the old home.

James McAfee and his wife, Eliza J., are the parents of ten children, two of whom died young. The other eight are as follows: John, a prominent insurance man of Toledo, Ohio; Fulton, who met an accidental death when thirteen years of age; Alice, wife of Cornelius Isenhart; Albert, a hardware merchant of Cold Water, Ohio; Carrie Delroe, wife of J. N. Patton, a prominent farmer of Washington township; Elma, deceased wife of Samuel Young, and who, dying, left one child; Nettie, yet at home; and Jennie, who died when thirteen years old. Both parents and all their children are, or were, members of the United Presbyterian church. He was a republican from the beginning, and is at the present day. His first presidential vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln, and his last for Benjamin Harrison, in 1892. He has confined his efforts and his labors to his own private affairs, never aspiring to official position of any kind. He and his wife, having performed their life work to a great extent, are now enjoying the evening of their days in the society of their children and surrounded by many kind and admiring friends.

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AMOS McSHERRY, the prominent jeweler and watch and clock dealer of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Adams county, Pa., November 5, 1830, a son of Barney and Sarah (Long) McSherry, and is paternally of Scotch descent, the great-grandfather, McSherry, having come from Scotland about the middle of the seventeenth century, and laid out the town of McSherry, in Adams county, Pa., and his descendants, although not very numerous, having become prominent throughout the United States in political, professional and business circles.

Barney McSherry, father of Amos, came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, with his family, in 1832, and located west of Dayton, Montgomery county, on a farm, upon which Amos McSherry, our subject, was reared to manhood. Amos was educated primarily in the public schools of his district, later attended a business college at Dayton, and also the Wittenberg college at Springfield, Ohio, and for twenty-one months engaged in school-teaching in Montgomery county. In 1854 he went to Indiana, where for six years he was employed in the lumber business and in teaching, and then, returning to Montgomery county, Ohio, he for ten years was employed in the dry-goods business. In the fall of 1870 he traded his store for 450 acres of timber and swamp land in Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, which he improved and resided on for eight years, then sold and removed to Van Wert city, where he passed seven years, dealing in real estate; he next returned to Montgomery county, farmed a short time, and then traded his land for a stock of groceries in Dayton, which, in 1887, he brought to Rockford, and followed this business until 1889, when his stock and store were entirely destroyed by fire. In 1890 he erected his present business room of brick, two stories high and 22 x 82 feet ground plan. In this building he has placed a well-assorted stock of watches, clocks, jewelry, spectacles, wall-paper, cigars, notions, etc., and is doing a thriving trade, in which he is ably assisted by his son, Edward, who is a practical jeweler.

The marriage of Amos McSherry took place September 9, 1862, to Miss Mary Bahill, a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, and a daughter of David and Sarah (Zeigler) Bahill, and this union has been blessed with seven children, viz: Grant, a grocer of Van Wert; Alice, a school-teacher for a number of years, and now the wife of J. H. Hodson, a farmer of Van Wert county; Arthur, deceased; Edward, jeweler, assisting his father, and also proprietor of the new Rockford restaurant, Rockford, Mercer county; Sarah, a school-teacher for the past five years, and residing with her parents; George, at home; and Mary, a milliner and accomplished young lady, also at home. The family are connected with the Presbyterian church, the teachings of which they strictly observe. In politics Mr. McSherry is a stanch republican, and while a resident of Montgomery county, held the office of postmaster at Air Hill.

Edward McSherry, the fourth child born to Amos and Mary (Bahill) McSherry, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, in June, 1869, and although yet a young man, has traveled considerably, having been in Mexico and the states of the far west, traveling the country on his wheel, and making a most interesting and remarkable journey. He passed two and a half years in Arizona, where he was employed as clerk in a grocery, although he is by trade a jeweler. He married, in Rockford, October 31, 1894, Miss Clara Raudebaugh, the union resulting in the birth of one child, Clarence V. July 10, 1895, he opened his restaurant in Rockford, where he serves meals and lunches at all hours, also handles Van Wert bread, and is doing an excellent trade. In politics he is a republican, and is a rising young business man of much popularity.

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HENRY C. MACK, a successful and representative farmer of Jefferson township, Mercer county, was born at Columbus, Ohio, November 3, 1840. He is a son of Henry and Christina

(Forbush) Mack, both natives of Hanover, Germany, where they were married. In 1836 they removed to this country and settled at Columbus, Ohio, where Mr. Mack worked at his trade, that of a tailor, for a number of years. Afterward he engaged to work in a paper mill, later he was employed as janitor at the state house in Columbus, and still later he was private secretary to Gov. Wood. The remainder of his life was spent in the public service. His death occurred in 1853. Just previous to this event he had purchased a piece of land in Mercer, with the intention of moving thereto, and making it his home, and his family had preceded him, but before the expiration of his term of office, he died. His family was left in moderate circumstances, and far beyond the reach of want.

His wife was Christina Forbush, whose father was a member of quite a prominent family of Gildersheim, Germany, which possessed considerable wealth. In politics Mr. Mack was a whig, and, as has been seen, was quite prominent at Columbus in his day. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. They were the parents of four children, viz: William, whose whereabouts are not known; Charles, who died in Europe; Henry C., the subject of this sketch, and Edward, who died at the age of sixteen years, a bright and promising youth.

Henry C. Mack was but twelve years old at the time of the death of his father, and since that time he has made his own way in the world, taking care of himself, and accumulating what property he now possesses. For five or six years he was employed as farm hand, after which he went to Piqua, and there learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked about twelve years. On April 17, 1861, he enlisted in company F, Eleventh Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve for three months, under President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men. Serving until the expiration of his time he was honorably discharged, and returned to his home. In February, 1862, he again enlisted, this time in the Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and served in the army of the Tennessee, under Gen. Sherman. His first battle was that of Pittsburg Landing, but in addition to that he was in a number of skirmishes, and saw severe service otherwise. During this year, 1862, he was discharged on account of physical disability, and returned again to his home, and also returned to his trade, that of shoemaker. He is now receiving a pension from the government. In 1863 he was married, and in 1864 became a subcontractor for a mail route. Some time later he removed to Celina, and managed a farm which his father left him, in Liberty township, for seven years. He then built two dwellings at Celina, and ran a brick-yard for some time. In January, 1881, he bought eighty acres of heavily timbered land, on which he yet lives, but he remained in Celina for some years, until he had erected a fine residence on his farm. In the meantime he was engaged in clearing his land, ditching and underdraining and generally improving his farm, moving into his new two-story frame house on the farm in 1888. At the present time he has seventy acres ditched, drained and under a high state of cultivation. This farm is of good, black soil, rich and easily cultivated. Upon it there is a fine orchard, and everything needed to make a good, comfortable farmer's home. Beside having been engaged on his own farm for himself, he has also done a good deal of bridge work for the county. There are four good oil wells just recently developed on farms adjoining his, and, as his farm crosses the vein, there is a prospect that oil will here be produced.

He married Miss Susan R. Ellis, who was born at Saint Mary's, December 18, 1838, and is a daughter of Oliver and Elenora (Stanard)

Ellis, the former of whom was from Orange county, N. Y. When Mr. Ellis was a young man he drove stage coach in New York state, and in 1831 he came to Jamestown, Ohio, locating in Cincinnati. In Genesee county, N. Y., he married Miss Elenora Stanard, and in 1837 settled in Saint Mary's, Ohio, which was then the county seat of Mercer county. From there he moved upon a farm, having purchased a half section in Godfrey's reservation, at three dollars per acre. Of this he cleared twenty-five acres, and then removed to the village of Mercer, where he was appointed postmaster. In 1853 he removed to Celina, and lived there many years, running an hotel for sixteen years. He died September 26, 1884. His entire life was spent in active business, and he was a most energetic man. He was well and favorably known for many miles around. His wife died in January, 1885, aged sixty-five years. They were the parents of nine children, viz: Lyman and Roseltha, both dead; Susan Riley, wife of the subject; John P. and James O., both dead; P. A., now engaged in the livery business at Celina; Amelia, residing at Marion, Ohio; Catherine E., residing at Celina; and Mahala, wife of George Nungester, of Celina. Both parents of these children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry C. Mack and his wife are the parents of four children, viz: Edward, formerly a teacher, now a barber, in Celina; Elenora, wife of James McClain, a carriage-painter of Celina; John P. and Susie, both at home. Mr. Mack is a democrat in his political views, and has filled the office of constable and several other of the minor offices, but he is in no sense of the term an office seeker. He was christened in the Lutheran church, but is not now a member, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both are well and favorably known to a large circle of friends.

JAMES MALICK, one of the pioneer farmers of Center township, Mercer county, is a son of Uriah and Chloe (Powell) Malick. The great-grandfather was Philip Malick, a native of Germany, who settled in New Jersey, married Mary King, and died in the state named. His son John, the grandfather of our subject, removed to Hampshire county, Va., served in the war of 1812, and married Mary Ladd. He died in Virginia in 1845, his wife preceding him. His family consisted of eight children, five sons, and three daughters, Uriah, the father of our subject, being the youngest.

Uriah Malick was born in Hampshire county, Va., in 1808. In 1832 he came to Ohio and settled in Clinton county. Subsequently he owned a farm and lived in Hardin and Mercer counties, coming to the last mentioned county in 1847; in 1853 he removed to Tully township, Van Wert county, later engaged in the tanning business in Van Wert city; in 1866 he removed to Nebraska; in 1877 he retired and returned to Van Wert, but died at the home of a son in Missouri, where he had gone on business in 1882. His wife died in 1853. His family consisted of five sons and five daughters.

James Malick, the subject, being the elder son, was born September 1, 1834, in Clinton county, Ohio; in 1857 he purchased eighty acres where he now resides, to which he added sixty acres, and also owns and operates 120 acres in section No. 29; in 1863 he joined company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and did guard duty in the state. In politics he is a republican and has filled the office of township trustee. In his religious connection he is a member of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal church. He was married in 1857 to Matilda Patterson, who died February 17, 1892. To this marriage were born the following children: Mary A. (Mrs.

Spicer), deceased; Samantha, deceased; Isma H.; Anna (Rev. Mrs. Pool), Maggie, Addie, and James, deceased.

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**GOTTLIEB MARBAUGH**, one of the most substantial farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, September 26, 1831, and is a son of John and Mary (Garber) Marbaugh.

John Marbaugh was born in the same country, in the fall of 1786, and, was a son of Christopher Marbaugh, who was killed in a battle with the Austrian army. John was reared on the farm and received his education in his native country, and was there married to Miss Mary Garber, who was born in 1790, in Switzerland. Her father was also killed in the Austrian wars. To John Marbaugh and his wife were born ten children: John, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Conrad Honsted; Christopher, deceased; Susan, deceased wife of Peter Winger; Mary, wife of Conrad Lampie, of Van Wert county; Sophronia, deceased wife of Christian Mauser; Frederick, of whom nothing is known; Gottlieb, George and Daniel, deceased. John Marbaugh emigrated to the United States in 1835, and located in Starke county, Ohio, where he bought a farm, upon which he lived until 1840, when he sold out and bought one in Tuscarawas county. This farm he lived upon until 1842, dying September 1, of that year. He was a member of the German Reform church and was prominent in its affairs. His wife was also a member of that church, and after his death, lived with the subject of this sketch until her death, which occurred in 1877.

Gottlieb Marbaugh, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Tuscarawas county on a farm, and there received his education. He also there learned the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he worked for nine years. He was married in Holmes county, Ohio, October 14, 1856, to Mary Kneisley, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Staler) Kneisley, and to their marriage there have been born two children, viz: Francis Louisa, who died at the age of four, and Mary Elizabeth, wife of Josiah Caser, of Starke county. Mary (Kneisley) Marbaugh, the wife of the subject, was born in Holmes county, in 1833, and died in 1860. After his first marriage Mr. Marbaugh lived in Holmes county, and followed the calling of agriculture, and was there next married, March 14, 1862, to Miss Cordelia Cook, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Price) Cook, and to this second marriage of Mr. Marbaugh there were born eight children, viz: Henry, a farmer of Indiana; John, formerly of San Antonio, Tex., a soldier in the regular army; Edwin, living at home; Emma, wife of Newton Smitley, of Indiana; Frederick, of Black Creek township; Amos; Annie, who died when quite young; James, at home. Mrs. Marbaugh, the mother of these children, was born in Mercer county, April 6, 1840, in which county she was reared and educated. Her father, William Cook, was a native of New York, having been born September 22, 1807. His father, Eli Cook, was born in New Jersey, April 21, 1788, and fought in the war of 1812. The wife of Eli Cook was named Elizabeth, and was born August 20, 1786.

William Cook and his family settled in Mercer county in 1830, and there he passed the remainder of his life. Politically he was a republican; in religion he was a Universalist, and died in May, 1874. His wife was a member of the Baptist church, and died in February, 1865. They were the parents of the following children, viz: William, who enlisted in the army of the Union for 100 days, and died while in the service in Maryland; Catherine, wife of Charles Rhodes, of Indiana; Elizabeth, widow of Jesse Custer, of Neptune, Mercer county, Ohio; John H. and Mary Ann, both deceased; Cordelia, wife of the subject; Louisa, deceased; Edwin, deceased, who served three years in the Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry; A. B., deceased; Eli, deceased; Thomas, a saloonist, of Rockford, Mercer county; Marida, of Rockford, and Milton, deceased.

Gottlieb Marbaugh in 1859 located in Mercer county, on a farm which he had purchased, and on which he lived until 1870. At this time he exchanged his farm for one in Minnesota, which he has since sold, renting his brother's farm for seven years, and living on this rented farm until 1877, when he purchased a farm in Van Wert county, of forty acres, on which he lived until 1882. Then he purchased the farm on which he lives at the present time. He is a prominent and progressive farmer, and alive to the improvements made in agriculture, as in other departments of human labor. In politics he has been a republican most of his life, until lately, but he is now more in sympathy with the people's party. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, are both regular attendants and are liberal in its support.

Mr. Marbaugh's services to his government during the war of the Rebellion, while not so conspicuous or so valuable as were those of a soldier able to go to the front, were yet rendered with as much patriotism as theirs. He served fifteen months in the home guards, and was then discharged on account of deficiency in eyesight. His brother, Frederick, served first three months in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, then reenlisted and served until the close of the war. He was one of the extremely fortunate ones, being in sixteen battles, and never wounded. The Marbaugh family, therefore, though really of foreign birth, must be considered as one of the patriotic American families, and desirous of seeing that the government of the United States shall be perpetuated to all coming generations.

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AUGUSTUS AXE, a prominent and successful farmer of Franklin township, Mercer county, was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, July 8, 1865. He was well educated in the common schools in his youth, and was reared on his father's farm to agricultural labor of all kinds. He is a son of George and Rosa (Tafe) Axe, both residents of Ohio.

George Axe, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Pennsylvania and was of German ancestry. With his parents he moved to Ohio in 1850, locating at Dayton, and remaining there for two years. Going thence to Auglaize county, he there bought land, settled down on a farm, living thereon and following agriculture until his death. His son, George, the father of the subject, grew to manhood there and became one of the prominent farmers of Auglaize county. He was a very industrious and energetic man, full of public spirit as well as private enterprise, and did much to assist in clearing up and developing the country. He cleared two farms, and dealt largely in stock raising, and buying and selling stock of all kinds for a good many years. In all his undertakings he was successful, showing that he was blessed with foresight and good judgment. At the time of his death he was living on his farm near Saint Mary's. The wife of George Axe, Rosa Tafe, is a daughter of Lawrence Tafe, of Ireland, and the mother of Augustus, our subject. At an early day Lawrence Tafe came to the United States, and located in Auglaize county. There he bought a farm and spent the rest of his days thereon. His children were three in number, viz: Ann, James and Rosa. Mrs. Lawrence Tafe survives her husband, who died July 21, 1894. Mr. Tafe was a Catholic in religion and a democrat in politics, yet he never aspired to office of any kind. His widow is still a warm and pious member of the Catholic church. George Axe and his wife, Rosa, were the parents of twelve children, viz: Augustus, the subject of this sketch; James, who died young; Jennie, yet single; George, engaged in the oil business at Saint Mary's; Annie, William, Clara, Rosa, Russell, Charles, Katie and Sarah.

Augustus Axe has been a farmer all his life. He remained with his parents until he was of age, and in 1887 married Miss Samantha McEvoy. He then moved upon a farm, upon which he lives, and which was bought from the state by his father. There are ninety-three acres in this farm, and it is of fine quality. When he moved to it there were fifty acres cleared, and there was a small house erected upon it. Now he has seventy acres cleared, ditched and underdrained, and in a high state of cultivation. He now also has a fine residence, a large barn, and a good orchard containing many kinds of excellent fruit. It adjoins the grand reservoir, and it is believed, though no test has yet been made, that it would not be a difficult matter to find oil by drilling.

Mr. Axe was married to Miss McEvoy, October 18, 1867. She is a daughter of Stephen and Jane McEvoy, the former of Scotch ancestry, but born in New Jersey, the latter a native of Indiana. Stephen McEvoy is now running a grocery store at Saint Mary's. Mr. and Mrs. McEvoy are the parents of three children, viz: John, Samantha, wife of the subject, and Joseph. Augustus Axe and his wife, Samantha, are the parents of four children, viz: Two that died, and Edda, born July 18, 1892, and Edith, born February 28, 1894. The family are members of the Catholic church at Saint Mary's, and are highly esteemed among their friends and neighbors.

WESLEY W. BEAUCHAMP, M. D., one the successful physicians of Mercer county, and formerly of Fort Recovery, where he was associated with Dr. Arlington Stephenson, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, August 16, 1863, and is a son of Martin L. and Sarah A. (Johnson) Beauchamp. The Beauchamp family, as the name implies, is of French origin, there having been at least one celebrated historian and publicist of that name and nation; and the Johnston family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The doctor received his preliminary education in the public schools of Ohio, was a thorough student, and for six years superintendent of the public schools of Montezuma. Beginning the study of medicine under a private preceptor, he afterward attended Starling Medical college at Columbus, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1895. Immediately thereafter, Dr. Beauchamp began the practice of medicine with Dr. Stephenson at Fort Recovery, and while studying medicine, in all, twelve years, had the advantage of a great deal of practice. Drs. Beauchamp and Stephenson were equal partners in the practice of medicine, on the beginning of which Dr. Beauchamp bought all the scientific and valuable medical appliances, in the use of which he became thoroughly skillful. Having a thorough medical education and considerable experience, notwithstanding he is yet a young man, he is an able physician, and is one in whom the greatest confidence is placed. April 9, 1896, Dr. Beauchamp dissolved his business relations with Dr. Stephenson at Fort Recovery and removed to Rockford and became associated with F. M. Kirby, M. D., and the two constitute at the present, the leading medical firm of that city.

Dr. Beauchamp was married July 14, 1895, to Harriet C. White, of Rockford, Ohio, a daughter of C. S. and Ella White. Politically Dr. Beauchamp is a republican and is an honored member of the order of Odd Fellows of Celina. He is well known for his high character and intellectual ability, and for his thorough knowledge and skill in his profession. Besides being thus versed in all branches connected with the practice of medicine, he is a man of rare literary culture. He is a patron of the leading medical periodicals and magazines of the day, and has a library carefully selected and containing the most valuable medical and scientific works filled with the latest knowledge on their respective subjects. He is beside a thorough gentleman not only in the sick room but also in general society, and possesses the respect of all to a high degree.

Messrs. Kirby & Beauchamp make special treatment of catarrh, rheumatism and nervous diseases; use oxygen gas and compressed air in lung and bronchial diseases; they employ Turkish and Russian baths, electric baths, galvano cautery, and, indeed, are wonderfully skillful in all medical, surgical and electrical methods of conquering human ailments.

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HON. ARCHELAUS D. MARSH, a leading member of the Celina bar, was born on a farm near Buford, Highland county, Ohio, April 19, 1844. His parents were James P. and Ellen J. (Bachman) Marsh, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Pennsylvania, both born in the year 1812. On the paternal side of his family he is of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the tradition or the history being that in the sixteenth century two brothers came to America, both settling in the New England states, and being the parents of large families. On the maternal side, the Bachmans are of German ancestry, as the name would seem to indicate, the founders of the family in America coming across the sea at an early period. The grandfather of the subject (Bachman) was a soldier in the war of 1812. About 1830 James P. Marsh came to Ohio and settled in Highland county. In 1842 he was married in Hamilton, Ohio, and in 1880 he removed to Brown county, Ohio, where he lived the remainder of his life, dying in 1885. His widow died in Celina in the year 1894.

Archelaus D. Marsh was the only child of his parents. He was reared on the farm in Highland county, received a good common-school education, and remained at home on the farm until 1868, when he removed to Sardinia, Brown county, Ohio, where he read law under the instruction of W. W. McKnight, and Chilton A. White, both prominent attorneys of that section of the state. The latter is an ex-member of congress. Late in 1872 Mr. Marsh was admitted to the bar in Georgetown, county seat of Brown county, and began the practice of the law in Sardinia. In 1874 he removed to Celina, coming on the recommendation of Judge Cole, of Marysville, Ohio, one of the old district judges. He arrived in Celina October 9, 1874, and immediately began the practice of the law. In 1877 he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly of Ohio, and was re-elected in 1879. In 1883 he was again elected, and the democrats having carried the state that year, Mr. Marsh was nominated by acclamation for speaker of the house, and was elected. During his term as speaker he had, in conjunction with the president of the senate, the appointment of the Ohio commission to the New Orleans exposition. It was also during that term that the democrats in the general assembly of Ohio elected a United States senator, Hon. Henry B. Payne being elected to that dignified office.

In 1891 Mr. Marsh was a candidate for the nomination to congress from the Fourth Ohio district, being one of the four leading candi-

Yours Truly
A. D. Marsh

dates before the convention. The struggle for the nomination was one of the longest and most bitter contests in the entire history of the state and at length resulted in a compromise, after about three thousand ballots had been cast, seven of which were taken under the Australian system of voting, each of these ballots requiring about two hours' time. The convention met first at Greenville, and was in session there three days. Finding a nomination impossible, the convention adjourned to meet at Piqua after an intermission of about three weeks. At Piqua three days were consumed in balloting, and, failing to make a nomination, the convention adjourned sine die. The matter was thus referred back to the people, a new set of delegates was elected and the convention met at Eaton. At the close of the third day's work of the convention at Eaton, Mr. Marsh withdrew from the contest, and Mr. Gantz was nominated on the succeeding ballot. During all this time Mr. Marsh was one of the leading candidates, and held the key to the situation throughout, until he finally withdrew, and this act was only in the interest of harmony. The district was then composed of the six following-named counties: Preble, Miami, Champaign, Darke, Mercer and Shelby.

Since the above memorable struggle Mr. Marsh has not been an aspirant for office, but is now considered the logical candidate for congress from his district, as Mercer county has not supplied a member of congress since 1866, and is justly entitled to the next representative. It is at present generally conceded that should Mr. Marsh seek the nomination he will secure it, and as the district has a normal democratic majority of about 4,000, it is thought that a nomination is equivalent to an election. In 1884 Mr. Marsh was alternate at large to the national convention at Chicago that nominated Cleveland for the presidency, and in 1888 was a delegate to the democratic national convention at Saint Louis.

Notwithstanding the interruption caused by his struggles in politics, Mr. Marsh has steadily pursued the even tenor of his way and has enjoyed a successful practice from the time he located in Celina to the present day. He is now recognized as the most prominent and ablest member of the bar in western Ohio. For a number of years he was quite prominent and uniformly successful in criminal practice, has defended seven different clients charged with murder and has secured the acquittal of all save one, that one being sent to the penitentiary for manslaughter. Of late years he has avoided criminal practice to a great extent, preferring to confine his attention to other branches of the law.

The firm of Marsh & Loree are attorneys for the L. E. & W., and for the C., J. & M. railroad companies. Mr. Marsh is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was married in 1865, in his native county, to Mary Jane Thompson, who was born in Highland county, in 1844, and is a daughter of Everett and Ann Thompson, now residing in Brown county, Ohio. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh there have been born the following children: Clayton, Clara, Nora, Vernie, Clarence, Arvesta, and Loree, and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Marsh is a member of the Christian church, and is quite active in its support.

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JESSE S. MARKS, one of the leading and influential farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, and one of its largest individual land owners, is the son of Lewis and Rachael Ann (Harmon) Marks, and was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on January 24, 1846. His father was born in Germany in 1821, and was the eldest son of the three children born to Christian Marks.

The other two children were: Mary, the deceased wife of Emmanuel Roose, of Fairfield county, and Matilda, the widow of Peter Harmon, living near Greenwood, Van Wert county, Ohio.

Christian Marks was a tailor by trade, and served in Napoleon's army in 1812, and was his tailor; it has been handed down by tradition in the family, that, being his tailor, he was allowed to sleep in the same tent with the "Little Corporal." In 1820, when Lewis was but a year old, Christian Marks left the fatherland and came to America, and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he purchased thirty-two acres of land, and there lived until his death, which occurred not many years after locating in that country, his good wife soon following him. Though still quite young at the time of his father's death, Lewis remained on the farm and took sole charge of it. He received his education there, and in 1844 married Rachael Ann Harmon, who was born in Fairfield county in 1812. Her parents, George and Mary Harmon, were natives of Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent, and early settlers of Fairfield county, Ohio, who had camped in a tent on their arrival until they could cut the timber and build a log cabin. Only one of this family is now living, Wesley Harmon, who lives in Fairfield county, and is the uncle of the subject of our sketch.

After marriage, Lewis Marks remained on the farm, which had descended to him from his father, and there two children were born to them: Jesse, and Matilda, the wife of Oliver Putnam, of Dublin township, Mercer county. In 1853 Mr. Marks moved his family to Mercer county, where he had bought eighty acres of uncleared land. Having comfortably fixed his family, he set to work clearing his farm, and though the task of clearing away the giants of the forest seemed almost impossible, yet he never wavered, and success crowned his efforts. The farm which was the result of his labors was greatly improved with each succeeding year, and in 1867 he built the large farm house in which the subject of our sketch now lives, and which at that time was considered the finest for miles around. Year by year he added acre by acre, until he became one of the largest land owners in the township. He was a stanch republican in politics, and, though not an office seeker, he was honored witn numerous local offices, and filled them with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public. He was a prominent member of the United Brethren church, in which he was a steward several years; his wife was also a member, as was her father, who was especially prominent in its affairs. On January 1, 1873, Mr. Marks was called away to his long home; his wife survived him ten years, and died April 1, 1883.

Jesse Marks, their son, was reared on his father's farm, to which he had come with his parents when he was but seven years old. He received his education in the country, and on October 19, 1881, he married Victoria, who was born in Van Wert county, on June 22, 1858, a daughter of Charles Thomas and Caroline (Rummell) Sell, and received her education in Mercer county, and early in life joined the United Brethren church. Her father, Dr. C. T. Sell, was born in London, England, May 7, 1811, and there received his medical education; after receiving his license to practice, he remained for some time in the English metropolis, and in 1854 came to America and settled in Van Wert county, where he practiced his noble profession for several years. Soon after locating here he married Caroline, the daughter of George and Susannah (Fasnaugh) Rummell.

Dr. Charles T. Sell, a few years after marriage, moved to Jay county, Ind., where he held the position of postmaster for several years. In 1865 he returned to Mercer county, and again took up the practice of medicine, at which he continued until 1869, when, advancing years making long drives arduous, he then turned his attention to farming, at which he continued until his death, February 7, 1881. His political affiliations were with the democratic party, and he was a prominent and much esteemed citizen and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife was a member of the United Brethren church, and died January 24, 1891. They were the parents of twelve children, viz: Charley A., farmer in this township; Sophia, widow of William Eaton, of Indiana; Victoria, mentioned above; Thomas, of Van Wert county; Caroline, wife of John Vian, of this township; Louisa, living in Dayton, Ohio; John, of Convoy, Van Wert county; William, formerly a teacher, but now a student of Hartsville, Ind.; Viola, who lives with her sister, Mrs. Marks; and Eli, of this township, and two children who died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Marks brought his wife to the old homestead where they first lived. Here he took up the link with a determination to reach the top and has well succeeded. He has continued to improve and add to the farm until now he owns 360 acres of fine land, the larger part of which he keeps in grass for hay. Mr. Marks deals extensively in hay and owns and operates a hay-baler in connection with his general farming. He is a successful farmer and a very prosperous business man, and, although yet in the prime of life, is considered one of the substantial and reliable citizens of the township. He is progressive and takes an active interest in the affairs of the community and of the republican party.

To Mr. and Mrs. Marks have been born three children—Roy Sylvester, born October 19, 1883; Pearl, born March 26, 1885, and Goldie Forest, born June 6, 1888.

ELI MARTZ, a well-to-do and respected farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of George P. and Elizabeth (Goetz) Martz, natives of Germany, and was born near Fredrickstown, Md., January 21, 1834.

George P. Martz, father of our subject, was a native of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, was a shoemaker, was married in his native land, and, in 1830, with his wife and three sons, and also a daughter by a former marriage of Mrs. Martz, came to America, landing in Baltimore, Md. After passing three years in that state, Mr. Martz brought his family to Ohio and leased a tract of land near Upper Sandusky, on which he erected a log cabin and for one summer engaged in farming, and then started back for Maryland, but on his way found occasion to stop in Wayne county, Ohio. There he remained fourteen years, working at his trade and farming a tract of leased land. While there he purchased an eighty-acre tract of timber land in Liberty township, Mercer county, on which it was his intention to settle; but on his way hither stopped in Hardin county, where he spent five years, and then, in the fall of 1852, came to Mercer county and took possession of his wild property. He commenced improving this at once, erecting a log house 18 x 20 feet, with shingle roof, and sheathed down outside and inside, so that he had a very good dwelling for the locality and times. With the assistance of his children in due course of time he succeeded in clearing up his land and in making a comfortable home and good farm. Here he lost his wife about the year 1876, while his own death took place in Illinois about 1882. To Mr. and Mrs. Martz were born nine children, viz: Margaret, the widow of John Doer, who resides in Adams county, Ind.; Anthony, a farmer and hunter, who died January 7, 1887, in Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio; Caleb, who is a farmer, and resides in Rockford, Ohio; Philip (twin to Caleb), who resides in Salem, Ind.; Eli, is the subject of this sketch; Nancy, who died in early childhood; Elisha, who resides in Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio; Lucinda, who died in Missouri, the wife of Abraham Orr, and an infant that died unmarried.

Eli Martz, our subject, was reared to pioneer life, and he has done much in clearing up this township. At twenty years of age he began taking contracts for clearing, chopping, etc., and in five years saved sufficient money to buy himself an eighty-acre farm in section No. 31, Dublin township—all in timber. He then married, January 4, 1859, Miss Jane Elizabeth Rutledge, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1836, a daughter of Luther Rutledge and Ruth (Matthews) Rutledge, and at once erected a cabin on his land, moved into it, and now has his farm all under cultivation, with the exception of ten acres. His log cabin was his home until 1878, when he erected a good frame residence, 16 x 30, with a wing 18 x 30 feet, with kitchen and wood-house attached, and also constructed all the requisite out-buildings—his main barn being 48 x 69 feet. He has also erected another dwelling, 18 x 21 feet, which is occupied by his son-in-law, and his entire surroundings indicate thrift and prosperity.

To the marriage of Eli and Elizabeth (Rutledge) Martz were born eight children, viz: Granville, who died at the age of five years; Ida, who died when three years of age; Cordelia, who died when eighteen months old; Mary, wife of John Carney, of Springdale, Mont.; Emma, who is married to Allen Coil, the occupant of the cottage on the home farm; Cora, wife of Joseph Purdy, of Black Creek township, Mercer county; Luther, who died at five years of age, and Anna, a resident of Montana. Of these Mary and Anna were formerly school-teachers. The mother of the above children was called away in September, 1876, at the age of thirty-four years, and in 1879 Mr. Martz married Mrs. Mary (Rutledge) Koepple, a sister of his first wife. Mr. Martz is a self-made man and has lifted himself from obscurity to a prominent position among the citizens of Mercer county. He is public-spirited, and has extended his aid to all measures for the improvement of his township and county, or designed for the public good. He and family are members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Martz has been a trustee for some time, and no family of the township enjoys a greater degree of respect than his.

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ELISHA MARTZ, a prominent and successful farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, March 24, 1839. He is a son of G. Peter and Elizabeth (Goetz) Martz, the former of whom was born near Darmstadt, the capital of the grand duchy of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, in 1803. There he was educated and prepared for self-support by learning the shoemaker's trade, and there he married Mrs. Elizabeth (Goetz) Martz, who was born in the same city in 1801, and had previously married John Martz, to whom she had borne one child, Margaret, the widow of John Deuer, of Jay county, Ind. After her first husband's death Mrs. Elizabeth Martz then married the father of the subject of this sketch, and to this second marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Anthony, deceased; Catherine, died in infancy; Caleb, a retired farmer of Rockford, and Philip, a retired farmer of Salem, Ind. (twins); Eli, of Dublin township; Nancy, died in infancy; Elisha, the subject of this sketch, and Lucinda, deceased wife of Abraham Orr, of Illinois.

After his marriage G. Peter Martz lived in

Germany and followed his trade until 1833, when he came to the United States, locating in Maryland, where he followed his trade ten months, and then removed to Lower Sandusky, and raised a crop of corn. Then, starting to return to Maryland, he got as far as Wayne county, three and a half miles east of Wooster, when he halted and leased a piece of land, and remained there until 1848, when he removed to Hardin county, where he followed farming five years. In the fall of 1852 he removed to Mercer county, bought a farm in Liberty township, and there followed farming until 1864, when he removed to Illinois and there worked at his trade until his death. In politics he was a whig early in his life, but later he united with the republican party. At first he was a member of the Lutheran church, but afterward joined the Methodist Episcopal church, and was an active member of the church to which he belonged. He was a good husband, a good father, made a comfortable home for his family, and was in all respects a public-spirited man. His wife was a member of the United Brethren church, and died in 1876, in Mercer county.

Elisha Martz was reared upon the farm and was educated in Wayne, Hardin and Mercer counties. At the age of seventeen he left home to make his own living, and since that time has been self-supporting. On the 28th of November, 1861, he enlisted in company H, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and reenlisted in February, 1864, at Carthage, Tenn., serving until January 6, 1866, when he was honorably discharged at San Antonio, Tex. His experience was quite unusual and varied. He was in the battles of Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Clarksville, Carthage, the Atlanta campaign, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville, besides numerous skirmishes. At the battle of Nashville he was wounded by a musket-ball in the left forearm, and in consequence was in hospital at Nashville and Louisville three months. His is a clear and noble record, one of which any citizen-soldier might well be proud.

The war having closed, Mr. Martz returned to Ohio, and resumed farming. January 19, 1869, he was married to Rebecca A. Wolph, daughter of Sebastian and Elizabeth (Ward) Wolph, and to them the following children were born: Sebastian, deceased at the age of six weeks; Vesta A., born February 10, 1872; Alice L., born January 30, 1875, and died November 30, 1892, and Francis L., born in April, 1883. Miss Rebecca A. Wolph was born in Mercer county August 8, 1850. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1820, and was of Dutch descent. He was by occupation a farmer and a teacher, and died in 1875. His wife was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1829, and died in 1892, on the 9th of September. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and located in Mercer county about 1846. Two of their children are still living, Dora Troup, of Van Wert county, and the wife of the subject of this biographical sketch.

After his marriage Elisha Martz located in Dublin township on an eighty-acre farm purchased in 1864, upon which he lived until 1874, when he moved to his father-in-law's farm in Black Creek township, where he lived until the fall of 1888. Then he purchased the farm upon which he is now living, cleared and improved it, and erected good buildings upon it. The first year he lived upon it he erected a house which he has since enlarged and improved, making for himself and his family a neat and comfortable home. Mr. Martz is one of the most progressive farmers in his township, devoting himself mainly to general farming. In politics he is a republican and is one of the leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife and family also belong. Formerly he was a member of the United Brethren church, but has been a Methodist for about twenty years. He has almost always held some office in his church, such as trustee, class leader, superintendent of the Sunday-school, steward or teacher. He is always actively engaged in church or Sunday-school work, and never misses a service unless on account of sickness. His entire family are also regular attendants and devoted members of this religious organization. It may be added that the subject went into the war as a non-commissioned officer—that is, as orderly sergeant—and came out as a second lieutenant. He is a member of Dolph Grey Post, No. 429, G. A. R., was chaplain one year and is now quartermaster, and has served as delegate to various conventions. In all respects Mr. Martz is a representative and excellent citizen, and one highly respected because of his many good traits of character.

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JOHN W. MAURER, a prominent and unusually successful farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born November 30, 1865, in Union township, in the county named. He is a son of Christian Maurer, deceased, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1823, came to the United States in 1840, settling in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and followed farming there until 1852, when he purchased 127 acres of land in Mercer county, near Mendon, which he cleared and improved, adding to it as he was able, until he became a wealthy land owner. To each of his children, as they became of age, he gave eighty acres of land, and at his death, which occurred in March, 1895, he left a large estate, a part of which consists of 148 acres of land adjoining Mendon.

Christopher Maurer was married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, to Sophronia Marbaugh, daughter of a prominent farmer of Tuscarawas county. She died in 1892 at the age of sixty-two. Mr. and Mrs. Maurer were the parents of five children, as follows: Susan, Elizabeth (Mrs. High), Mary (Mrs. Diegle), all three of Mercer county; Lydia (Mrs. Evans), of Elkhart, Ind., and John W., the subject of this sketch. Mr. Maurer was a Mason, and both he and his wife were prominent members of the Evangelical church. Politically he was a democrat, but never sought preferment at the hands of his party.

John W. Maurer spent his boyhood days at home on the farm, attending school in the winter season. In 1890 he was married to Zillia Rhodes, a daughter of Benjamin and Samantha Rhodes, prominent people of Union township. Mr. Maurer owns a farm of 120 acres, adjacent to Mendon, all of which is in a high state of cultivation and is well improved. Besides this, he has two producing oil wells. On his farm he has recently completed a fine house one-half mile from the village of Mendon, and in this house he lives happily with his family, respected by all his fellow-citizens. He is justly considered one of the most successful men of his county, is a democrat in politics, and is in every respect a worthy citizen. He and his wife have long been members of the Church of God. They have one child, Orah, born December 24, 1891.

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JEREMIAH MAX, one of the substantial citizens of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, of Bohemian and German ancestry, is a son of Joseph T. and Elizabeth Max, the former of whom was born in Bohemia about 1782. Joseph T. Max was by trade a tailor, and when about twenty-two years of age came to America, and followed his trade in Franklin, Pa., for some years. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, as follows: John, Daniel, Elias, Samuel, Solomon, Jeremiah and Ann Maria, all of whom lived to mature years. Mr. Max died in Union county, Ohio, in 1844, at the age of sixty-two. Coming to Ohio in 1833, he was a merchant in Hyattville, for about four years. He was a well educated man and a member of the Catholic church, having been educated for the priesthood. While he was well educated in the modern languages, speaking French and German as well as English, yet he was at the same time a capable man of business, which is a somewhat rare combination of faculties, and during his lifetime he amassed a considerable amount of property. That he was prominent among his fellow-men is shown by his being postmaster at Hyattville at the time of his death. One of his sons, Samuel, was a soldier in the late Civil war, serving three years and participating in several battles.

Jeremiah Max, the subject of this sketch, was born in Franklin county, Pa., November 2, 1829, and came to Ohio with his parents in 1833, was reared and educated in Miami county, and having secured a good common-school education and learned the carpenter's trade, December 25, 1851, he married Elizabeth Oakes, who was born October 3, 1835, in Miami county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Samuel Oakes. To this marriage there have been born seven children, the first four of whom were born in Miami county: Lillie A. was born January 10, 1853; James, September 17, 1854; Henrietta A., March 12, 1856; John W., January 2, 1858; Elizabeth J., June 30, 1862; Mary O., born July 30, 1864, died May 13, 1889, and Luella O., born July 2, 1866. The last three were born in Darke county, Ohio, Mr. Max having removed to that county in 1861 and settled on land in the woods. Of this land, Mr. Max cleared thirty acres and made excellent improvements thereon. After living in Darke county ten years he removed, in 1871, to Fort Recovery, and there engaged in contracting and building. This was continued until 1873, when he engaged in the hotel business, keeping the old American House for three years, and for three years thereafter kept hotel in his present residence, and then, returning to his contracting and building, he has since been thus engaged. Mr. Max is one of the most solid and substantial business men in Fort Recovery, owning valuable real estate there, and also business property in LaFayette, Ind. He also owns a residence in Muncie, Ind., and a farm in Mercer county, besides his residence property in Fort Recovery. All this property has been accumulated by his own exertions and careful management. Mrs. Max died May 5, 1876—an excellent woman, possessed of many virtues, sociable and kind-hearted, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Max has taken but little interest in politics, so far as securing office for himself is concerned, but he did hold the office of justice of the peace while living in Darke county for two years. He is a most highly esteemed citizen, respected for his sterling worth and integrity of character, and also for the general excellence of his family. Lillie A., his oldest child, married Jacob Dumbaugh, of Converse, Ind., and has one child; Henrietta A. married Thomas McDonald, a farmer, and has seven children; James C. married Althea Heath, a farmer of Templeton, Ind., and has five children; John W. married Vina Oswald, and is a carpenter of Muncie, Ind., and has one child; Elizabeth J. married Jeremiah Arn, and Luella O. married Peter Long, a farmer and has three living children. Mr. Max and all his family are among the best class of people in their respective communities, and all are highly respected for their probity of character and straightforward dealings with their fellow-men.

BERNARD MESTERMAKER, a prominent and successful farmer of Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born September 18, 1856. He is a son of Joseph and Denigh (Schulte) Mestermaker, the former of whom was born January 20, 1835, at Oldenburg, Prussia, was reared on his father's farm, and at the age of twenty-two emigrated to the United States, landing in Baltimore. Going thence to Cincinnati he remained there a short time and then went to Tippecanoe, where he engaged in work on the canal, earning and saving money enough to purchase a tract of eighty acres of wood land in Marion township, Mercer county, which, by hard work and plenty of it, he succeeded in clearing and converting into a good farm. To him and his wife there were born the following children: Mary, who died in infancy, Mary, 2d, deceased wife of H. Klostermann; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Frank, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Gerhard Niekamp, and Annie, wife of a Mr. Stammann. The living children are members of the Catholic church, as are also their parents, who still live on the home place.

Bernard Mestermaker was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools. He continued to work this farm until his marriage, to Miss Theresa Rentz, by whom he became the father of four children, as follows: Annie, born June 5, 1882; Joseph, born March 22, 1885; Frank, born December 3, 1887, and Anton, born June 22, 1891, all of whom are living. Mr. Mestermaker is a strong democrat and has held the office of supervisor of Marion township. He is a true and faithful member of the Saint Sebastian Catholic church, his family being also members of this church. In 1881 he purchased twenty acres of land, adjoining his father's farm; and later another twenty, and still later twenty acres more, making in all, when added to what his father owned, 220 acres. This is of the finest land in Mercer county, and makes one of the best of farms. Theresa Rentz was born June 21, 1861. Xavier Rentz, her father, was born in Baden, Germany, December 1, 1829, and in 1830 was brought to the United States by his parents, they landing in Baltimore and going to Greenville, Ohio, later locating in Chickasaw. Xavier Rentz worked with his father until he was able to buy 120 acres of land, to which he afterward added thirty acres more, and at the death of his father he received eighty acres, making his farm contain in all 230 acres of excellent land. He now resides at Philothea, Ohio. In 1755, he was married to Barbara Fecher, of Germany, by whom he had the following children: Joseph, deceased; John; Mary, deceased; Theresa, wife of the subject; Anton; Joseph, deceased; August, deceased; Frank, deceased; Annie; August and Henry. Mr. Mestermaker and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Mestermaker is a stanch democrat. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mestermaker are well known to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and are as widely respected as known.

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ALBERT METZNER, one of the leading farmers of Jefferson township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a highly-esteemed citizen, was born in Prussia, February 14, 1858. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Kasinka) Metzner, both of Prussia, in which country they were married, the husband working as a laborer while they remained in their own country. They came to the United States in 1860, landing in New York, coming direct to Ohio, and locating in Columbus, where he remained until 1870, when he removed to Mercer county. While living near

Columbus he farmed a piece of rented land, but when he reached Mercer county, purchased a tract of 200 acres, covered over with heavy timber, where the subject of this sketch now lives. Upon these 200 acres he quickly had a log cabin erected, and at once began the apparently endless task of clearing his land of its heavy timber. But by constant and untiring labor he soon had enough cleared so that he could begin farm operations, and by clearing more and more each year he had in time most of the timber cut away. Afterward he purchased another tract, containing only a few acres, but this has since been sold. The log cabin he built at first in time gave way to a fine two-story brick residence, and he also built a good, large barn, planted an orchard, which has many kinds of excellent fruit, all in good condition. This farm is three miles northwest of Celina. He also carried on the manufacture of brick to some extent; but confined himself mostly to general farming, raising only sufficient stock to keep up the farm. All of the property he has he has accumulated himself, and has had but little assistance. This assistance was from his father, who together with a brother and three sisters had preceded him to America, and who sent him money with which to come to this country. He became the father of five children, viz: Albert, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, now township and corporation clerk; Rosa, married to Dr. L. Muser, a dentist of Chicago; Mary, who married Charles Heckler, a farmer, and Margaret, who married Thomas Brewer, and resides in Chicago. All the family are members of the Catholic church.

Albert Metzner spent his boyhood and youthful days upon the farm, helping his father clear and improve the same. His opportunities for receiving an education were quite limited, and at the age of twenty-two years he was married. After five years of work for his father on wages, he moved upon a small tract of land belonging to his wife, built a house and barn, cleared up the timber from all but four acres, and remained there, making his own living on his little farm until after the death of his father. In the division of his father's estate he received eighty acres adjoining the home place, and now occupies the old homestead, owning with two others of the heirs an equal interest in 120 acres of land; so that he farms now in all about 150 acres, the farm, however, containing about 200 acres.

For some time after his marriage he was engaged in carpentering business, and in partnership with his brother he for a time owned an interest in a house in Celina; but at the present time is confining himself to general farming and stock raising. The lady he married was named Annie Hafner. She was born in Bavaria April 25, 1858, and came to America in 1870 with an uncle and aunt, Joseph Maurer and his wife, who now live in Celina. The father of Miss Hafner, George Hafner, was by trade a shoemaker, and died in the old country. Her mother was Monika (Raendel) Hafner. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Metzner there have been born seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, born September 12, 1881; Joseph, born January 12, 1883; Leonard J., born April 22, 1885; Charles, born April 18, 1887; Anthony, born May 11, 1889; Mary T., born August 21, 1891, and Clara, born October 14, 1894. Both Mr. and Mrs. Metzner are members of the Catholic church, and are most excellent people in every way. Mr. Metzner is a democrat, and is now a school director in his district. He has also held several other minor offices, though he cares but little for political honors. It is proper to note in closing that Joseph Metzner, the father of the subject, was married twice, his second wife being, at the time of his marriage to her, a widow with five children. One child was born to this marriage. Mrs. Metzner is still living, but the heirs of their father have purchased her interest in the estate.

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HENRY MILLER, a prominent and successful farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Hamilton county, October 30, 1833. He is a son of Peter and Lydia (Miller) Miller, the former of whom was born in Perry county, in 1807, and was a son of Peter and Mary (Sanift) Miller, both of German descent and natives of Pennsylvania. Peter Miller, Sr., was a farmer, and after his marriage located in Perry county, Ohio, being among the very first settlers there. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Abraham, Peter, Nancy (Mrs. Sanift), Henry, Adam, Polly (Mrs. Moory), and Jacob. Both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Miller was an old-line whig.

Peter Miller, Jr., was reared in Perry county, and in 1831 married Lydia Miller, who was a native of Perry county, born in 1809, and to them there was born one child, Henry, the subject of this sketch. Lydia Miller died when her son, Henry, was but eleven months old, and Peter Miller then removed to Morrow county, where he married the second time, his second wife being Jane Henry, and to this marriage there were born five children, only one of whom is now living, Mrs. Jane Heffelfinger, of Morrow county. With the exception of a short time spent in Hamilton county, Peter Miller spent all of his married life in Morrow county. He was a member of, and a local preacher for years in, the Methodist Episcopal church; he was a republican in politics toward the latter part of his life, and was a prominent man, his death occurring in April, 1891.

Henry Miller, the subject of this sketch, was reared by his uncle, Abraham T. Miller, of Perry county, who removed to Mercer county in 1838, lived in Rockford for several years, where he followed blacksmithing, then entered a tract of land in Dublin township, upon which the subject was reared, then sold this farm and went to Union township, where he died. Henry Miller was married December 20, 1856, to Margaret Petro, a daughter of Asa J. and Anna (Shingledecker) Petro, and to them there were born two children, viz: Anna, wife of Elmer Yoecum, of Union township, and Rosabelle, wife of Richard Thomas, of Van Wert county. Margaret Petro was born in Mercer county, August 19, 1837, her parents being natives of Greene county, Ohio, and having the following children: George, deceased; Margaret, wife of the subject; Mary Ellen, wife of William Crook, of Black Creek township; Lucretia, deceased wife of Adam Miller; and Paul, deceased. Mr. Petro settled in Mercer county in February, 1835, entered land and followed farming until his death, which occurred in February, 1866. He was a republican in politics, held the office of justice of the peace for many years and died highly respected by all. Mrs. Anna Petro's father was John Shingledecker, a brother of Abraham Shingledecker, who served in the war of 1812. Fuller reference is made to the family history of Mrs. Petro in the biography of Jacob Shingledecker, elsewhere in this volume.

After his marriage Henry Miller located in Van Wert county, and lived there six years upon a farm which he cleared from its primeval condition, and removed thence to another farm, in Union township, Mercer county, which he also cleared of its trees. Upon this farm he lived until 1881, when he removed to his present farm, upon which he has lived ever since. In 1892 he erected his present fine house, a most comfortable home. In the days of the war he enlisted in his country's cause, becoming a member of company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, First brigade, Third division, Fourth corps, joining the regiment at Loudon, Tenn., and taking part in the following engagements: Resaca, and all the battles of the Atlanta campaign, including Peach Tree creek; Lovejoy station, and Jonesboro; afterward, returning northward, he fought at Franklin and Nashville, and then was sent to Texas, where he remained five months, where he was mustered out, and, returning to Columbus, Ohio, was discharged in December, 1865. Mr. Miller is a member of Dolph Grey post, No. 329, G. A. R., at Rockford, and is held in high esteem by its members. His wife is a member of the Women's Relief corps, and is in every way a noble woman. Mr. Miller carries on general farming, and is a republican in politics.

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JAMES M. MILLER, M. D., a prominent young physician of Mendon, Mercer county, is a son of Milton N. and Susan E. (Noble) Miller, and was born at Celina, Ohio, February 14, 1861. His parents were natives of Ohio, and were of German-Irish descent.

Milton N. Miller was himself a physician, and began the practice of medicine in 1847 in Mendon, remaining there until 1854, when he removed to Celina, continued the practice of his profession there fifteen years, and then purchased the Saint Charles Hotel, conducting this popular hostelry until his death in October, 1889, at the age of seventy-two years. Dr. Milton N. Miller was an early settler in Mercer county, being there early enough to aid in the construction of the banks of the great reservoir. When he began the practice of medicine in Mendon, the country was but very little cleared and the roads were practically unopened, so that travel was anything but pleasant and agreeable, and all the hardships of the pioneer physician were familiar to him. Mrs. Miller, his widow, still lives and owns the Saint Charles Hotel, but has now nothing to do with its management. She is now seventy-two years of age, and is yet a healthy woman for her age.

James M. Miller, the subject of this sketch, is the youngest of four living children. His early youth was spent as was that of other boys at that day and age of the world, in the public schools of his county, the difference, however, being somewhat in his favor, as he had the privilege of attending the better schools of the city of Celina. From these schools he was graduated in the class of 1881, and in the spring of 1882 he began the study of medicine with his father; but as his father soon afterward retired from practice, he continued his studies with Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, a biographical sketch of whom appears in another part of this work. In 1883 he entered the university at Wooster, Ohio, and completed his medical studies at the Ohio Medical college at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1886. The same year he began the practice of his profession at Venedocia, Van Wert county, Ohio, remaining there, however, but six or seven months, when he removed to Mendon, Mercer county, where he has since resided and practiced his profession. Here he has been very successful, and enjoys a lucrative practice.

In 1888, at Celina, Ohio, Dr. Miller was married to Miss Dellia White, a daughter of John and Emeline White, residents of Mercer county, having come to this county from Scioto county. Mrs. Miller died in 1889, and Dr. Miller, in 1891, married for his second wife Miss Sadie N. Archibald, a daughter of Jonathan and Ellen Archibald, residents of Adams county, Ind., in which county Mr. Archibald was a prominent and successful farmer for many years, and until his death, in

1889. To Dr. and Mrs. Miller there has been born one child, which is now deceased. Dr. Miller is a member of the I. O. O. F., of the Knights of Pythias, and of the K. O. T. M., in all of which three lodges he has filled all the chairs. In politics he is a democrat, is a representative citizen, and is at the present time a member of the village council. Few young physicians, if any, have made more rapid progress in their practice, and won the confidence of the public to such a degree in so short a time, and it is proper to predict for him still greater strides in his professional career.

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JOHN MILLIGAN, a prominent citizen and banker of Celina, Ohio, was born in Portland, Ind., October 11, 1845. He is a son of Dixon and Susan (Reed) Milligan, the former of whom was born in Ireland, in county Tyrone, in 1812.

Dixon Milligan was only a child when he was brought by his parents to the United States. They located in Trumbull county, Ohio, there engaged in farming, and there they lived until their death. There Dixon Milligan received a limited education, and read medicine in that county. He located in Portland, Jay county, Ind., beginning there the practice of his profession, and remaining until 1852. Then, removing to Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, he there followed his profession until his death, which occurred in 1874. He was a man of intelligence, of great industry, and was unusually successful in the accumulation of property, being at the time of his death worth more than $100,000. He was one of the old-time pioneer physicians, and outside of his profession dealt largely in land. In 1872, in company with his son, John, our subject, and son-in-law, Hon. T. J. Godfrey, he organized the banking firm of Milligan, Godfrey & Co., Mr. Milligan acting as president of the bank until his death. He was interested in many enterprises besides his banking business. In politics he was a democrat and was always faithful to his party's interest.

Dixon Milligan was married in Portland, Ind., to Susan Reed, who was born in Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Reed, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, but lived at the time of their daughter's marriage on a farm near Portland, Ind. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Milligan there were born four children, as follows: Lorinda, wife of Hon. T. J. Godfrey, and living in Celina; Almaretta, wife of W. Wiggs, a farmer near Portland, Ind.; John, the subject of this sketch, and Isabelle, wife of J. P. LeBlond, a grain dealer of Celina. The mother of these four children died at Celina in 1888. She was a most conscientious and consistent Christian woman in her life, though not a professed member of any church organization, nor an adherent of any particular creed.

John Milligan, the subject of this sketch, was seven years of age when his parents removed from Portland, Ind., to Mercer county, Ohio. In Fort Recovery, Ohio, he received his preliminary education, and this was supplemented by an eighteen-months' course of study in the schools of Celina, Ohio, which fully fitted and equipped him for his life work. In 1862 he entered the naval academy at Newport, R. I., where he remained until 1865, when the school was removed to Annapolis, Md., and at Annapolis he finished his course in 1868, with the rank of past midshipman. After leaving the naval academy he began reading law with Hon. T. J. Godfrey, remaining in his office as a student one year, when he abandoned the reading of law to engage in the banking business, and became a member of the firm of Milligan, Godfrey & Co., he being the "Co." On February 2, 1872, he accepted the position of cashier of this firm, which he held until the re-organization of the bank in 1874, the style of the firm being then changed to Godfrey & Milligan, the subject of this sketch still continuing to serve as cashier. In 1888 the firm was again changed, when C. E. Riley and J. B. Pulskamp each purchased an interest, the name of the concern being then changed to the Commercial Bank of Celina, and Mr. Milligan retained as cashier, and still holding this position.

Besides the banking business Mr. Milligan is interested in the oil business, and owns a large tract of land in Ohio, and also land in other states, beside considerable real estate in Celina. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias. He was married at Fort Recovery, Ohio, June 24, 1869, to Miss Rachel Fox, who was born in that place January 10, 1848, and is a daughter of John and Christina Fox, both natives of Ohio. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Milligan there has been born one child, Alviere, born April 28, 1871. Mr. Milligan is a democrat and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, good people, of high standing in church and social circles, and among the best citizens of Mercer county.

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**WILLIAM MONEYSMITH**, a prosperous and prominent farmer of Center township, was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, December 19, 1853. He is a son of Jonas and Elizabeth (Long) Moneysmith, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1821, was of German descent and removed to Ohio with his parents, who settled on a farm in Allen county, Ohio, some time in the 'thirties. Jonas remained with his parents until he attained his majority, having in the meantime received such education as was obtainable in the subscription schools of the neighborhood in which he lived. He married Elizabeth Long in 1840, and by her he had three children, as follows: Amanda, deceased; Hulda and William. Elizabeth Long was a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Haney) Long, whose ancestors came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, at an early day, and settled in Auglaize county. Jonas Moneysmith was a zealous member of the Baptist church and was superintendent of the Sunday-school for a number of years. In politics he was a whig, and he died at the age of thirty-seven.

William Moneysmith was reared on a farm, but at the early age of six years lost his father. He began to care for himself when sixteen years old, which he has done ever since. The hard experience of his youth has been of value to him in many ways, as it early taught him the necessity and incalculable value of self-reliance, in a world where in business pursuits every man appears to be working solely for his own benefit, and not at all for others. He began by working on a farm, as an ordinary laborer, in the summer time. By so doing and by cutting timber in the winter time, he soon earned enough and saved enough to enable him to attend school at Celina, where he acquired sufficient knowledge of the common-school branches of learning to secure a certificate to teach. On this certificate he taught one term of school, and out of the salary thus earned he saved sufficient to pay his way at college at Valparaiso, Ind., and after leaving this college he taught school for several years. Of the money thus earned he saved enough to buy a farm, or rather a forty-acre tract of land in Center township, Mercer county, to which he subsequently removed, having married Miss Sarah C. Blakley, September 16, 1876. To this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Della, Elizabeth, Grace and Ada. The father of Mrs. Moneysmith is William Blakley. Her mother is Lucinda (Lacy) Blakley, of Wapakoneta, Auglaize county, where Mrs. Moneysmith was born July 8, 1859.

Since his removal to his farm Mr. Moneysmith has been engaged in what is sometimes called "truck farming," and has purchased an adjoining farm, upon which there is an oil well. Taking all things into consideration, Mr. Moneysmith has made of his life-work thus far an unusual success, and may look forward to a prosperous future in the farm work he has chosen. In religious faith he is a Methodist, but as there is no church of that denomination near his residence, he has united with the United Brethren church, whose church edifice is quite near by. Politically he is an ardent supporter of the republican party, and is ever ready to lend his aid and by all honorable means within his power or within his reach to further and promote the interests of that party. He is also a warm friend of the cause of education, and is exerting all his energies to give his children the best possible education within his means to give, knowing that in their mature years they will, for all he can do for them in this direction, rise up and call him blessed.

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**DAVID S. MONROE**, an enterprising farmer of Butler township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born and reared in the township in which he now lives. There he has always followed the independent and noble occupation of agriculture. He is a son of Henry J. and Mary J. (Miller) Monroe, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, and who came to Ohio when yet a single man. Henry J. is the only one of his family that ever came to Ohio, and of his ancestry nothing is now known. He located in Miami county, and after a few years, in 1837, married Mary J. Miller, a daughter of Robert and Sarah Miller, both of whom are natives of Ohio. They opened a farm in Miami county, upon which they lived and reared their family of eight children, who, after arriving at years of maturity, scattered to different states, Mrs. Monroe and her brother, David, who resides near Portland, Ind., being all that are left. Robert and Sarah Miller are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry J. Monroe, for a number of years after his marriage, lived on a rented farm in Miami county, and about 1855 moved to Mercer county, where he purchased the site of Montpelier, the tract comprising 120 acres, a part of which had been platted and divided into town lots, many of which had been sold, and John Wright running a small store there. The town was among the very first laid out in the county, being ahead of Celina, but after Celina was laid out, and the county seat located there, Montpelier fell through. Mr. Monroe then bought eighty acres of what had been town lots and proceeded to convert them into a farm, and he afterward obtained the remaining forty acres, so that his farm at length became identical with the former town site of Montpelier. Clearing off the timber, he improved the land, and made of it a good farm and a most desirable home. It lies three and a half miles south of Celina and near the grand reservoir. Here he erected a commodious dwelling, a good barn, and other buildings, set out a fine orchard, and here lived until 1867, when he died, leaving his wife, and children to the number of seven, who still live to honor his memory, the wife living on the old homestead, and enjoying the fruits of her deceased husband's labors. He was a member of the United Brethren church, to which his widow still adheres. He was a republican in politics, but was never an office seeker. He was a most prominent man in many ways, ready to perform good deeds, and assisted his neighbors in their struggles with the world. His character was of the best, his integrity unimpeachable, and his disposition kindly and generous. In his death the entire community felt a great loss, and realized that a good man had gone to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

The children of this highly esteemed couple were as follows: Frank, a prominent farmer of Butler township; Martha A., wife of Benjamin Yaney; James H., a farmer of Butler township; John, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ind.; Nancy J., deceased wife of Edward Palmer; George, who died at the age of twenty-three; David S., the youngest, who is now carrying on the home farm, and taking care of his mother. This farm contains 120 acres, eighty acres of which are cleared, ditched and under a high state of cultivation. David S. also owns a farm in his own right in Franklin township, a few miles from the homestead.

David S. Monroe was married February 17, 1880, to Miss Jennie Kendal, who was born in Mercer county, August 8, 1857, and is a daughter of William A. and Annetta (Hunter) Kendal, both of Miami county, Ohio. William A. Kendal located in that county at an early day, when the country was very sparsely settled and when there were but few roads, and those very bad. He was a minister of the United Brethren church, but owned a farm which he conducted himself. He was regularly ordained and traveled a circuit many years on horseback, on account of the difficulty in getting about. He died in March, 1893. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, viz: Jennie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Lizzie, wife of Thomas Curren, a farmer; Hanson T., a farmer; Effie, wife of Elmer Barker, a farmer; William, a school-teacher; Lawrence and Alonzo, twins; Benjamin, a school-teacher; Cora, wife of Frank Grundon, a carpenter; Otis and Roy, both living at home. David S. and Jennie Monroe have had six children born to them, viz: Norris, Ray, Pearly, Clyde, Ernest and Orrin. They are among the most prominent people of their township, and have hosts of friends.

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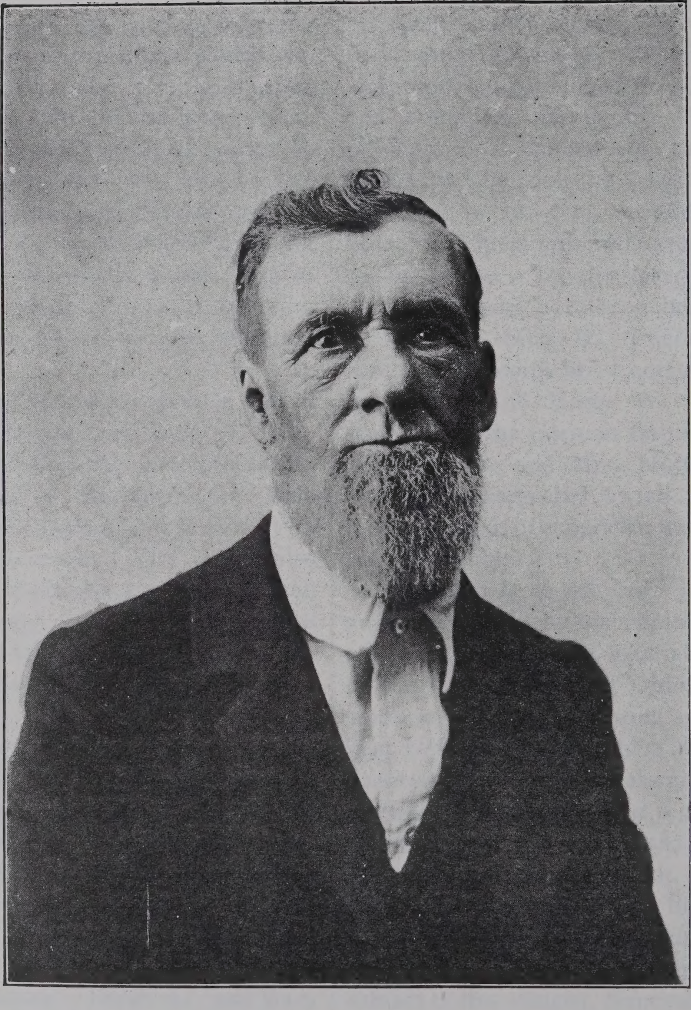
JAMES Z. MOTT, a substantial farmer, a highly respected citizen, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, springs from sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestors. He is a son of Abraham and Abigail (Coate) Mott, and was born July 12, 1841, in Gibson township, Mercer county, but then in Darke county. His education was such as the limited and poor facilities of pioneer days enabled him to secure, and when he was nineteen years of age he enlisted at Fort Recovery, November 3, 1861, in company K, Fortieth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, of which company Alexander A. Knapp was captain. His enlistment was for three years or during the war. He served until he veteranized at Shellmont, Ga., in January, 1864, re-enlisting for three years or during the war, and serving until honorably discharged at Victoria, Tex., October 4, 1865, the war having come to an end, with the rank of commissary sergeant. The principal battles in which he was engaged were those of Middle Creek, Ky., the first battle of Franklin, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, those of the famous Atlanta campaign, including that at Atlanta in which Gen. McPherson was killed; the great battle of Atlanta a few days later, that at Jonesboro, and at Lovejoy station. Afterward he was in the battle of Columbia, Tenn., and the great battle of Nashville, in which the rebel Gen. Hood was so thoroughly defeated by Gen. Thomas. Beside these, he was in many skirmishes and minor engagements. Though a young man, yet he was hardy and robust, endured the hardships of war with fortitude, and came home in good health, with the respect of his superior officers. While he was never wounded, yet he had several close calls, many bullets piercing his clothing and one clipping one of his ears. He performed his full duty to his country, and says that the hardest battle he was in was that of Chickamauga. With the money he had saved out of his soldier's wages he purchased eighty acres of land in Gibson township, which constitute a part of his present farm, and which he purchased while still in the army. The land was all covered over with thick woods, so that after his return from the war he had plenty of work to perform in clearing and improving his farm. He was married November 28, 1866, to Mary Elizabeth Grant, born at Rose Hill, Darke county, November 28, 1849, and a daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Replogle) Grant.

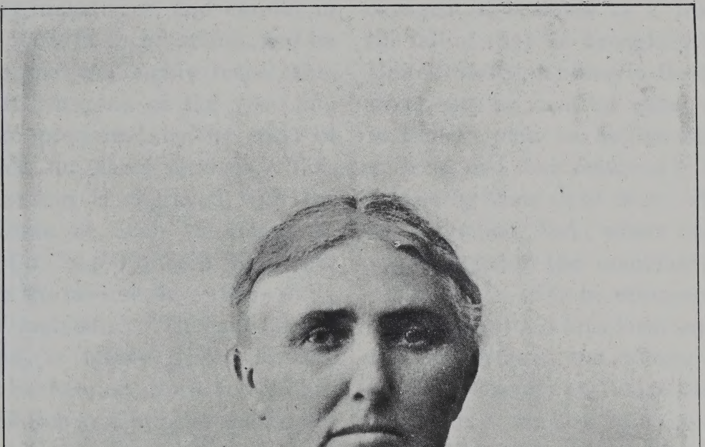
Alexander Grant, father of his wife, was of New England stock, was born June 12, 1821, and it is believed of the same descent as Gen. U. S. Grant, and of sterling Scotch-Irish ancestry. He was a farmer and settled at an early day at Fort Recovery. His father, also named Alexander, entered 1,100 acres of land from the government, and married Elizabeth Montgomery, by whom he had the following children: James, Jonathan, Marcus, Hezekiah, Sarah, Eva, Amy, Rebecca, and Rachael; these are the names of those who are remembered. Alexander Grant, Sr., during the war, removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, and settled on a farm. In the early days he ran an ox-mill in Mercer county, Ohio, was a well known citizen, and amassed considerable wealth. Alexander Grant, Jr., father of Mrs. Mott, married Margaret Replogle, by whom he had the following children: Sarah L. and Mary E. He was a farmer, a good man, well liked by all that knew him, and died July 28, 1850, when twenty-nine years, one month and sixteen days of age. His widow married Henry Lowrey, by whom she had four children, as follows: Frances M., Delilah R., Amanda E., and Margaret V. Mrs. Lowrey is still living at the age of sixty-seven, and a member of the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. James Z. Mott settled in November, 1867, on their present farm, then a perfect wilderness, upon which he at first put up a hewed log house, and which he cleared and improved, and made into an excellent farm and home for his family. To his original purchase he has added from time to time until at the present time he owns 173 acres. On this farm, in 1889, he erected a good frame house, and he is now well situated to live and to enjoy life. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mott there have been born six children, as follows: Silas H., James C., Annie V. (deceased), George M., Lemuel R. (died March 22, 1896), and Harry W. Mr. Mott is a member of the German Baptist, or Dunkard, church. Mr. and Mrs. Mott are well liked and highly respected by all. Mr. Mott has held the offices of supervisor and school director for many years.

Abraham Mott was born in Pennsylvania, and was brought by his parents to Ohio when a boy. His father, Zachariah Mott, was one of the early settlers in Ohio, coming to the state in 1818, and locating in Darke county, near Gettysburg, but which is now in Miami county. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a well-to-do pioneer. He removed to Tippecanoe county, Ind., in 1824, and later to White county, in the same state, and there died. Abraham Mott and his wife were the parents of the following children: Elizabeth, Moses, Mary, Maria, Abraham, James Z. (the subject of this sketch), Nancy A., and Lucinda, all of whom lived to mature years. In 1836 Mr. Mott entered eighty acres of land in Gibson township, and converted it into a good farm. He had two sons in the late Civil war, James Z. and Abraham. He and his wife



JOHN S. PUMPHREY.



MRS. J. S. PUMPHREY.

were members of the German Baptist church, good, highly esteemed people, and he died in Gibson township, at the age of seventy-six years.

James Z. Mott has always been a hard-working man, very industrious, and careful in the management of his financial affairs, and he and his wife have reared a highly respectable family. Mr. Mott was one of the 700 Ohio soldiers that were presented by the state of Ohio with medals for their services. This medal is of bronze and is engraved with the words: "The State of Ohio to James Z. Mott, Veteran, Co. K., Fortieth Regiment O. V. I.," and on the reverse side, 1861–1865, with appropriate emblems. This medal, as may be imagined, is highly prized by Mr. Mott, and it will be handed down to his children and their children as a priceless heirloom.

JOHN S. PUMPHREY, one of the most prominent citizens of Celina, Ohio, was born January 7, 1836, in the city of Worcester, Worcestershire, England—a city famous, among many other things, for its manufacture of gloves. He is a son of Samuel and Mary (Saunders) Pumphrey, both natives of the same city. Samuel Pumphrey was a son of John Pumphrey, who was a manufacturer of kid gloves in Worcester. The Pumphrey family has for centuries been a wealthy and prominent one in Worcester, and the subject of this sketch has in his possession pieces of silver plate which have been in the family for more than one hundred and sixty years. He also has portraits of seven generations of the Pumphrey family. A first cousin of John Pumphrey, Anthony Purver, made a "New and Literal Translation of the New and Old Testament," which was published in 1764, a copy of which is owned by John S. Pumphrey.

Samuel Pumphrey was a highly educated man, and was graduated from both Oxford and Cambridge universities. He learned the trade of a tallow-chandler, but did not follow it to any great extent. For several years he was engaged in business as a tea merchant. In the fall of 1837 he brought his family to the United States, landing in Boston, Mass., from which city he went by water to Philadelphia. In Philadelphia he remained about eighteen months, and then removed to Columbus, Ohio, remaining there until 1841, when he removed to Richmond, Ind., where for eleven years he was engaged in the manufacture of soap and candles. In 1852 he removed to Jay county, Ind., and settled on a farm several miles northeast of Portland, the county seat. Here he followed farming and school-teaching for several years. He was an unusually fine scholar, as may be inferred from what has been stated above, and he wrote much excellent poetry, some of which was published. His death occurred in the fall of 1859, his wife surviving until August 26, 1881, and dying in Celina. The remains of both parents lie buried in the cemetery at Celina. They were the parents of nine children, only two of whom still live.

John S. Pumphrey was reared in Richmond and in Jay county, Ind., and received his education principally in the schools of Richmond. Until his father's death he remained on the farm in Jay county, and in September, 1865, he removed to Celina, where he spent several years in hunting, trapping and fishing. Later he became engaged in the nursery business, removing, in 1878, to his present farm, which adjoins the corporate limits of Celina on the north and west. Here he owns forty-one and a half acres of land. Since his location there he has been engaged in the nursery and greenhouse business, and at the present time he has in course of erection two large greenhouses, 20x75 feet in size. He is putting in his own water works, so that he may irrigate his premises independently of any other person or of any corporation.

Mr. Pumphrey was married, in 1861, to Miss Sarah McCoskrey, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, and to their marriage there have been born eleven children, of whom nine are living, viz: Candia, deceased wife of Wesley C. Roser, by whom she had five children: John Samuel, married and has four daughters; Susan R., married to William Bates, and has one daughter; Ellen, married to Erastus May, and has four children; Sarah Frances, married to William Miller, and has three children; Leonard, Olive J., Leslie and Bessie. Mr. Pumphrey was reared a Quaker in religion, and is a republican in politics. He is an unusually active man, is energetic and successful in his business, and is a worthy representative of the family from which he sprang.

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JOEL F. MOORE, one of the pioneer settlers of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Plattsburg, N. Y., December 6, 1820, and is a son of Joel F. and Phebe (Gregory) Moore, natives respectively of Vermont and Connecticut. Both were descendants of the ancient pilgrim stock, full of pluck and patriotism, Joel F. Moore, the grandfather of the subject, being a soldier in the war of the Revolution, serving all through the war, and participating in many of the battles, as well as experiencing during his soldier life many a thrilling adventure.

Joel F. Moore, Sr., and Phebe Gregory were married at Plattsburg, Clinton county, N. Y., and there they lived until 1834. Then they removed to Rochester, N. Y., lived there until 1836, then they came to Ohio via the Erie canal and Lake Erie to Toledo, where they took a keel boat up the Maumee river to Fort Wayne, Ind., and there re-shipped on another keel boat on the Saint Mary's river, landing at Shanesville, now Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio. At that time Shanesville was a small hamlet, containing some seven families, and there Mr. Moore died the next summer, 1837, being then in his fifty-second year. He left a family consisting of his wife and nine children, the children being as follows: Lewis P., a blacksmith, who died in Lenawee county, Mich.; William G., a farmer, who died in Michigan; Melissa, deceased wife of John D. Ralston, of Shanesville, Ohio; Mary Ann, deceased wife of R. Lent; Rose Ann, who was married to C. B. Whitley, and died in Rockford, Ohio, in August, 1877, at the age of seventy-seven years; Phebe A., deceased wife of C. L. Shearemyer, dying at Decatur, Ind.; Susan, deceased wife of P. F. Robinson, of Rockford, Ohio; Hannah, who died at the age of ten years; Joel F., the subject of this sketch, who was the sixth in order of birth. The mother of these children died in 1850, aged sixty-six.

Joel F. Moore, our subject, spent his boyhood much as did other farmer boys in his day and age of the world. His education was obtained in the common schools, which he attended until removing to Rockford, and after his father's death he learned the trade of shoemaker. At this trade he has worked all his life, taking care of his mother until her death, and also supporting his younger sisters. He established himself in the shoemaking business in Shanesville, was the second shoemaker in the place, and there spent some thirty-two years at that trade; then, removing to Celina, he was engaged in the same way about sixteen months, in partnership with George W. Smith, but, closing out this partnership, he went to Geneva, Adams county, Ind., where he was similarly engaged four years. He then removed to Poneto, Wells county, Ind., where he now resides.

Since 1856, when Gen. John C. Fremont was a candidate for the presidency, Mr. Moore has been a strong republican, and during the war of the Rebellion he was very much in favor of the suppression of that attempt to overthrow the republic. During the war he was postmaster of Shanesville three years, and he also held some of the corporation offices. He was in fact one of the incorporators of the town, and he largely assisted in building up primitive Rockford. He was also active in aiding all public improvements that were needed and carried on in those early days, such as cutting roads, attending log rollings, helping to erect log cabins for new settlers, and in short everything that anybody assisted in or needed done found in him a helping hand. Money and time were freely donated by him to any public enterprise calculated to promote the public good. Toward the erection of the first church edifice in the place he contributed $50—nearly one-fourth of his worldly possessions. In every sense of the word he has been a man among men, liberal to a fault, genial in his disposition, and he has endeared himself to the entire community to such a degree that his name is indissolubly associated with almost every interest belonging thereto.

His wife died April 28, 1895, at the age of sixty-six years, six months and eleven days. She was born in Shanesville October 17, 1828, and was a daughter of the well-known pioneer, Col. Hedges. She was the mother of four children, as follows: Susan H., who was married to Rev. J. W. Miller, and died at Toledo, Ohio, September 30, 1889, aged forty-four; Charles K., who died in infancy; William E., one of Rockford's best business men, born April 2, 1852, and Franklin D., who resides at Montpelier, Ind., and is agent for musical instruments and sewing machines. He was born May 15, 1855.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he and his wife having united with that denomination in 1850, four years after their marriage, which occurred May 3, 1846. Mr. Moore has always been active in the performance of his church duties, and was an official in his church for many years. Fraternally he is a member of Shanesville lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and socially he is of high standing among his fellow-men.

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JOHN M. MOSIER, an early settler and a prominent farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Fairfield county, August 30, 1817. Reared upon his father's farm, he remained at home with his parents until he was married, in 1841. Immediately afterward he began life for himself on rented land, which he farmed until 1844, in which year he bought the tract of land, on which he yet lives. In the original tract there were eighty acres, but Mr. Mosier not long afterward bought forty acres more, making his farm then consist of 120 acres. Very soon after removing to Mercer county Mr. Mosier had a log cabin erected and began the work of clearing and improving his land. He was one of the first settlers in the region in which he now lives, and neighbors were then few and far between. The county seat had already been located at Celina, which was a very small place, having less than 100 inhabitants, and his nearest neighbor, otherwise, was three miles distant. For the purpose of holding court and transacting the county business a temporary court house had been erected, or rather was rented, which served for some time. Mr. Mosier has himself assisted in the erection of two court houses, and he has seen the town and surrounding country develop from the condition of a wilderness to that of a highly civilized and prosperous state.

The land that he purchased when he first came to Mercer county cost him $140, all that he was able to pay for it. Since then he has made his own way in the world, aided materially and always encouraged by his excellent wife. He has now over 100 acres of land in a high state of cultivation, with a good, large dwelling house, and a fine barn, an unusually fine orchard, etc., everything, in short, that goes to make a good farmer's home. His farm is located one mile from the court house in Celina, and borders on the corporation line. Both he and his wife take great interest in public affairs, and are public-spirited citizens. Mr. Mosier is a democrat in politics, but does not aspire to office of any kind. He has, however, held the office of township trustee and a few other minor offices, but not because he desired political prominence or anything of the kind; only because he was willing to perform his duty to the public whenever necessary.

Mr. Mosier married Miss Jemima Davis, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 7, 1819, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Perry) Davis, the former of whom was of Welsh descent, and the latter of German. He was a farmer and died in Fairfield county. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, viz: Thomas, Catherine, Jemima, wife of the subject; Mary, Elizabeth, Susanna, Christina, Sarah and Jacob. Only three of the above, all of them daughters, are now living.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mosier, there have been born eight children, viz: Mary C. and Emily J., both of whom died young; Phillip, who died at the age of fourteen; Perry, who died when quite young; Jacob, who died December 4, 1895, aged forty-four years; George, who died young; Maggie, wife of John Younger, who is at the present time marshal of Celina, and William, married and farming on the old homestead. Both parents and all the children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

It will now be appropriate to treat somewhat briefly of the ancestry of Mr. Mosier. He is a son of Philip and Catherine (Dust) Mosier, both of whom were from Virginia. After their marriage they removed at a very early day to Fairfield county, when Lancaster had but a very few houses in it. Mr. Mosier was offered almost any quantity of land that he might be willing to take, for the team of horses he brought into the county with him, but preferred to keep his team. He settled on a piece of land, which he cleared and improved, and upon which he lived the remainder of his days, dying about 1840. He and his wife were among the best class of the pioneers, always friendly and kind to all, and always ready to lend a helping hand. They were both Lutherans, and reared a family of seven children, viz: Sarah, Henry, Margaret, George, Daniel, Polly and John M., the latter two being twins. The subject of this sketch is the only one of the above family now living, and he and his brother George were the only members of the family that ever removed to Mercer county. George Mosier removed to Mercer county in 1839 and died July 13, 1895. He was one of the pioneers of his part of the county, and became a prominent farmer.

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ABRAHAM L. MUSSULMAN, a retired yet representative citizen of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, in which he was forever disabled, was born in Richland county, Ohio, December 7, 1839, and is a son of Christian and Eliza (Lamar) Mussulman.

Christian Mussulman, father of our subject, was born in Cumberland county, Pa. (near

Harrisburg, Dauphin county), March 6, 1807, a son of John and Frances (Martin) Mussulman, the former of whom died a farmer in his native state, but the latter in Mercer county, Ohio. Christian came to Ohio about 1838, located in Richland county, north of Mansfield, moved thence to Logan county, and in 1851 came to Mercer county and purchased eighty acres of heavy timber land in Center township, erected a primitive round log cabin, 18x20 feet, in which he lived until 1861, when he built a four-room frame residence, and in 1883 moved to Mound Valley, Labette county, Kans., where he died January 27, 1886, having passed his entire life as a farmer and school-teacher. In politics he was first a democrat, but later became a republican, and in religion was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His widow, whom he married August 28, 1833, is a daughter of Abraham and Mary (Campbell) Lamar, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., March 25, 1816, and still resides in Labette county, Kans., the mother of ten children, viz: Frances, wife of Miles Rider, of Jay county, Ind.; Eliza Ann, wife of Charles Ward, of Rockford, Ohio; Abraham L., our subject; John M., a railroad employee, of Saint Joseph, Mo.; Samuel, drowned at two years of age; Henry, a farmer, of Labette county, Kans.; Asa, a teacher and miner, of Joplin, Mo.; Louisa, wife of John Sheets, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Christian, who died in early childhood, and Benjamin, who was taken away in early infancy.

Abraham L. Mussulman, our subject, was reared a farmer and received his education in a district log school-house. December 1, 1861, he enlisted in company D, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry; he was mustered out January 1, 1863, and the same day veteranized in his old company and regiment, and served until honorably discharged, for disability and also for reason of the close of the war, at Brown's hospital, Louisville, Ky., June 2, 1865. Among the many battles, sieges and skirmishes in which Mr. Mussulman participated may be mentioned, as the most important, those of Shiloh, Franklin and Nashville. At the last named, December 16, 1864, he was wounded by a rifle-ball in the right ankle, for the cure of which amputation became necessary, and this, of course, rendered him disabled for life. He was confined, for this reason, in College Hill hospital at Nashville, from December, 1864, until April, 1865, and was then removed to Brown's hospital, where he lay until discharged as related above, with the rank of corporal, and at once returned to his home. The following September he moved to Rockford, where for five years he engaged in the grocery business; he then sold out and returned to his eighty-acre farm in Center township, cultivated it for three years, and then returned to Rockford, with the hope of passing the remainder of his life in retirement, but his mental activity and nervous energy were too great just then to permit a life of ease, and he therefore purchased a tract of fifty-four acres of woodland near Rockford, cleared it up and converted it into a good farm; again sold out and retired to private life in Rockford, where he resides in a fine modern two-story frame dwelling, 38x40 feet, which he erected in 1883, and which is one of the best structures in the city.

April 15, 1866, Mr. Mussulman was united in marriage with Miss Lovisa Thompson, a daughter of James and Mary (McIntire) Thompson, of whom Mr. Thompson died at the age of forty years, when Mrs. Mussulman was but five years of age, and Mrs. Thompson in 1877, at the age of seventy-six years. To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were born thirteen children, named as follows: Lucinda, deceased wife of James Bolton, of Lima, Ohio; Samuel, a civil engineer, who made the survey of the Mercer county reservoir, became county surveyor, county judge and probate judge of Mahaska county, Iowa, and there died in 1880, at the age of fifty years; Jane, wife of James Hankins, of Mendon, Ohio; Eleanor, deceased wife of Joshua Noble, of Auglaize county; Matilda, married and residing in Mount Pleasant, Iowa; James, a county supervisor of Franklin county, Iowa, and a merchant of Hampton; Andrew, a farmer of Hampton; Almina, wife of William Tyler, of the same place; Lovisa, wife of our subject; Martha, who died in early childhood; Catherine, wife of H. D. Williams, of Seattle, Wash.; Elizabeth, and Edward, both of whom died in infancy. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham L. Mussulman has been blessed by the birth of nine children, in the following order: William L., a telegraph operator for the Missouri Pacific Railroad company at Coffeyville, Kans.; Mary, who died at nine months of age; Emma, a graduate of the Rockford high school and a teacher in the public schools of Rockford; Anna, also a graduate of the Rockford high school and a teacher in the public schools of Mendon, Ohio; Catherine, Eva and Boyd at home; Samuel, who died at the age of four years, and an infant that died unnamed.

In politics Mr. Mussulman is a stanch republican and for three years served as constable, and for one year as marshal of the village of Rockford. In religion the family are Methodists, and much of the credit for the erection of the present Methodist Episcopal church edifice in Rockford is due to Mr. Mussulman, who spared neither time nor money in bringing about the building thereof, and of this he is still a trustee. Mr. Mussulman is highly respected as a useful citizen and is honored as one of his country's defenders in her time of need, as well as for his long and faithful service and for the honorable life-long wound he bears.

DAVID NEAR, a prominent farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born January 15, 1818. He is a son of James and Eve (Klise) Near, the former of whom was born near Harper's Ferry, Va., in 1783, and was of English descent. He was reared on a farm in Virginia and was there educated, and about 1810 married Miss Eve Klise, by whom he became the father of ten children, as follows: Catherine, deceased wife of Peter A. Temple, of Van Wert, also now deceased; John, a farmer of Indiana; Samuel, deceased; Mary, wife of John Clark, of Illinois; David, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, widow of Jesse White, of Fayette county; James, of Ross county; Barbara, widow of Saul Briggs, of Jay county, Ind.; Isabelle, deceased wife of Christopher Strader, of Franklin county; and Philip, deceased. Miss Eve Klise was born in the Shenandoah valley about 1789, her father being a native of Virginia, but of German descent. James Near and wife, after their marriage, emigrated to Ross county, Ohio, and were among that county's earliest settlers. He was a soldier in the war of 1812–15, was a farmer by occupation, and died about 1828. In politics he was a democrat; he was not a church member, though his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

David Near, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm and was educated in Ross county, and in 1842 was there married to Miss Ann Putnam, a daughter of Peter and Kesiah (Hoddy) Putnam, and to this marriage there were born seven children: Joseph, died in infancy; Jane, wife of James Foster, of Dublin township, whose biographical sketch appears on another page in this volume; Allison, living on the home place, who married Helen Dilbone, full mention of whose family history is given in the sketch of John Dilbone, on another page; Mary Ann, wife of Charles Wilson, of

Dublin township; Francis Marion, deceased; Henrietta, wife of Abner Buck, of Hopewell township; Charlotte, wife of Claybourne C. Sutton, of Dublin township. Mrs. Near was born in Ross county, December 17, 1824, her parents living and dying in Ross county. She was one of a family of eleven brothers and sisters, as follows: Isaac and Joseph, deceased; Crawford and Edward, of Ross county; Phillip, deceased; Jane, wife of Allan Mouser, of Pickaway county; Mary, widow of Allan Wilkins, of Ross county; Alfred, John, Jesse and Frank, all of Ross county. Mrs. Near was the third in order of birth of the ten.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Near lived in Ross county seven years, and in 1849 removed to Van Wert county, where Mr. Near purchased a farm in the woods, which he cleared and improved and lived upon until he removed his family to Mercer county, purchasing his present place in 1875, the farm containing 120 acres, all cleared and under a high state of cultivation. All the improvements now upon the farm Mr. Near placed there himself, with the exception of the barn. The house he erected in 1880. Mr. Near is a democrat in politics and in religion a member of the Christian Union church, of which, in 1890, there were 18,000 members in the United States. His wife is also a member of this denomination. In Van Wert county Mr. Near served as trustee for six years, in Washington township. Mr. Near is a public-spirited citizen and is highly respected by all who know him, far away or close at hand.

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MILETUS NEWCOMB, a successful farmer of Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, and agent for agricultural implements, was born in that township June 13, 1849. He is a son of Miletus Madison Newcomb and Margaret C. (Ellis) Newcomb. His father was a prominent citizen of Mercer county. Miletus Newcomb remained on the farm with his father until his marriage. In the meantime he secured an excellent education in the public schools and in the high school at Celina, and for some years afterward taught school in the winter season, and worked on the farm the rest of the year. At the time of his marriage, March 18, 1872, he had saved from his earnings sufficient to pay for a portion of the farm on which he now resides. He married Miss Mary J. Raudabaugh, daughter of the late Judge George W. Raudabaugh, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere on another page, and Catherine (Roberts) Raudabaugh.

Miletus and Mary J. Newcomb are the parents of twelve children, as follows: Winfield Newton, deceased; Leona, deceased; Earnest, Margaret Catherine, Phena, also deceased; Clyde, Ellis, Lillie, Rhoda, George, Floss and Albert. Since his marriage Mr. Newcomb has devoted his time and attention to farming for the most part, but has also to some extent been engaged in selling agricultural implements and in baling and shipping hay. In the latter business he has been in partnership with his father. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a zealous republican. So active and earnest is he in his devotion to republican principles that his party has made him a member of the county central committee, and he is at the present time a member of the election board of Center township, and he is also a member of the township board of education.

Mr. Newcomb is a man that believes in the fullest enjoyment of life consistent with good morals. In carrying out this idea he laid aside the cares and labors of farm life and together with his wife and other members of his family spent considerable time at the Cotton States & International exposition in 1895, a trip which all enjoyed and appreciated to the fullest extent. His farm contains sixty acres, four and a half miles from Celina, on the State Line pike. It is finely improved.

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ZENAS NICHOLSON, one of the oldest settlers of Mercer county, Ohio, and a prominent man in many ways, is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Swingle) Nicholson, and was born in Luzerne county, Pa., December 23, 1815. His father was of English descent, but was born in Connecticut about 1779.

Jonathan Nicholson was reared in Connecticut on a farm and was educated in his native state. Having acquired a good common-school education he went to Pennsylvania to teach school, and was there married in 1805, to Elizabeth Swingle, a native of Pennsylvania, born about 1780, of Dutch descent. To this marriage of Jonathan and Elizabeth Nicholson there were born fifteen children, as follows: John; Catherine, who married a Morman preacher named A. Rose; Edmund, Henry, Harmon, all of the above having died; Francis, of Steuben county, N. Y.; Zenas, the subject of this sketch; Jonathan, deceased; Wesley and David, both living in the state of New York; Ambrose, deceased; Minos (Mrs. A. Smith), of Steuben county, N. Y.; Nordica, deceased; Perry, of Steuben county, N. Y., and Charles, deceased. After his marriage Jonathan Nicholson located on a farm in Pennsylvania, farming in the summer and teaching school in the winter season. Removing to New York in 1823 he remained in that state the rest of his life. He was a licensed preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a good preacher. Politically he was a democrat, and died in 1864, his wife having died ten years before. He was patriotic in his feelings, inheriting his patriotism from his father, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Zenas Nicholson was reared on a farm, and educated in the public schools of New York. February 18, 1838, he married Mary Fischer, who was born in Tioga county, N. Y., of English parentage in 1823. To their marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Joseph, George, Caroline, Jonathan, Almiretta, and Marilla, all deceased; James, who served a year and a half as a member of company B, Eleventh Indiana volunteer cavalry; and Emeline (Mrs. McQueen), of Kansas. After his marriage, the subject of this sketch remained in the state of New York until 1839, when he removed to Jay county, Ind., leased a farm, and lived upon it until August, 1861, when he bought forty acres, upon which he lived until the death of his wife, in 1853. In 1854 he married Rebecca Baker, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1827, and to this marriage there have been born six children, as follows: Mary Ann (Mrs. Cole), of Muncie, Ind.; Lucinda D., at home; Alice L., deceased; Ambrose, deceased; Isaac, deceased, and Almeda, deceased, all four dying within two weeks, of scarlet fever. The mother of these children died in 1890, and Mr. Nicholson, for his third wife, married, in June, 1892, Mrs. Elizabeth (Ports) Priest, a daughter of Absalom and Mary (Trumbo) Ports. The third Mrs. Nicholson was born in Tuscarawas county, February 13, 1836, of English and German parentage. When she was one year of age she came with her parents to Delaware county, Ohio, where they died in 1891. In Delaware county she was educated, and there was married to James Thompson, who was born in Ohio in 1833, and died in 1874. To this marriage there were born six children, as follows: Ervin, of Arkansas; Thomas B., of Nebraska; Stephen I., also of Nebraska; Emma (Mrs. Williard), of Indiana; Willis E., of

Indiana; Mary (Mrs. Click), also of Indiana. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Thompson married Enoch Priest, who was born in 1826, and died in 1887. After this marriage she and her husband lived in Jay county, Ind., until the latter's death, and then she spent four years in Nebraska with her children. Then, returning to Ohio, she married Mr. Nicholson, as above narrated. The grandfather of Mrs. Nicholson was a soldier in the war of 1812. Her father, Absalom Ports, was a democrat in politics, and a much respected citizen.

Both Mr. Nicholson and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are highly esteemed people, standing high not only in religious circles, but also in social circles. Mrs. Nicholson has brothers and sisters living, as follows: Rebecca, of Sunbury, Ohio; Mac, who served in the Civil war, losing a leg on the battle field; Hannah (Mrs. Krego), of Columbus, Ohio; Nellie (Mrs. Townley), of Sunbury, Ohio; Mina (Mrs. Truker), of Wisconsin. Mrs. Nicholson is in excellent health and in looks yet a young woman. She is a genial and pleasant lady, a motherly woman, a comfort to her husband and to her family, and in every way worthy of all respect and esteem.

Mr. Nicholson lived in Jay county, Ind., just across the state line from Mercer county, Ohio, until August, 1861, when he sold his Indiana farm and purchased sixty-eight acres of woodland in Mercer county, of which he has cleared all but nine acres, and has all the cleared land under cultivation. This land he improved in every way, made himself independent, and ten years ago, or in 1886, retired, and has since lived in ease and dignity, renting his farm. As a republican, he has held various local offices, and is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as also is his wife, she having belonged to that church since she was eleven years of age. Mr. Nicholson has been a leader in his church and superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years, and has also been made a member of the quarterly conference. The father of Mr. Nicholson was a man of great learning, and taught his son by the fireside, and he is still a great reader and student of public affairs. He is believed to be the oldest man now living in his township, and he is one of the most highly respected citizens of the county, both he and his wife standing unusually high in the estimation of the general public.

* * *

JOSEPH NUDING, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, and a son of Frederick and Barbara (Engle) Nuding, was born March 17, 1845, in Fairfield county, Ohio. Frederick Nuding was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, January 25, 1815, and was a son of Joseph and Eva (Shawl) Nuding, the former of whom was a farmer in his native country, and by his wife Eva was the father of five children, as follows: Catherine, who married a Mr. Lader, and is now deceased; Frederick, father of the subject; Magdalena (Mrs. Hess), deceased; Christine (Mrs. Hoffert), of Illinois, and Christian, now living with Joseph, the subject of this sketch. Joseph and Eva Nuding came to America in 1831, landing in New York after a voyage of ninety-five days, and, locating in Perry county, Ohio, bought thirty acres of land, upon which they lived four years. Then, moving to Sandusky county, they lived there two years on forty acres entered from the government, and at the end of these two years removed to Fairfield county, and there lived until their death on a farm. Mr. Nuding was a democrat in politics, and a Lutheran in religion, his wife also belonging to the Lutheran church. He died in 1847 at the age of sixty-three, and she died in 1866, aged seventy-six.

Frederick Nuding was reared on the farm in Germany, and on October 30, 1842, married Barbara Engle, a daughter of George and Mary (Hansel) Engle, by whom he had eight children, as follows: Maria, wife of John Long, superintendent of a tub factory at South Whitley, Ind.; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; Sarah, wife of Jonas Weist, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; George, formerly a farmer and teacher, now deceased; William, a physician of Botkins, Shelby county, Ohio; Leah, widow of Joseph Lewis, of Jay county, Ind.; Rebecca, who died at the age of six years; and Almà, wife of Hiram Grussom, of Jay county, Ind. Mrs. Mary Engle was born in Fairfield county, June 17, 1818, her father being a native of New York state, and her mother of Pennsylvania. He located in Fairfield county, Ohio, about 1796, entered land and lived there until his death. By his first wife he was the father of four children, and by his second of twelve, the wife of the subject being the eleventh child of the second marriage. She has a sister living, Sarah Beery, of Fairfield county, eighty-six years old. Frederick Nuding lived two years in Fairfield county after his marriage, and he then removed to Hocking county, where he lived four years. In November, 1848, he removed to Mercer county, where he entered 120 acres of land in Hopewell township, upon which he passed the remainder of his life, dying September 1, 1857. After his death his widow carried on the farm with the assistance of her sons, until twelve years ago, when she removed to the home of the subject and still lives with him. Frederick Nuding was a democrat in politics, took an active interest in political affairs, and served as a member of the school board, beside holding other local offices. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church, but she now is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Joseph Nuding remained on the home farm in Hopewell township until his marriage, November 14, 1878, to Miss Effie Roberts, a daughter of John and Harriet (Hainline) Roberts, and to them were born four children, as follows: Fred and Edna, twins, both of whom died in infancy; Grover Stanley, born March 9, 1885, and May, born May 10, 1892. Mrs. Effie Nuding was born in Mercer county, October 10, 1855, her father having moved from Fairfield, his native county, to Mercer county in 1842, and in this county he was married about 1852 to Harriet Hainline, who was born in Mercer county in 1829 and died in 1856, her parents having been among the very earliest settlers there. To John and Harriet Roberts there were born two children, as follows: Emma, wife of Henry Beery, a miller of Celina, but living in Center township, and Effie, wife of the subject. Mr. Roberts died in 1875, a democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His father was a successful and wealthy man, lived in Mercer county about ten years, and died in 1892.

When Joseph Nuding settled on his present farm, immediately after his marriage, it was only partly cleared and but very little improved. He has been engaged principally in buying and feeding stock, and getting it ready for market. In 1881 he erected a large barn and in 1889 erected a fine house, the largest and best in the township. Besides his stock buying and feeding, he is engaged in general farming, in which he is equally successful. His uncle, Christian, who resides with him, served in the late Civil war eighteen months, as a member of the Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and then, becoming ill with pneumonia, was discharged. Mr. Nuding for years was a democrat, but of late has voted the prohibition ticket. He served as township trustee two terms, and has served on the board of education. In his church, the Methodist Episcopal, to which his wife also belongs, he has held the office of steward for several years, and is always ready to do his part toward building up and sustaining religious and educational movements, as well as any other movement calculated to promote the public good.

* * *

JOSEPH PALMER, an unusually industrious, prominent and successful farmer, of Dublin township, Mercer county, was born in Miami county, Ohio, March 5, 1819. He is a son of Richard and Hannah (Webb) Palmer, the former of whom was born in Bucks county, Pa., February 14, 1779. Richard was a son of Robert Palmer, a native also of Pennsylvania, and whose father came to America with the followers of William Penn. Robert Palmer was as may be inferred, a Quaker, and he was a wealthy land owner. He was the father of the following children: Benjamin, Richard, Robert, William, John, Thomas, Mrs. Burress, Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Nancy Brown.

Richard Palmer, the third son of Robert, was reared on a farm in Pennsylvania, and when seventeen years old went to Baltimore, where he learned the trade of a blacksmith from his brother, Benjamin. In 1804 he was engaged by the government of the United States to work on an Indian reservation at Fort Wayne, traveling the entire distance from Baltimore in company with two others on pack horses, stopping over night at Shanes Crossing. At Fort Wayne he remained five years, and in 1809 went to Miami county, where he purchased half a section of land, also working for some time at Staunton, Miami county, at his trade. About this time he married Hannah Webb, a daughter of John and Rachel (Davis) Webb, and to them the following children were born: Parmelia, who married John McKaig, both he and she being now dead; John, deceased; Hulda, who died February 25, 1884; Benjamin, who died when twenty-nine years of age; Joseph and Thomas, twins, the former the subject of this sketch, and the latter dead; and an infant daughter, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Kentucky in 1791 and died May 15, 1838. Her father, John Webb, was a native of England, was stolen from his home, taken on board ship and brought to America, where, after a few years, he married Rachel Davis, a native of Wales. They then located in Kentucky and removed to Montgomery county, Ohio, about 1810, and there Mr. Webb passed the remainder of his life. Richard Palmer lived on his farm in Miami county until 1832, when he removed to Mercer county and here bought 200 acres of land and entered 102 acres more where Fort Adams stood, and here he lived until his death, August 18, 1852. In religion he was a Quaker and in politics a whig, and held the office of township trustee for a number of years.

Joseph Palmer was reared on the home farm and was educated in Mercer county, to which he removed with his parents November 17, 1832. In this county he has since lived. His father owned 920 acres of land, which the subject assisted in clearing of its surplus timber. He remained at home with his parents and attended to all of his father's business until that gentleman's death. In 1833 the subject of this sketch and Mr. Isaac Coyle brought to Mercer county the first combined mower and reaper that was ever in the county, and subject's father brought to the county its first cook-stove and also planted the first pear orchard in the county. This came about as follows: Joseph Palmer went to Montgomery on a visit, and while there an old Quaker gave him all the pears he could pick up during one afternoon, fourteen bushels turning out to be the quantity. The seeds of these pears were planted in Mercer county and a nursery thus started. After their father's death the subject of this sketch and his sister, Hulda, lived on the old homestead until she died. In 1889 and 1890 he built his present large house and barn, and there has since lived. In politics he is a republican and he has held several of the local offices.

In the days of trouble with the southern states over the dismemberment of the Union, Mr. Palmer enlisted May 22, 1864, in company K, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until September of that year. The only battle in which he participated was that of Cumberland City, Md. Mr. Palmer has always followed general farming and stock raising, and has been very successful. He has never married, neither did his brothers nor sisters, with the exception of one brother and one sister. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined Shanes lodge, No. 377, in 1855. He is now a master Mason, and is held in high esteem by all members of the order as well as by all in the community in which he lives.

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WILLIAM H. PARKER, a respected farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, is a son of Reason and Louisa (Huffine) Parker, and was born near Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, March 1, 1859; his father was born in Hocking county, Ohio, and married in Pickaway county, near Circleville, and his grandfather was a native of England, who married a woman of Irish birth, then came to America and located in New York, where they remained but a few years, and then came to Ohio and settled in Pickaway county, where the grandfather remained till his death. His wife died when their son Reason was but fifteen years old, and after her death the grandfather married again; another child by his first wife was Mrs. Ute, the deceased wife of John Ute, a merchant of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Her son, John Ute, Jr., still resides in that city.

Reason Parker passed his boyhood days on his father's farm in Pickaway county and attended school whenever he had an opportunity. When he was seventeen years old, on his father's second marriage, the lad left the parental roof and went to battle with life on his own responsibility. He served through the Mexican war, and was married to Louisa Huffine, who was born in Pennsylvania, about 1830. Her father, Isaac Huffine, still lives at Steubenville, Ohio. Reason Parker was the father of three children, viz: George, who died when eight years old; William H., the subject of our sketch; and Charles, who died when nineteen years old. In 1861, Reason Parker died, and in 1862 Mrs. Parker married Benjamin DeVore, a citizen of Delaware county, by whom she was the mother of three children: David, deceased; Mary, the wife of Martin Loche, of Franklin county, and Mattie, deceased. In 1862, Mr. Parker enlisted in the Forty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, for the three-month service. When his time was up he returned home and spent one month with his family and then re-enlisted, this time in the One Hundred and Thirteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served his country bravely until his death, which occurred at the battle of Nashville, Tenn. His wife still survives him and lives in Taylor, Franklin county, Ohio.

William H. Parker, after the death of his father, was placed in the Orphans' home, at Columbus, Ohio, where he remained one year, and was then taken by Thomas White, a southerner by birth, but who had remained faithful to his country in the crisis and served in the Federal army, but who then lived in Columbus, Ohio, and was a farmer. William remained there until 1866, when he came with Mr. White to Mercer county and located in Black Creek township. After living here awhile, Mr. White concluded to go to Rockford and practice medicine, and as he did not need a boy in his new field of work, William went to live with James Manly, a farmer in Mercer county. Here he had an excellent home for twelve years, until his benefactor died. William now worked for himself, usually on a farm. Being an honest and industrious lad, he had no difficulty in finding plenty of work, and a good home. He also worked at milling a few months, but having a strong preference for farming, soon gave up milling and went to farming. On August 5, 1882, he married Olive, a daughter of Moses and Sallie (Pifer) Stover (see sketch of D. P. Stover on another page), who was born in Mercer county April 27, 1859, and here received her education.

After his marriage Mr. Parker located in Black Creek township, where he remained six months, and then rented a farm in Dublin township, where he remained seven months, and on November 24, 1883, he purchased the farm on which he now lives. It was then in a bad condition and much run down, an old house standing on it, much in need of repairs. Having repaired it and made it habitable, he then, with commendable energy, set to work improving the farm and bringing order out of what was almost chaos. He now has his farm in an excellent condition, and in 1890 he built himself a good and comfortable home, and in the spring of 1895 he erected a fine frame barn, and has in other ways improved his property. He is a progressive and wide-awake farmer, and has been very successful. He is pre-eminently a self-made man. Having been so early in life left an orphan, and having had to make his own way in the world, his opportunities for attending school were few, but he made the most of them and has always availed himelf of every opportunity to read and improve himself, and can well look back with pride and complacency on his life, begun under such adverse circumstances, and brought to so commanding a position as it now presents. He is a deep thinker, and looks into all matters to which his attention is called. He was formerly a democrat in politics, but is now a stanch and active prohibitionist. He is an active member of the United Brethren church, in which he has been honored with the office of class leader and steward, and is now the secretary of the Sabbath school. He takes an active interest in all good work and is a liberal giver to all public and benevolent enterprises. Mr. Parker is esteemed and honored wherever known, and is a most worthy citizen. His family consists of his wife and four children, viz: Howard, born July 4, 1883; Lillie A., born February 17, 1885; Marion Ray, born January 21, 1887, and Elmer, born October 5, 1889.

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JOSEPH PASSMANN, mayor of the thriving town of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and an honored citizen of the place, holding several offices of trust, was born September 8, 1847, at Lennep, in the district of Dusseldorf, Germany, and is a son of John J. and Louisa (Vecken) Passmann. John J. Passmann was a machinist in his native country, and died, when the subject of this sketch was about two years old, in 1849, his death being caused by cholera. The father and brother and sister of subject all died within a short time of each other, leaving Joseph an orphan while yet an infant.

Joseph Passmann was reared by strangers

until he was ten years old, and was then sent to an orphan's home, a catholic institution, at Ehrenbreitenstein, near Coblentz, a town and fortress of Rhenish Prussia, and was there well educated. When he attained his fourteenth year he returned to his native town, Lennep, eighteen miles east of Dusseldorf, and there learned the tailor's trade, and remained there three years as an operative. Afterward, until emigrating to the United States, he worked at his trade at different places in Germany, his emigration taking place in 1866. He left the harbor of Bremen in the latter part of November and reached New York the first part of December, and came direct to Ohio, and followed his trade of tailor at Dayton, but for only a short time; he then went to Greenville, Darke county, Ohio, and was married in December, 1869, to Belle Spayd, who was born in 1853, at Greenville, and was a daughter of Reuben and Mary (Hart) Spayd. The Spayd family were of sterling Pennsylvania-Dutch stock and the Hart family of English descent, and both families were among the early settlers of this country. Mrs. Passmann died, fifteen months after her marriage, at Fort Recovery, in 1871. For several years Mr. Passmann was engaged in the merchant tailoring business, and afterward was engaged as agent for the Howe and Singer sewing machines. In 1888 he became engaged as wholesale dealer in beer and ale, representing the Minster Brewing company, which he still represents. He has also been engaged in the insurance business and as a general collector.

Mr. Passmann stands high in the estimation of the people of Fort Recovery, and has held the office of township clerk since 1876, a period of twenty years. He has been notary public for fourteen years, and corporation clerk for two terms. In 1892 he was elected mayor of Fort Recovery, and also re-elected mayor and township clerk in 1896. Mr. Passmann married, the second time, Miss Alice Spayd, a sister of his first wife, and to this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Walter J.; Lulu D., deceased; William Clarence, deceased; Kittie, Harry, Maude and Esther. Mr. Passmann is a substantial citizen, and owns a fine residence. He is a popular official, and fills the office of mayor to the general satisfaction of the people. His character is above reproach, and his long service as township clerk shows sufficiently well the high regard in which he is held by his fellow-men. Mr. Passmann represents leading insurance companies, including the Teutonic of Dayton, and the Phœnix, of Hartford, Conn. He is well known as a pleasant and genial gentleman, and also for his fair and straightforward manner of transacting business.

Reuben Spayd, the father of Mrs. Passmann, was born at Harrisburg, Pa., and when he removed to Ohio he settled near Wooster. He was a cabinet-maker by trade, and one of the pioneers of Greenville, Ohio, where he lived many years, a highly respected citizen. His children were Alfred, Mary E., Sarah J., Isaac N., Belle, Alice B., John, Francis and Maude. He was a soldier in the Civil war, served three years, and was in many battles, his son, Alfred, also being a soldier for the cause of the government.

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LEROY PENCE, M. D., one of the leading practitioners of medicine in Celina, Ohio, is a native of Knox county, Ohio, born there December 13, 1855. He is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Conwell) Pence, both of whom were natives of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. The paternal grandparents of Dr. Pence were John and Eve (Baughman) Pence, natives of Lancaster county, Pa. His maternal grandparents were James and Elizabeth (Riggle) Conwell, natives of New Jersey. All the grandparents came to Ohio at a very early day and all settled in Tuscarawas county, the farms of the grandparents adjoining. Henry Pence has followed farming all his life, and is now living in Van Wert county, to which county he removed in October, 1864, locating on a farm five miles southeast of Van Wert. His wife died in August, 1884. She was born December 17, 1833, and Henry Pence was born January 6, 1833. To them there were born ten children, viz: Dr. LeRoy; Martha, deceased; James, Mary, Jennie, Hattie; Ida, deceased; Nettie; Harry, deceased, and Ollie.

Dr. Pence's youth was spent on the farm near Van Wert. He attended the common schools, securing an exceptionally good English education. This is evident from the fact that he began teaching school when he was in his sixteenth year, and he taught fourteen terms in four districts, his own district being one of the four. In 1878 he began the study of medicine in Van Wert, his preceptor being Dr. George McGavren. Afterward he attended the Ohio Medical college at Cincinnati, and graduated there in March, 1882. Locating at Rockford, Mercer county, he there began the practice of his profession, and there remained until 1889, when he removed to Celina, where he at once took rank among the leading practitioners of the place. Dr. Pence was a member of the United States board of pension examiners, appointed during the administration of President Harrison. He is a republican in politics, and is now secretary of the republican executive committee of Mercer county. He is a member of and chancellor commander of the K. of P., secretary of the Masonic lodge, member of the Presbyterian church, and is leader of the choir. He is a member of the Ohio state Medical association, and of the Ohio Northwestern, and was a member of the Mercer county Medical society when that society was in existence.

Dr. Pence was married August 25, 1884, to Miss Alice Townsend, daughter of Smith and Sidney (Garwood) Townsend. Mrs. Pence was born in Mercer county, Ohio, March 7, 1861. Her father was born in Bucks county, Pa., September 14, 1824, and her mother in Columbiana county, Ohio, September 2, 1825, the latter dying May 12, 1885. To them there were born nine children, six of whom are still living.

To Dr. Pence and his wife there have been born three children, as follows: Mary Evangeline, born December 24, 1887; Sarah Garwood, born September 10, 1889, and Henry Smith, born January 5, 1894. The little daughters of Dr. Pence have achieved considerable local reputation for their natural musical and elocutionary talent—the younger daughter in particular having developed powers in elocution that are wonderful in one so young. They have frequently appeared before the public at home and in surrounding towns, and are very popular young elocutionists and musicians. Dr. Pence is a deacon in the Presbyterian church, and is popular as a man and as a physician.

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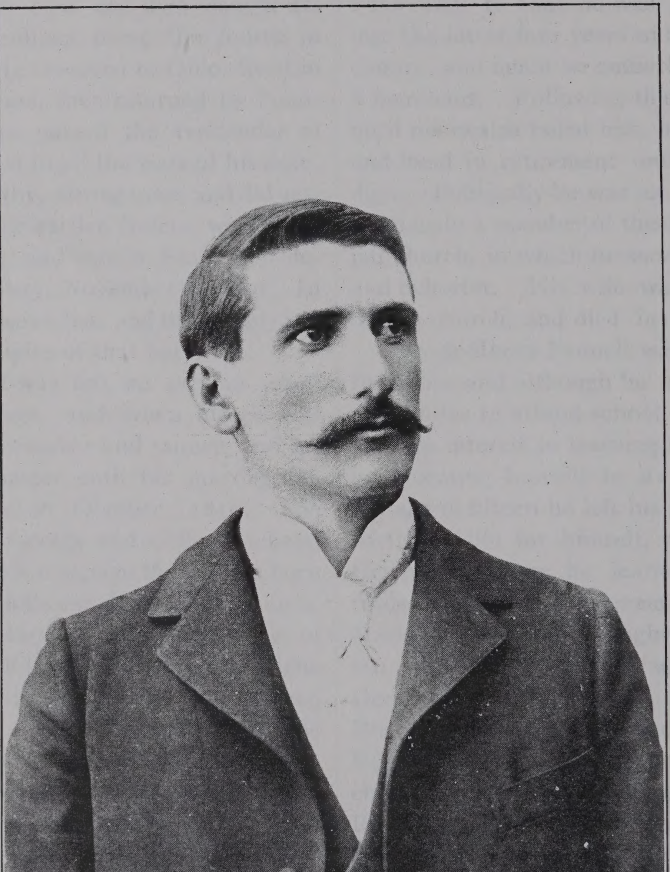
JAMES HENRY PENNELL, a wealthy farmer and a successful lumber dealer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Wheeling, W. Va., June 27, 1828, and is a son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Sanders) Pennell. Joshua Pennell was born near Marietta, Ohio, February 22, 1800, and was a son of Thomas Pennell and wife, the latter of whom was of Dutch descent, while the former was of Welsh descent. Three brothers came from Wales early in the seventeenth century, and two of them located in Philadelphia, where they became wholesale merchants. The other one of the three became a farmer in Pennsylvania. One of the two wholesale merchants of Philadelphia was the father of Thomas Pennell, above mentioned. Thomas Pennell was the father of seven children, five sons and two daughters, the father of the subject being the fourth in order of birth. He removed to Ohio, lived in this state a few years, then returned to Pennsylvania, and there passed the remainder of his life. He served in all the wars of his time, was a heavy, healthy, strong man, and did active service in all the earlier Indian wars, and in the war of 1812, and was in St. Clair's defeat at Fort Recovery, November 4, 1791. In politics he was a federalist, and thoroughly believed in the principles of that party.

Joshua Pennell was left an orphan when twelve years of age, and when fifteen was bound out to a shoemaker and tanner, and remained with his master until his marriage to Elizabeth Sanders, in October, 1819. She was a daughter of George and Celia (Vickers) Sanders, and to this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: George and Lewis, both deceased; Mary A., deceased wife of Joshua Preston; William was a soldier of the late rebellion, and a manufacturer of tobacco of Quincy, Ill.; Joshua, deceased; James Henry, the subject of this sketch; John, deceased; and Elizabeth (Mrs. Waddell), of Marion, Ohio. Elizabeth Sanders was born in Hagerstown, Md., in October, 1798, her father being of Scotch descent, a soldier in the war of 1812, in which he was wounded at Baltimore, and an early settler of Perry county, Ohio, where he died. He was a federalist, and a member of the Baptist church.

Following his trade in Lancaster, Pa., until 1824, Joshua Pennell then removed to Wheeling, Va., on pack horses, and in this city he kept a restaurant and followed draying until 1828, when he removed to Perry county, Ohio, and for five years lived upon a farm. Then, for about three years, he was engaged in mercantile business in Somerset, and in 1836 removed to Chatham, Licking county, where, until 1840, he was engaged in merchandising. From 1840 to 1846 he was engaged in farming, the latter four years of this time in Marion county, and again he embarked in business as a merchant. Following this branch of trade until his health failed him, he retired, in 1860, and lived in retirement until 1864, when he died. Politically he was an old-line whig, and religiously a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as class leader and exhorter. His wife was also a member of this church, and died in December, 1886.

James Henry Pennell was reared in part on the farm, and although he had but fitful opportunities to attend school, yet he manifested such an interest in learning that he succeeded in educating himself to a great degree. At the age of fifteen he left his home to begin the battle of life for himself, walking through to Cincinnati, where he learned the plasterer's trade. At the age of seventeen he returned to Marion county, and at eighteen went to western Illinois, remaining nine months, and on December 5, 1850, he was married to Phebe Rush, a daughter of John and Rachel (Spencer) Rush. To this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Viola, wife of William Rigdon, a silversmith of Paulding county; Aletha, deceased; Ida, at the Deaconesses' home, in Cincinnati; Lewis, deceased; John, an engineer at Rockford; Joshua, a lumberman of Rockford; Anna, wife of Joshua Shellabarger, of Mercer county; William, a jeweler of Ohio City. The mother of these children was born in Marion county, Ohio, January 17, 1832, died February 16, 1868, and was buried in full communion with the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Pennell lived on his farm in Marion



I. J. RANSBOTTOM, M. D.

county four years after his marriage. This farm he then sold and purchased one near the city of Marion, upon which he lived two years, when he sold it and purchased a steam saw-mill, and was engaged there in the lumber and mercantile business three years. In 1865 he sold this property and went to Illinois, purchasing 200 acres of improved land and also some timber land, followed farming there until 1868, when, upon the death of his wife and eldest son, he returned to Ohio, and was engaged in the produce business in Delaware county for six months. Removing then to Mercer county, he was engaged in the butter and egg business at Rockford successfully for more than twenty years; during a portion of this time he also engaged in buying and shipping stock. In 1871 he purchased 100 acres of his present farm, adding to it from time to time until at the present time it contains 487 acres of land, of which nearly 300 acres are under cultivation. Upon this farm he has lived and carried on general farming ever since he purchased it.

Mr. Pennell was married January 4, 1876, to his second wife, Margaret Berry, a daughter of Luke and Anna (O'Neal) Berry, and to this marriage there have been born seven children: Zoe, born August 24, 1878; Frederick, born in January, 1880; Mary, born September 17, 1884; Kittie Opal, deceased; Agnes, born May 17, 1886; Emma, born in June, 1890, and Ruth, born October 7, 1893. The mother of these children was born in Cincinnati, December 17, 1852. Her father was of Irish descent and her mother, of Scotch descent, was born in Wheeling, Va. Mrs. Pennell has one sister living, Mrs. Emma Cooney, of Cincinnati. Mrs. Pennell's father died when she was three years old, and her mother died in 1895. Both were members of the Catholic church.

About 1884 Mr. Pennell bought a steam saw-mill, and located it at Rockford, where he has ever since been engaged in the lumber business, under the firm name of J. H. Pennell & Co. He is a republican in politics and is not a member of any church. Mr. Pennell is engaged in general farming and in raising stock. He is a man of liberal views and liberal with his means, is a public-spirited man, highly esteemed by all, as is his wife, who is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a most excellent woman.

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I. J. RANSBOTTOM, M. D. (regular), a prominent and successful physician of Wabash, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Washington township, that county, September 10, 1869. He is a son of John and Jane (McQueen) Ransbottom. The former is a native of Ohio, born in Logan county, March 10, 1845; the latter of Scotland, born in Ayrshire, July 29, 1840, a daughter of J. McQueen. She came to the United States when quite a child. Her father bought land in Mercer county, Ohio, and began the occupation of a farmer, but lived only a short time. His wife, Marion (Anderson) McQueen, survived him many years, and died October 3, 1889. She was a daughter of John Anderson and was born February 21, 1798.

The original Ransbottom family came from Germany to the United States, settling in Virginia. John Ransbottom, Sr., the grandfather, was born in Rockingham county, Va., February 15, 1822; he married Mary Swaim, who was born March 13, 1824. She was a daughter of Joshua Swaim, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and who died at the extreme age of 110 years. Thomas Ransbottom, the great-grandfather of subject, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and lived to be over 100 years old.

John Ransbottom, Jr., the father of the

subject, after marriage, settled on a farm in Mercer county, and began the work of clearing up a farm from the dense woods, and upon this farm he lives. He was a sturdy pioneer, and shrank not from any work necessary to be done, in order to clear his farm of the heavy timber with which it was covered, or to improve the land and to put it in a proper state for easy cultivation. He is a member of the Christian church, while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. They are the parents of one child, I. J. Ransbottom, the subject of this sketch. The father of our subject was a soldier in the late Civil war and served in two regiments, the last one being the One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and received an honorable discharge from the hospital, on account of disability, at the close of his service.

I. J. Ransbottom, M. D., was reared on the home farm, and inured to all kinds of hard labor when young. His early education was obtained in the country schools; but, not satisfied with what he had there learned, he attended the normal school at Cold Water, Ohio, and afterward the National Normal university at Lebanon, Ohio, where he graduated. Previous to graduating from this university, having formed the intention to practice medicine, he had begun to read for that purpose, and after graduating he attended a medical college in Cincinnati. Returning home, he continued the study of medicine with Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, of Celina, and in the spring of 1892 graduated with high honors from the medical department of the university of Cincinnati, after having taken three courses of lectures. Soon afterward, in the same year, he located at Montezuma, and there began the practice of his profession, and remained in practice there with gratifying success until January, 1894, when he removed to Wabash, where he has ever since remained. By strict attention to his profession and by his skillful treatment of disease, he has won the confidence of the people to such an extent that he may be considered a permanent practitioner of Wabash, and he has now a very extensive practice throughout the village as well as the surrounding country.

In April, 1892, the doctor married Miss Matilda C. Rabe, born in Mercer county, December 19, 1870. She is a daughter of Charles and Margaret (Leininger) Rabe, the former of whom is a native of Germany, born November 17, 1838, and the latter of Mercer county, Ohio, born December 25, 1848, but of French and German ancestry. Mr. Rabe is a prominent farmer of Mercer county.

The great-grandfather of Mrs. Ransbottom (Jacob Mowery) was a soldier under Napoleon, and was with him through nearly all of his campaigns. Her grandfather was born August 24, 1824, came from France when about three years of age, and lived in Stark county, Ohio, and at Rose Garden for a time, and later entered land from the government in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio. His wife, who was born April 4, 1823, in France, died February 4, 1896. He is still living at this writing, and now makes his home at Monroeville, Ind. He was always a great hunter, and has killed over a thousand deer, beside larger and smaller game.

To the marriage of Dr. and Mrs. Ransbottom there has been born two sons, Roland Eugene and Earl Angelo, the former born June 20, 1893; the latter April 10, 1896. Dr. Ransbottom maintains a high standing with the medical fraternity, as well as being popular with the people. He is engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery. He is examining physician for several life insurance companies, holds other important positions, and is in every way reliable both as a physician and as a man.

WILLIAM F. PIXLER, the junior member of the clothing firm of Dysert & Pixler, of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in the county October 27, 1861, a son of Andrew J. and Ellen (Doran) Pixler, both of whom are now deceased.

George W. Pixler, grandfather of our subject, was of Pennsylvania-German birth, came to Ohio in an early day and located in Ross county, where he passed his boyhood and early manhood, and where he married a Miss Harb, also of German descent. Mr. Pixler brought his young family to Mercer county and engaged in farming in Dublin township, on what is now known as the Exline farm, where his wife died a few years later, his own death taking place in 1875, at the age of sixty-seven years, in Rockford. They were the parents of nine children, and in politics Mr. Pixler was a stanch democrat.

Andrew J. Pixler, father of William F. Pixler, was born in Ross county, Ohio, and reared to farming. He married Miss Ellen Doran, who was reared in Mercer county, and this union was blessed by the birth of three children, viz: Andrew J., who died in infancy; Martha E., wife of J. F. Mowry, of Wichita, Kans., and William F., our subject. These two surviving children, however, were early left orphans, as the mother died in February, 1862; the father, Andrew J. Pixler, having enlisted in 1862, for the Civil war, in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, was killed at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, which took place June 27, 1864.

William F. Pixler, the gentleman whose name stands at the opening of this memoir, was reared in Rockford, and was educated in the public schools of the village and at the normal institute of Valparaiso, Ind. At the age of twelve years he went to live with J. P. Dysert, and at the age of seventeen began clerking for that gentleman in his mercantile establishment, remaining until he had passed his majority. He then went to Erie, Neosho county, Kans., where, in partnership with J. C. Van Fleet, of Rockford, Ohio, he carried on merchandising for twelve months and then returned to Rockford (or Shanesville, as the village was then called), and purchased the dry-goods department of J. P. Dysert's establishment, and under the firm name of Pixler & Van Fleet, they carried on business together for two years, when Mr. Van Fleet sold his interest to T. J. Courtright, the firm assuming the style of T. J. Courtright & Co., and so continuing from 1886 entil 1889, when our subject withdrew and for two years traveled as salesman for Davis Bros., of Toledo, his allotted territory being northwestern Ohio and northeast Indiana. He next traveled as salesman until January 1, 1894, for J. V. Farwell & Co., of Chicago, soliciting throughout the state of Ohio. His next business venture was that in which he is at present engaged, and to which he now gives his whole attention.

This extensive clothing house was originally established by J. P. Dysert, in connection with a dry-goods department, mention of which is made on another page; next was under the management of J. P. Dysert & Bros., then under that of G. W. Dysert & Son. The present firm is composed of G. W. Dysert and W. F. Pixler, who handles cothing solely. They have largely increased the original stock, and have now the most complete assortment of clothing, hats, caps, gent's furnishings, etc., to be found in the county, and also carry on a merchant tailoring department, in which may be found a full and select line of piece goods from which to choose, and which are cut and fitted to order by expert workman. The store is 125 x 22 feet, and is fully occupied by the stock and accessories of the business.

Mr. Pixler is one of the most progressive and successful young business men of Mercer county, and has realized his present comfortable competence entirely through his own exertions. He has erected several fine residences in Rockford for renting purposes, and his own dwelling is one of the most pleasant in the village. Politically he is a republican and has held the office of township treasurer for several years; fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., being secretary of the former. November 2, 1882, he was united in marriage with Miss Viola Van Fleet, a daughter of Joshua Van Fleet and a native of Union township, Mercer county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with three children—Clifford, Fannie, and John V. The parents affiliate with the Methodist church, of the precepts of which they are strict observers, and socially they occupy a most prominent position in the township and county.

* * *

J. P. HARTINGS, senior member of the business firm of Hartings & Kevelder, a leading concern of Maria Stein, Ohio, was born January 25, 1866, in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio. His father, Matthias Hartings, was born in Germany in 1829, and reared there upon a farm. In 1850 he came to the United States, landing in Baltimore, and going direct to Saint Rosa, Mercer county, where he purchased 120 acres of timber land, upon which he lived, and which he cleared and improved in the manner of the early pioneer. Later he purchased fifty acres more land, and still later eighty acres, and then twenty acres, making in all 270 acres of good land, which he cleared and made into a good modern farm. He married Miss Caroline Reulman, a native of the United States, born in 1839, by whom he had fifteen children, as follows: Frank, Barney, John, William, Peter, Mary, John P. (the subject of this sketch), Caroline, Anthon, Matthias, Anna, Henry, Joseph, Katie and Sophia. Of these children five are dead, as follows: Barney, John, Peter, Caroline and Anna. William, Henry, Joe, Katie and Sophia are all still single. The father of this family has always lived upon the farm, and has had unusually good success. Politically he has always been a democrat, and has held the offices of supervisor and trustee of his township, and he has also been appraiser of the Marion township fire company. In religious matters Mrs. Hartings is a member of Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church, and is in every respect a highly esteemed and worthy woman.

John P. Hartings was reared on his father's farm, received his education in the common schools, and from 1888 to 1892 worked his father's farm, which lies in Butler township, Mercer county. In the latter year he embarked in business for himself, as a saloonkeeper in Maria Stein Station, and conducted this business alone until 1895, when he united in partnership with Mr. Kevelder, the firm taking the name of Hartings & Kevelder, and is now a successful and substantial business firm, dealing in dry goods, groceries, queensware, wines, liquors, cigars, etc.

Mr. Hartings was married in 1888 to Miss Katie Pieckenbrock, who was born February 26, 1866. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Elizabeth, Carrie, Frank and Anna. All are living and are doing well in life. Mr. Hartings is a democrat, and a member of Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church.

Bernard Pieckenbrock, father of Mrs. Hartings, was born April 7, 1823, in Germany. He was reared on a farm in his native country, and when yet a young man came to the United States, landing in New York, remaining there a short time, and coming then direct to Marion township, Mercer county. Here he bought a farm of eighty acres, then covered with timber, which land he cleared and converted into an excellent farm. Later he purchased twenty acres more, making 100 acres in all, which he still owns. He married Miss Elizabeth Woeste, a native of this country, and to them have been born the following children: Elizabeth, Barney, Henry, Theodore, Mary, Katie, John, Minnie, Joseph, Lawrence, Francis and Frank. There were also a few children that have died. Of those that are still living, as named above, those that are married are as follows: Elizabeth, Barney, Mary and Katie, the latter being the wife of the subject of this sketch. She lived at home with her parents until she was married to Mr. Hartings, is a member of Saint Rosa Roman Catholic church, and is in every way a most excellent woman, a good wife and mother, and true to her religious convictions.

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**WILLIAM PONTIUS**, the well-known hardware merchant of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born February 10, 1841, in Van Wert county, near the Mercer county line, and is a son of Abraham and Phebe (Moyer) Pontius, also natives of the Buckeye state and born in Montgomery county.

The Pontius family is of German origin, the great-great-great-grandfather of our subject having come, supposedly, from Witemburg. He settled in Berks county, Pa., where the three following generations were engaged principally in farming, and where a number of the family were soldiers of the war of 1812. In 1800 the grandfather of our subject came to Ohio and entered 160 acres of land in Montgomery county. He married Miss Eva Jarvis, also a Pennsylvanian by birth, reared a large family of children, to each of whom he gave a tract of land in Van Wert or Mercer county—chiefly in the former—and died in Montgomery county in 1862 or 1863, at the advanced age of ninety-two years; his wife died at the same age, her death taking place within two months of that of her husband.

Abraham Pontius, father of our subject, passed his boyhood on the farm in Montgomery county, and was educated in the German school. In April, 1836, he married, and in the same year moved to Van Wert county, and took possession of the land his father had given him in Willshire township, between Saint Mary's river and the Mercer county line, the tract comprised something over 100 acres of timberland. He had learned the cooper's trade when a young man and had followed the calling for a few years, but he was nevertheless a good farmer and proceeded at once to transform his wild land into a good farm. Here he reared his family and made his home until about 1875, when he retired to Van Wert city, where he lost his life-companion January 24, 1879, at the age of sixty-five years, and where his own death occurred June 24, 1893, at the venerable age of eighty-three years. In politics Mr. Pontius was a democrat. He was one of the first constables of Van Wert county, and later in life filled many of the minor county offices. He was reared in the Lutheran church and his wife was reared a Dunkard, but on February 20, 1859, there was organized at the house of Mr. Pontius a society of United Brethren, consisting of eighteen members, with which Mr. and Mrs. Pontius united, together with two of their children, William and Eliza J. For a long time this society held its meetings at the home of Mr. Pontius, then worshipped at the school-house, and in 1870 dedicated its first church edifice, called Pleasant Grove, on Mr. Pontuis' farm, where services were held until the division of the society in May, 1889. As long as Mr. Pontius continued to be a resident of the neighborhood he was active as an official of this religious body, and, being a man of deep moral feelings, always took a deep interest in its welfare, as well as that of the general public.

Peter Moyer, father of Mrs. Phebe Pontius, was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and an old settler of Montgomery county, Ohio; he was a quiet, unassuming gentleman, but was very active and ardent in the affairs of the society of Dunkards. To Mr. and Mrs. Pontius were born thirteen children, of whom nine were called from earth before attaining the age of twelve months; the four who reached the years of maturity and still living, are: William, our subject; Eliza J., wife of J. J. Beaveau, a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio; Levi, a farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, and Lucinda, married to Levi Butler, a farmer of Liberty township, Van Wert county.

Williams Pontius, the subject of this memoir, was reared on his father's farm and was fairly well educated in the district school. September 28, 1861, he enlisted in company E, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry; he veteranized at Scottsboro, Ala., January 1, 1864, was promoted to be sergeant May 1, 1865, and served until mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 22, 1865. He fought at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Black River, Jackson, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Dallas (Ga.), New Hope Church, Noonday Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, in front of Atlanta (July 22 to 28, 1854), Cedar Bluff (or Lovejoy Station), and was with Sherman on the march from Atlanta to the sea, participating in the hot engagement at Griswoldville and in the siege of Savannah; he was among the first to enter Columbia, S. C., and also Bentonville, N. C., where he was with the skirmish line that made the charge and captured the works. He was a valiant and faithful soldier and was in all the marches and engagements in which his regiment took part, and was a member of the first brigade of the western army that passed through the grand review at Washington, D. C., in May, 1865. He was wounded but once, when he was struck by a rifle-ball on the left arm, but was never confined to the hospital.

The marriage of Mr. Pontius took place March 31, 1864, while at home on a furlough after having veteranized, his bride being Miss Melinda A. Hartzog, from whom he tore himself asunder to rejoin his regiment. After being mustered out he returned to his home in Van Wert county, but as soon as practical came to Mercer county, rented a farm in Black Creek township, set up housekeeping, and farmed until February, 1873, then returned to Van Wert county and for six years clerked in a general store at Willshire for Henry Banta. His health becoming impaired, he purchased a marble-yard in Willshire, and this he conducted from the spring of 1879 until November, having in this interval purchased a hardware store in the same town, without a cash capital that would amount to $10. But he had the business ability and the self-confidence necessary for the task, and manfully set to work to make the business pay and support himself and wife and six children. This he continued until August 3, 1882, when he sold out, realizing a profit of over $2,000 over all indebtedness. He then came to Rockford, and August 28, 1882, in partnership with John Case, succeeded to the hardware business of Miller & Swander, under the firm name of Pontius & Case. December 20, 1882, Mr. Case was succeeded by Mr. Swander, the firm name changed to Pontius & Swander, and so stood until December 1, 1884, when Mr. Pontius became the sole proprietor. He carries a fine assortment of shelf, builders' and heavy hardware, farm implements and wagons, valued at upward of $10,000, and occupies a space of 20 x 315 feet on the ground floor of his store-building, and on the second floor a room 20 x 70 feet. He has been very attentive to his business, and, as will be seen, has risen from almost poverty to opulence—now owning, besides his business, several valuable pieces of property in Rockford.

In politics Mr. Pontius has always been a democrat; was deputy sheriff of Van Wert county in 1879, and has held the offices of township trustee and township clerk of Black Creek township, Mercer county, for twenty years, was a member of the school board, and it was during his incumbency of the last-named position that the Rockford school-building was erected. In religion he has been a member of the United Brethren church since 1859, and has devoted much of his time and of his means to the upbuilding of its interests. To Mr. and Mrs. Pontius have been born eight children, of whom one died in infancy—the survivors being Laura A., who for ten years was a teacher in Van Wert and Mercer counties, the last two terms in the Celina public schools, and is now the wife of Joseph Dysert, county clerk, she being his deputy; Abraham H., who married Miss Lorena Wilbur and is now an assistant in his father's business; Albert J., also an assistant of his father; Rachael L., wife of J. N. Hauser, a plumber of Celina; Dora B., Maud and Jessie M.—all three at home. The family stand very high in the esteem of the residents of Rockford, and no man in the community deserves greater credit than Mr. Pontius himself for public spirit and liberality, and for genuine enterprise and uprightness as a business man and citizen.

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L. W. PRICE, a successful farmer of Union township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born June 23, 1865. He is a son of J. J. and Louisa (Tracy) Price, the former of whom was born August 15, 1822, in Ohio, acquired a good common-school education, learned the carpenter's trade in his youth, and remained at home until he was married, being then twenty-seven years of age. He followed the carpenter's trade up to and for some time after his marriage. J. J. Price and Louisa, his wife, were the parents of the following children: Bazil T., John W., L. W. (the subject of this sketch), Isaac V., Lydia, Mary E., Elizabeth, James S., and Orean, the latter dying in infancy. The mother of these children was a member of the United Brethren church and died in 1885. Three years after her death Mr. Price married Mrs. Jane (McClure) Comans, a widow with two children.

Shortly after his first marriage, J. J. Price bought forty acres of land in Van Wert county, which was covered with a heavy growth of timber. This farm he cleared and lived upon four years, when he sold it and bought forty acres of improved land, on which he lived ten years. This land he then sold to his father, and soon afterward bought eighty acres from his father, which was cleared and well improved, and which lay in Mercer county. In 1894 three producing oil wells were sunk on this farm and they are still flowing at a paying rate. As a republican Mr. Price has held the office of township trustee one term, and that of justice of the peace one term. He is well known as an active, industrious citizen, liberal with his means, and charitable in his deeds, and enjoys to a high degree the confidence of his friends and acquaintances.

L. W. Price, the subject of this sketch, was born in Mercer county, and was reared upon his father's farm. His education was received in the public schools, which he attended until he was twenty years of age, and he remained at home until he was twenty-one years old. Then he purchased forty acres of land in Mercer county, which he farmed for some time. Afterward he bought eighty acres more, thus increasing his landed possessions to 120 acres. This land he leased in 1895 to the Smith Oil company, which company sank thirteen wells, which resulted in a flow of 1,500 barrels of oil per day. The company is still putting down more wells. His is the best oil field in Union township. Mr. Price is a republican in politics, strong in the faith, and is a member of the Church of God, or Winebrennerian denomination.

Mr. Price was married February 1, 1888, to Miss Adda Townsend, by whom he has one child, Flossie, born January 18, 1890. Adda Townsend was born May 23, 1870, and is a daughter of Frank Townsend, who was born in Van Wert county about 1844. He was reared a farmer's boy, was well educated in the public schools, taught school when he was quite young in Mercer county, and was married to Seala Deniston, by whom he had the following children: Willie and Adda, the wife of the subject. In 1872 Mr. Townsend met with an accidental death while hauling logs to mill, a log falling on him and killing him instantly. He had always been an industrious man, a careful manager, and was successful in the accumulating property, and at his death left his family in comfortable circumstances. His widow is at present living in Van Wert, Ohio, surrounded by a large circle of friends, and highly esteemed for her many virtues.

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T. A. PRICE, a practical tinner of Mendon, Ohio, was born May 26, 1868. His father, J. R. Price, was born August 22, 1838, in Auglaize county, Ohio, and was reared on a farm, living at home until his father's death, which occurred in 1869. J. R. Price was married, in 1862, to Mary E. Chambers, a native of Ohio, by whom he had twelve children, as follows: Francis, T. A., the subject of this sketch; R. D., O. E., S. A., B. T., Bertha, Ora, Tabitha, Louisa, Edward E., and Merritt. The latter is the only one that has died. He was born January 2, 1888, and died in 1891. Mr. Price, soon after his marriage, bought eighty acres of land, which he afterward sold, and in 1878 bought 100 acres, of which eighty acres were cleared at the time. Upon this farm, which he has greatly improved, he still lives. Politically he is a republican, as such being elected in 1893 trustee of his township, an office which he still holds. Having lived in Mercer county since 1839, he is well known to most of the people of his county, and is as popular as widely known. Being well educated and liberal in his views as well as with his means, his influence is unusually extensive and great. Both Mr. Price and his wife are members of the Baptist church, and are highly esteemed by residents of Mendon.

T. A. Price, the subject, was born in Mercer county, lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, and then he began to learn the tinner's trade, which he completed in two years. Removing then to Delphos, he remained there six months, working at his trade, returning to Mendon in 1893, and there establishing himself in business. On May 26, 1894, he was married to Miss Sylvia Weppler, and to them there has been born one child, Marie, born in 1895. Mr. Price is a member of the Baptist church, and a stanch republican in politics.

Sylvia Weppler, his wife, was born October 3, 1871, her father, John Weppler, dying about 1874. Born in the eastern part of the state, and serving as a domestic from the age of sixteen, she was thus engaged until her marriage to Mr. Price. She is a most exemplary young woman in every way, a good mother and wife, and has many kind-hearted and true friends and devoted acquaintances.

HERMAN PULSKAMP, senior member of the firm of H. & J. Pulskamp, and a well known citizen of Celina, was born in Cincinnati, August 26, 1859. The firm of H. & J. Pulskamp are the largest dealers in furniture in the city, and have their store on Fayette street, between Walnut and Sugar streets.

Mr. Pulskamp is a son of the late H. H. Pulskamp, ex-treasurer and ex-probate judge of Mercer county, and who was for many years one of the leading citizens of the county. Herman Pulskamp was three years old when brought to Mercer county by his parents. His education was received at Maria Stein, Mercer county, in both English and German, which he finds of greater use than would have been an English education alone. Early in life he learned the wagon and carriage-maker's trade with his father, and in 1876 removed to Celina and went to work with Bernard Greive, and later for William Cron. In 1889 he established himself in the furniture business on Fayette street, in partnership with his cousin, Joseph L. Pulskamp, in which year they erected their present large business block, which is a two-story brick building, 39 x 100 feet in size, which is one of the largest and finest business houses in Celina, and which is an ornament to the city. The first floor is used as a show room, and is well stocked with furniture of all the latest designs. The second floor is utilized as the upholstering and undertaking department, and the entire establishment is complete in all its details.

Mr. Pulskamp was married September 6, 1881, to Miss Katie Heim, daughter of Henry Heim, of Mercer, now deceased. To their marriage there have beeh born two sons and two daughters, as follows: Frederick, Clara, Elnora and Ada. Mr. Pulskamp and his family are members of the Catholic church, and for five years he was secretary and treasurer of the church of which he is a member—Saint Mary's Catholic church, of Celina. He is a director in Saint Joseph's society, and is also a member of the German Aid society. In politics he is a democrat, but has never sought official distinction or preferment, devoting himself strictly to his own private business, family and religious duties. In his business methods he is strictly correct and honorable, always selling goods on their merits, and in this way has won for himself a reputation for square dealing which is extended to all the surrounding country, and is of great value to him in every way.

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JOHN BERNARD PULSKAMP, assistant cashier of the Commercial bank, of Celina, and one of the most prominent of the young men of that place, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, December 7, 1863. He is a son of the late Herman H. Pulskamp, formerly a well known citizen of Mercer county.

Herman H. Pulskamp was a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born July 25, 1830. In 1845 he came with his parents to the United States, and located with them in Franklin county, Ind. In 1862 he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, and located in the village of Saint John, where he engaged at the wagon-maker's trade. In 1863 he was elected justice of the peace for Marion township, and held this office until 1875. In 1875 he was nominated by the democratictic party for treasurer of Mercer county, and was elected by the usual large majority. In 1876 he took possession of his office, removing his family to Celina, and was re-elected treasurer in 1877, serving two full terms of two years each. In 1881 he was elected probate judge of the county for a term of three years, and at the expiration of his first term was re-elected, and served altogether, as probate judge, six years. He also served as a member of the city council, as a member of the school board, and in various other capacities, all of which indicates the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. He was a member of the Roman Catholic church, and was always true to his religious convictions. He was married in Cincinnati, in 1854, to Mary A. Schafer, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1833, and who came to the United States in 1848. Her death occurred in Celina, July 1, 1886, and his death occurred August 21, 1891. To this couple there were born eleven children, seven of whom are still living, viz: Mary C., wife of Henry Goecke, of Marion township; Herman, furniture dealer and undertaker of Celina; J. Henry, dry-goods merchant of Celina; John Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Bernhard, a practicing physician of Saint Bernard, near Cincinnati, Ohio; George F,, at home, and Edward H.

John Bernard Pulskamp came with his parents to Celina when in his thirteenth year. He attended the German public schools at Saint John's, Marion township, and afterward the public schools at Celina, thus securing much more than an average education, both in English and German. This he finds very useful in his office of cashier of the bank, as many Germans prefer to speak their own mother tongue when it is convenient to do so, even when talking to an English educated person. In 1881 Mr. Pulskamp entered the Commercial bank at Celina as clerk, and in 1888 became a member of the company. At this time he was made assistant cashier, a position which he has held ever since.

Mr. Pulskamp was married August 30, 1887, to Miss Annie M. Desch, an adopted daughter of Frederick Stelzer, of Celina. To this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Priscilla M., Raymund M., Marinus H. and Esther M. Mr. Pulskamp and his family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church of Celina. He is a popular man, possessed of excellent qualities, and has many warm friends. He is a democrat in his politics, and owns 200 acres of land in Mercer county, and is also interested in the oil business.

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FRANK PUTHOFF, one of the most prominent farmers in Jefferson township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of the county in which he lives. He was born February 26, 1844, was reared to farm pursuits, and received a good German education. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Lang) Puthoff, both of whom are natives of Altenburg, capital of the duchy of Saxe-Altenburg, a city noted no less for its educational institutions than for its old castle, which stands on a perpendicular rock of porphyry.

Henry Puthoff came to the United States when he was twenty-two years of age, a single man. By occupation he was a farmer, and upon arriving in the United States, he came direct to Mercer county, and worked on banking the reservoir at Celina. Afterward he worked on the construction of the canal. This kind of work he found it necessary to do in order to make a living, notwithstanding he had purchased a tract of land. As soon as practicable he cleared up his land, erected the necessary buildings, improved his farm, and it was on this land that he finally settled down and lived the remainder of his life. By his own exertions he acuqired a comfortable property, and became one of the prominent farmers in the county.

Henry Puthoff was married twice—first, to a widow, who had married in Germany, came to this country with her husband, and here that husband died. She then married Mr. Puthoff. To this marriage there were born five children, viz: Henry, who died when a young man, the father of one child; Frank, the subject of this sketch; George, a carpenter living in Mercer county; Richard, a farmer; and Mary, who married Joseph Ankabauer, and she dying, left four children. The mother of these children died about 1858, a devoted and devout member of the Catholic church; and about 1860, Mr. Puthoff married Miss Dena Caulkhoff, of Germany. By this marriage he had four children, viz: Caroline, who married John Badki, a farmer; Lizzie, who married Frank Stegemann and died without issue; Annie and John, both living. The mother of these children is also yet living on the old homestead, but Mr. Puthoff died December 8, 1882. He was a democrat in his political views, but never aspired to office. She is a devoted member of the Catholic church, is a dutiful wife, and an exemplary woman in every way.

Frank Puthoff was reared a farmer's boy, inured in his younger days to all kinds of farm labor, and has always been identified with the farm. He remained with his parents until he married, which occurrence took place on October 4, 1864. For the next nine years he lived with his father-in-law, at first working on a small salary and afterward in partnership, the partnership terminating in 1872. He then bought the farm upon which he now resides, there being 120 acres of it, and of which thirty acres are timber land. There was also a log house already erected, in which he lived for some time. He now has ninety acres cleared, and in a high state of cultivation, has a commodious frame dwelling, a good barn, and other out-buildings, and also a fine orchard which contains many excellent kinds of fruit trees. Taking it all in all it is as fine a farm as any one need wish to own. Mr. Puthoff has given his attention almost exclusively to general farming, though he raises stock of the best breeds, and is always grading up. His hogs are of the Poland China breed, and his cattle of the famous Aberdeen stock, named after Aberdeenshire, in the east of Scotland, the inhabitants of which are "unsurpassed in breeding and feeding stock."

The lady he married was named Catherine Brandywine. She was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, December 8, 1844, and is a daughter of Hermann Henry Brandywine, of Germany, who came to the United States a single man, and for two years remained in Cincinnati. He then removed to Auglaize county, where he remained during life, dying in January, 1877. When he came to America he left a "sweetheart" in the old country, who, after he left her, married another man. With her husband she came to the United States, also, and here her husband died. She then married Mr. Brandywine, and by him had ten children, two of whom died young, and the others, so far as they can now be recalled, being as follows: Lizzie, who married Benjamin Knoptka, a farmer of prominence; Mary, who married Henry Strecker, a farmer; Dena, who married Anthony Westman, a farmer; Catherine, who married the subject of this sketch; Josephine, who died at the Sisters' hospital in Cincinnati, and Benjamin, who is a farmer. They are all members of the Catholic church.

Frank Puthoff and his wife are the parents of ten children, viz: John, who is a farmer; Lizzie, wife of Michael Reusch; Catherine, wife of George Inichen, who is a prominent farmer and breeder of the famous Victoria hogs, and also of Aberdeen cattle; Benjamin, who is managing a farm for another man; Mary, single; Henry, who has a decided taste for learning, and is now attending school; Jacob, Anton, Joseph and Caroline, the last four at home. Mr. Puthoff is a democrat in politics, but he has no desire to serve his country otherwise than as a private citizen. He and his wife, and all ten of his children, are members of the Catholic church. All are good citizens, and a credit to the country and county in which they live.

OLIVER PUTMAN, a prominent farmer and stock dealer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert county, February 14, 1859, and is a son of John and Martha Jane (King) Putman. John Putman was born in Stark county, August 16, 1833, and is a son of Peter and Margaret (Adams) Putman. Peter Putman was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1799, was of German descent, and was reared on the farm. His father was a farmer in Germany, where he also served in the army. Peter Putman married Catherine Adams, a daughter of John Adams, who was also of German descent. To Peter and Catherine Putman there were born seven children, as follows: Alexander, formerly of Van Wert county, now deceased; Isaac, formerly of Mercer county, now deceased; Rosanna, wife of Joseph Ickes, of Van Wert county; Catherine, wife of Crayton Brewer, a fruit raiser of Utica Falls, Mendocino county, Cal.; John, the father of the subject; Mary, deceased wife of Mac Brewer, a grocer of Van Wert; Maria, wife of Marion B. Shaffer, a machinist of Van Wert. Soon after his marriage, Peter Putman removed from Pennsylvania to Stark county, Ohio, where he lived on a farm until 1838, when he removed to Van Wert county and there entered 120 acres of land in Liberty township, upon which he lived until his death, His first wife died in 1844, and about 1848 he married, for his second wife, Sarah Niford, who was born in Stark county about 1828, and still lives on the home farm in Van Wert county. To this second marriage of Peter Putman there were born the following children: Scott, now on the home farm; Taylor, Newton and Farmer, all three living in Van Wert county; Sarah, wife of Andrew Agler, of the same county; Willis and Marion, both living in Van Wert county; Minnie, wife of Frank King, of Liberty township, Van Wert county; Clarke, of the same county, and Clara, wife of Charles Hartzog, of Ohio City.

Peter Putman was the first justice of the peace in Liberty township, Van Wert county, and held the office about sixteen years. He also ran the first threshing machine in the county last named, and was thus a pioneer in more senses than one. For some time he had to go to Fort Wayne to mill, and other hardships and deprivations were quite familiar to him. He ws a republican in his politics and was a member of the Presbyterian church, and, although very quiet as a member, he was a regular attendant, the church being near his farm, and it is in the little graveyard on his farm that his remains lie buried. He was one of the most public-spirited men in his county, always ready to aid any worthy enterprise that might promise to promote the public good. His death occurred January 18, 1884.

John Putman, his son, and father of the subject, was educated in Van Wert county, and when about seventeen years of age began to take care of himself. The first work performed by him was on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad, and it was the first work on that road in Van Wert county. When eighteen years of age he went to Illinois and there worked on a farm for two years, and then, returning home, he purchased a tract of land containing forty-seven acres, at the clearing of which he worked two years, built a house on it, and on August 26, 1858, married Martha Jane King, a daughter of Joseph and Betsey (Tague) King. To this marriage were born two children, viz: Oliver, the subject of this sketch, and Mary Etta, born April 8, 1862, and died September 1,

1863. The mother of these children was born in Mercer county July 9, 1842, her parents being early settlers of that county, removing thereto from Franklin county.

John Putman lived in Van Wert county from the time of his marriage until 1862, when he removed to Mercer county, buying a farm in Dublin township, which was partly improved. After living on this farm one year he sold it and farmed one year in Black Creek township, and in 1867 bought the homestead farm of 246 acres, which was then in its primeval condition. Here he has lived ever since, and his is one of the best farms in the county, the soil being exceedingly fertile. Upon this farm his son also still resides, having purchased the homestead in 1890. For the past twenty years he has been a general farmer and dealer in stock. As a republican he has held local offices for years. He is one of the most successful farmers and business men in the county and had one of the most highly cultivated farms anywhere to be found.

Oliver Putman, the subject of this sketch, was educated in Van Wert county, and was there married, June 24, 1880, to Matilda Marks, a daughter of Lewis and Rachael Marks. To this marriage there have been born two children: Nellie Pearl, April 17, 1881, and Cloyd, October 22, 1885. Matilda Marks was born on the farm of Jesse Marks in Mercer county, August 8, 1857. After his marriage Oliver Putman located on the home farm and has lived there ever since. In 1881 he erected a barn, and in 1882 a large, elegant house, which is unusually well furnished. In 1892 he erected a stock barn, and now has all but forty acres of the original farm under cultivation. The farm now contains 246 acres of land, and there is another, belonging to Mr. Putman, which contains 142 acres, which is also under a high state of cultivation. Besides these farms he also owns another of sixty-four acres, making the entire landed estate equal to 452 acres. Mr. Putman is a very successful dealer in live stock as well as being a successful farmer. He is a republican in politics and has held several local offices, such as member of the school board for the township. While he may be considered one of the leading farmers of Mercer county, he is also one of the most public spirited of that county's citizens.

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ISRAEL FRANKLIN RAUDABAUGH, member of the milling firm of Beery & Raudabaugh, and a well-known citizen of Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, was born four miles north of Celina, March 21, 1844, and is a son of Judge George W. Raudabaugh, one of the pioneers of Mercer county. The father of George W. Raudabaugh died in Fairfield county, his family consisting of Jacob, Samuel, John and George W. The latter son located in Mercer county in 1843, and married Catherine Roberts, by whom he had the following children: Israel Franklin, subject proper of this sketch; William, John, George, Albert, Mary, Edward, Joshua, Richard and Lillie.

Israel Franklin Raudabaugh remained on the farm with his father until 1856, when his father, having been elected county auditor, removed with his family to Celina. In Celina Mr. Raudabaugh received the principal part of his preliminary education, but in 1866 he entered Mount Union college, and after a two years' course graduated from that institution in 1868. After leaving college Mr. Raudabaugh began life by teaching school in Somerset county, Pa., at first a normal school and then in public schools. He was in Pennsylvania three years in all, during which time he read law and was admitted to the bar. The law firm with which he studied in Pennsylvania was that of Colburn & Kimball, in Somerset, the county seat of Somerset county.

Returning to Mercer county, Ohio, he was appointed superintendent of the public schools of Celina, which position he held during the school year 1871–72, and during the next school year he filled a similar position at Fort Recovery. He was then, in 1873, elected county surveyor, which position he held for three years. While filling this position he also practiced law to some extent, being a member of the firm of Raudabaugh & Armstrong, which firm continue in existence until 1884, when Mr. Raudabaugh retired therefrom, and subsequently practiced by himself. From 1883 to 1886 he was engaged in engineering for the turnpike roads then being constructed in Mercer county. In 1889 he surveyed the Mercer county reservoir for the state canal commissioners, and made maps of the same, continuing at the same time in the practice of the law until the beginning of 1890, when, in company with three other gentlemen he embarked in the oil business, and of this business has made a success. In March, 1895, he became engaged in the milling business in partnership with W. H. Beery, the firm being known as Beery & Raudabaugh, or as the Beery Milling company. Beside the positions filled by Mr. Raudabaugh, enumerated above, he has also served as school director, and he was for a time United States deputy surveyor of the Pueblo district of Colorado.

In 1871 Mr. Raudabaugh was married to Miss Julia Brubaker, who was born in Berlin, Pa., and is a daughter of Alexander Brubaker. To them there have been born five children, viz: Ella, Samuel, Bertie, Catharine, and one deceased. Mr. Raudabaugh is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the Cincinnati consistory.

The maternal grandfather of Israel F. Raudabaugh was Joshua Roberts, who was born on West river, in Virginia. He was a farmer and stock raiser and married Elizabeth Beughler, by whom he had the following children: Margaret, Catherine, Mary Ruth and John. Mr. Roberts was as of Welsh ancestry, and settled in Virginia in 1820. Mr. Raudabaugh, therefore, is descended fron German ancestry on the paternal side and Welsh ancestry on the maternal side, and should possess the strength of character of the one and the brilliancy of mind unusually found in the Celtic race. He is a man of strong character and true to all that interests his fellow-men, sympathizing with them in their efforts to improve their material and moral condition, for which and for many other reasons he is held in very high esteem.

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JAMES M. RANTZ.—The Rantz family is of sturdy German ancestry, and early settlers in Pennsylvania. Michael Rantz, the grandfather of the subject, died in Pennsylvania from the effects of an accident. He married Mary Ann Hittle, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1785. Michael and Mary Ann Rantz were the parents of the following children: Michael, John and Abraham, the latter of whom was the father of the subject, and was born in Columbia county, Pa., July 27, 1822. After the death of her husband Mrs. Rantz married Joseph Robins in Columbia county, Pa., and in 1835 Mr. Robins and his family, including Abraham Rantz, removed to Butler county, Ohio. Two years later the family removed to Mercer county and settled in Granville township, where Mr. Robins cleared up a farm of 100 acres of land, and became a substantial farmer and honored citizen. His death occurred on his farm in 1852.

Abraham Rantz was educated in the pioneer schools of the day, and besides pursued his studies privately, receiving more benefit from his own individual efforts than from the schools, and became generally well informed. He learned the carpenter's trade, and became unusually skillful in his trade, and also an inventor. Among his inventions are many that are both ingenious and valuable, as the turbine water-wheel, the automatic right and left railroad switch, and an adjusting mill-stone. He was a man of great bodily strength and intellectual vigor, and performed a vast amount of hard work. He married August 7, 1841, in Gibson township, Mercer county, Mary A. Hedrick, who was born August 17, 1837, and who was a daughter of Henry Hedrick, a substantial farmer and pioneer of Mercer county, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Rantz were born the following children: Elizabeth, Marguerita, Christian B., Mary J. and James M. Mr. Rantz became interested in milling, and in 1852 built a saw-mill and grist-mill, and it is believed brought the first circular saw to Mercer county. From that time on for some years he was engaged in manufacturing lumber and flour, with great success. In this business he had for a time John S. Fox as a partner. In 1872 he built a large grist-mill, which he conducted until within three years of his death. Besides his milling business, he was engaged, particularly at an early day, in building bridges and erecting buildings for others. Being an energetic business man, and of industrious and thrifty habits, he could not do otherwise than succeed. Politically he was a Jacksonian democrat, and a member of the Christian church, of which he served as trustee, and of which he was a liberal supporter. He was always a friend of education, and in favor of the general advancement of society, through proper means. He was a most highly respected citizen because of his sterling worth and honorable character and career.

Having lost his first wife in 1864, Abraham Rantz took for his second life-companion, in 1875, Abigail Jones, and to this union there were born four children: Nellie, William, Carrie and Vera. This lady still survives, but lost her husband January 9, 1893.

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ALBERT RAUDABAUGH, justice of the peace, was born February 8, 1854, and is a son of Judge George W. Raudabaugh, deceased, one of the most prominent men of Mercer county during his lifetime. Albert Raudabaugh was married March 11, 1875, to Miss Melissa Jane Newcomb, a daughter of M. Maddison Newcomb, and Margaret C. (Ellis) Newcomb, and to this marriage there have been six children, as follows: George M., John William, Orvie, Daisy, Margaret May and Sarah Hannah. All of these children inherited a talent and a taste for music, the cultivation of which their parents have from the first aided and encouraged, by purchasing for the use of the children various kinds of musical instruments, such as a piano, violin, guitar, cello, etc., and also by the employment of efficient instructors. In the use of these various instruments some of the children display a proficiency seldom attained by persons of their years, and together they constitute an orchestra of no mean order. They are also very accomplished vocalists.

Albert Raudabaugh has always resided on the farm, and, since his marriage, upon the farm he now occupies. He was well educated in the schools of Mercer county, is a democrat in politics, and is serving his second term as justice of the peace of his township, which office he was in fact almost compelled to take, so earnest were his friends in their solicitations, as was also the case with the school directorship which he held for several years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a man of great popularity and usefulness.

Fuller reference is made to his father's life and family in the biography of I. F. Raudabaugh, published above.

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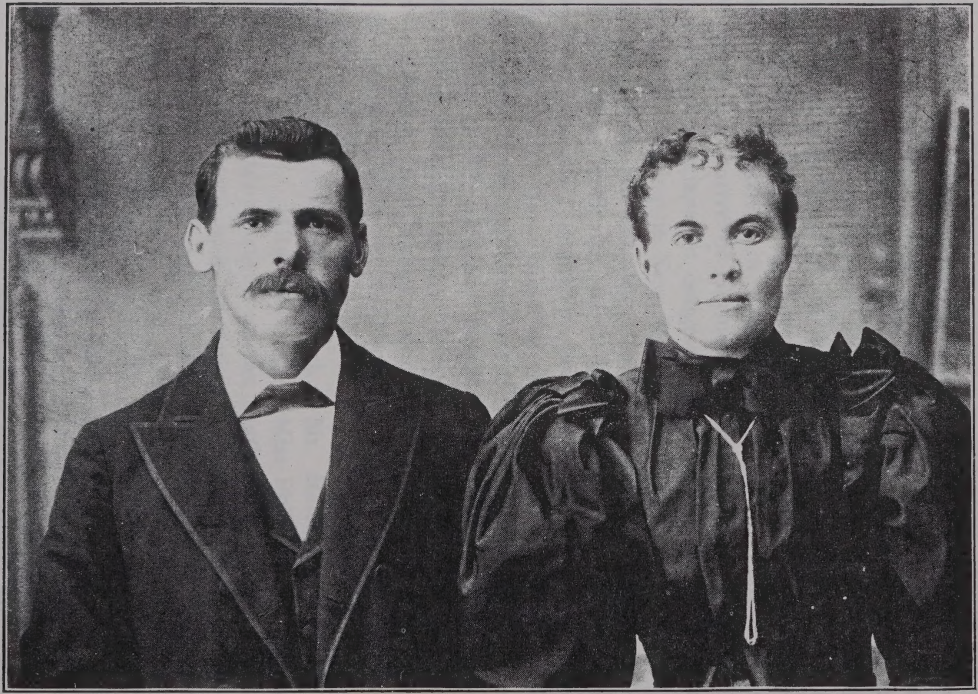
JOSEPH J. REICHERT, hotel keeper and dealer in live stock, at Maria Stein Station, was born September 21, 1846. He is a son of John Reichert, who was born in Baden, Germany, in 1800, and who, at an early age, learned the trade of shoemaker, and at this trade he worked about seven years.

John Reichert was married, in 1822, to Miss Anna M. Stucke, a native of Germany, and not long after his marriage he emigrated to the United States, landing in New York, and had to borrow money to get away from that city. From New York he went to Chambersburg, Pa., where he remained for two years, and then removed to Maria Stein, Mercer county, Ohio, where he purchased forty acres of government land, which he cleared and improved, and to which he added at different times two other forty-acre tracts, making 120 acres in all, and this he converted into one of the best farms in Marion township. Upon this excellent farm he resided until his death, which occurred in 1878. After his children grew up so as to be able to carry on the farm, Mr. Reichert, who was a well educated man, began teaching school, followed that profession for twenty years, and was very successful. He was a member of the Catholic church, a democrat in politics and a liberal-minded, intelligent and highly esteemed citizen. His wife was also a member of the Catholic church, and died in 1870. She bore her husband the following children: Henry, Eve, Killian, Katie, Augustine, Barbara, John, Mary, Joseph J., and Maggie. Four only of these children are living, as follows: Eve, Barbara, Mary and Joseph J., the latter of whom is the subject of this sketch.

Joseph J. Reichert was born in Maria Stein, Mercer county, Ohio, and was brought up on his father's farm. He was educated under his father's instruction in the country schools until he was twelve years of age, when he began a four years' course in the seminary at Carthagena, taking all of the common English branches, and making thorough work of his studies. Upon leaving the seminary he began teaching school, and taught for some twenty-four years, when he went to Kansas, where he bought a farm and also engaged in mercantile business in Dresden, Decatur county. In farming and in merchandising he met with success, and was engaged in Kansas nine years in these two lines of activity and industry, when he traded off his store for 320 acres of land. At the present time he owns altogether 480 acres of land. Selling out his property in Kansas, he returned to Ohio, and located in Fort Recovery, Mercer county, where he remained one year, and then returned to Maria Stein Station, where he superintended the elevator for some time, and later went into the hotel business, in which he is still engaged, and is also buying live stock on an extensive scale. Mr. Reichert was married, June 7, 1870, to Miss Philomena Hagedorn, by whom he is the father of the following children: Maggie, Elizabeth, Edward, Ferdinand, Augustine, Albert, Seraphim, Ernestine, and Maria, all living but Edward. Mr. Reichert is a member of the Catholic church, believes in the principles of the democratic party, and is a highly respected citizen, honored alike by his party and the public at large.

Philomena Hagedorn was born August 17, 1853, and lived with her parents until she married Mr. Reichert. She is a member of the Catholic church, and is one of the best of women. Of her father, Henry Hagedorn, there appears a biographical sketch on page 221 of this volume.



Mike Reusch    Mary Elisabeth Reusch

MICHAEL REUSCH, farmer and superintendent of the county infirmary of Mercer county, is a young German-American citizen of unusual success and prominence in his county, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, September 6, 1860, and is a son of Godfrey Reusch, a native of Germany, and at present a farmer and a vintner in his native land. In the fall of 1879 his wife died, leaving her husband and four children to mourn their loss. These four children are as follows: Mary and Godfrey, yet living in Germany; Michael and Christian, both of whom came to the United States. Christian, the youngest of the family, emigrated to this country in 1877, when he was but fifteen years of age. He is now residing at Columbus, Ohio, and is a baker by trade, but at present he is clerking in a wholesale hardware store.

Michael Reusch, the subject of this sketch, came to America in 1880, landing in New York, and coming thence direct to Celina, then being twenty years of age. At first he was employed on a dairy farm by the month, continuing to work thus for twenty-two months. Then he drove delivery wagon in Celina for three months, and was afterward employed by the county commissioners to work on the county farm, continuing thus employed until 1888. Te then became superintendent of the infirmary, which position he still retains. He has for the past seven years performed the duties pertaining to this position with credit to himself and with full satisfaction to those interested in the proper and successful management of the county farm, which he has made nearly self-supporting. At the present time there are about twenty-four inmates, and the surroundings indicate that there is a man in charge that is at all times fully attentive to the comfort of these inmates, and to the proper conduct of the infirmary and the farm.

In 1892 Mr. Reusch bought a farm of his own, eighty acres, with sixty-five cleared and in a high state of cultivation. This farm has a good house upon it, and Mr. Reusch divides his attention between the county farm and his own, neglecting neither. When he came to Mercer county he had but a few dollars left; but has had a small remittance from his father, and he has saved his earnings, and is now a prosperous and progressive young farmer.

In 1888 he married Miss Elizabeth Puthoff, daughter of Frank and Catherine (Brandywine) Puthoff, both of whom were born in America, but whose parents were from Germany. Mr. Puthoff is now a prominent farmer in Mercer county. He and his wife are the parents of ten children, viz: John, Elizabeth, wife of the subject; Kate, Benjamin, Mary, Henry, Jacob, Andrew, Joseph and Carrie.

Michael Reusch and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of three children, viz: Harry, born November 21, 1889; Lizzie born September 1, 1892; and Bertha, born November 15, 1895. Mr. Reusch, though so recently made a citizen of the United States, is yet as much of an American in feeling and purpose as any that are native born. It is from his class of foreigners that the American people are always glad to receive additions to their numbers, for they keep up the standing of citizenship in this country, and furnish fine examples of industry and thrift, by which success in any calling is fully assured.

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CAPT. JOHN S. RHODES, a highly esteemed citizen of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-officer of the Civil war, who performed patriotic and valued services for his government during that great conflict, was born in Groton, Caledonia county, Vt., and descends from sterling Puritan stock, his father being of English and his mother of Scotch-Irish descent. He is a son of Josiah K. and Mary (Brown) Rhodes, and was born October 2, 1827. The usual common-school education of his youthful days was given to him, and, his school days being over, he learned the trade of house joiner. He remembers well the rigid Puritan religious discipline of his youthful days, which left an ineffaceable impression on his mind. When he was sixteen years of age he ran away from home and worked on the canal as bowsman and steersman until cold weather. He then went on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers as flatboatman, continuing on the river until he became second pilot, making twenty trips during the winter seasons and working at his trade during the summers. This course he pursued until 1855. He had located at Fort Recovery, Mercer county, in April, 1844, he being still a young man. On January 18, 1855, he married Miss Sarah J. Lipps, who was born December 12, 1836, and was a daughter of Henry and Cynthia (Wooten) Lipps. To Capt. and Mrs. Rhodes there were born three daughters, viz: Jane A., February 8, 1856; Celestine, February 15, 1858, and Estelle, November 15, 1861.

Capt. Rhodes has been a farmer ever since his marriage, owning a fine 100-acre farm within the corporation of Fort Recovery. Fraternally he is a charter member of Fort Recovery lodge, No. 539, F. & A. M., and has held the offices of secretary and was its first worshipful master. He is a non-affiliated Odd Fellow, belonging to Fort Recovery lodge, No. 448, and has held the offices of past and noble grand. He is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, belonging to Harrod-McDaniel post, No. 181, of Fort Recovery, of which he was one of the organizers and first commander. In politics he is a democrat, has been a member of the town council, has served as township clerk, and is in every respect an honored citizen.

Capt. Rhodes enlisted in the Civil war at Fort Recovery, August 13, 1862, and was mustered in at Cincinnati, September 15, 1862, as a member of company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. W. D. Stone, for three years, or during the war. August 13, 1862, he was commissioned second lieutenant, and on December 15, 1862, he was commissioned first lieutenant. He was transferred to company I as first lieutenant, and promoted captain April 4, 1864, being then assigned to company C. He was honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 12, 1865, and returned to his home, where he has since been engaged in the development of his township and county.

Capt. Rhodes participated in the battle of Kingston, Tenn., of Mossy Creek, Tenn., and was all through the famous Atlanta campaign, during which the Union army was continuously under fire for four months. He was in the battles of Dalton, Buzzard Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca, Dallas, Pumpkinvine Creek, and in the battle near Atlanta, and he was also in the grand battle of Atlanta on July 28. He was also in the hard-fought battles of Franklin and Nashville, after which his regiment followed Hood's demoralized army as far back as Clifton on its retreat southward. The regiment then went by rail and steamer to Washington, D. C., and then to Fortress Monroe, and to Smithville, N. C., marching up Cape Fear river to Fort Anderson, and was at the capture of that fort. There the regiment was on the skirmish line and was the first regiment to go over the fortifications, and reach the flag on the fort. They waved their colors as a salute to the river fleet then on Cape Fear river. At Town Creek they had another fight and captured Wilmington, N. C., February 22, 1865. They then fired a salute of 100 guns to celebrate the victory and Washington's birthday.

On March 8, 1865, they made a forced march to Kingston, N. C., wading through the swamps for five days, the water being up to their knees and sometimes to their hips. They captured Goldsboro, N. C., and were afterward joined by Sherman's army. During all this time the regiment took part in many skirmishes and experienced many hardships, suffering much from exposure.

Capt. Rhodes was always an efficient officer, prompt in the discharge of every duty, and a good example to his men. He was not wounded and was sick in hospital but a short time. He considers his hardest march to have been from Columbia, Tenn., to Franklin, Tenn., on the night before the battle of November 30, the regiment marching all night and making twenty-seven miles. Another hard march was that from Wilmington, N. C., to Kingston, N. C., a distance of about eighty miles, which they covered in four and a half days. This was in the month of March, through swamps, and the regiment suffered greatly from exposure. Another hard march was that from Loudon, Tenn., to Kingston, Tenn., a distance of twenty-eight miles, in the month of November, when snow, sleet, mud and darkness added to the difficulties of the march.

The hardest battle the captain was in was that at Franklin, Tenn., where the rebels made thirteen charges. On June 1, 1864, between Cass Station and Kingston, on his way to the rear, Capt. Rhodes was captured twice, by Wheeler's cavalry, on the same day, being captured while in an ambulance and robbed of all he had, and about two hours afterward he was captured by another squad and soon afterward released, as the rebels had not time to attend to prisoners. Capt. Rhodes served throughout the term of his enlistment with his regiment, and was the only commissioned officer who went out and returned with his men home to Mercer county. He was a faithful and efficient officer and fought with his regiment in many battles, and performed every duty promptly and cheerfully.

Capt. Rhodes descends from Revolutionary stock. His great-grandfather was a native of New Hampshire, was a farmer by occupation and served as a soldier in the war for American independence. He married Martha Pratt and lived to be ninety-four years of age. Josiah K. Rhodes, the father of the subject, was a member of the Ohio militia, and as such was called out to aid in settling the boundary dispute between the United States and Canada in the year of 1836.

In 1851, when a young man, Capt. Rhodes, together with a companion, while hunting for bullets on the battle field of St. Clair's defeat, found one of the three pits in which the bodies of the 900 American soldiers were buried. They made thirteen coffins of black walnut, six feet long, which the remains of the soldiers thus found filled. They were appropriately buried with imposing military ceremonies, September 10, 1851, Judge Bellamy Storer, of Cincinnati, being the orator of the day. He rode all the way from Cincinnati to Fort Recovery on horseback, being about five days on the way. Many descendants of the fallen heroes were present from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, and some from other states.

Henry Lipps, father of Mrs. John S. Rhodes, was one of the pioneer settlers of Fort Recovery, locating there in 1832. Born in Greenbrier county, Va. (now West Va.), in 1809, he was a son of George and Katie (Boyle) Lipps. George Lipps was married in Virginia in 1801. He and his wife, Katie Boyle, became the parents of ten children, viz.: William, John, Jacob, Lewis, Henry, Rebecca, Margaret, Polly, Sally and Betsy Jane. In 1811 he located in Gallia county, Ohio, and in 1830 removed to Greenville, Darke county, settling where that town now stands, and in 1834 removed to Fort Recovery, finally removing to Kosciusko county, Ind., where his death took place.

Henry Lipps married Cynthia Wooten about 1830, removed to Fort Recovery in 1832, bought the lot upon which the Wayne House now stands, and erected a log house, in which he kept the first tavern in the place, which was known for many years as the American House. He and his wife had the following children: Eli, Sarah J., George, Wilson S. and William H. At the time of his death he owned three farms, besides other valuable real estate. As a democrat he served in the Ohio legislature during 1849-50, serving also for many years as justice of the peace. He was one of the founders of the Western Standard, published at Celina for many years. Edward B. Wooten and his wife, Jane Gilliland, were the grandparents of Mrs. John S. Rhodes, settled in 1833 three miles southwest of Fort Recovery, in Jay county, Ind., and became the parents of twelve children, viz.: Samuel, Nathan, John, Jonathan, Hugh, Sally, Annie, Polly, Nellie, Jane, Susan and Cynthia. Mr. Wooten lived to be 100 years old, and Cynthia Lipps, the mother of Mrs. Rhodes, died in October, 1877.

Captain Rhodes is one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of Fort Recovery, and is an honored gentleman. He is one of the noble band of patriots that suffered for the good of mankind in the defense of the government of the United States, when many thousands north and south sought its overthrow, but which they now rejoice to see more firmly established than ever on a most solid and substantial basis, with equal rights and equal freedom to all before the law.

JOHN C. RIESE, a successful and prominent farmer of Hopewell township, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 24, 1834, a son of John and Rega (Greve) Riese, the former of whom was born in the same place about 1807. John Riese was the eldest of six children born to his parents. In his native country he was a farmer and a fisherman, and also served in the German army. He was married, about 1821, to Miss Rega Greve, who was a native of the same place with himself, and to this marriage there were born four children, the eldest of whom died in infancy, the others being named as follows: John C., the subject of this sketch; Rica, the wife of Henry Krogman, of Hopewell township, and Sophia, who died in childhood. John Riese, after his marriage to Rega Greve, followed farming in Germany until 1858, when he emigrated to the United States, crossing the ocean in a German sailing vessel, and requiring forty-two days to make the voyage. Landing in New York, he came direct to Celina, Mercer county; Ohio, where he lived on a rented farm near by about eight years, after which he lived with the subject of this sketch until his death. Politically he was a democrat, and in religion a member of the Lutheran church, and has ever been faithful to his religious as well as political convictions.

John C. Riese was reared on the farm in Germany, and educated in the excellent schools of that country. From his fourteenth year he worked at various occupations until old enough to enter the German army, and was in the reserves three years, when he was discharged, and then came to the United States. He was married December 17, 1863, to Mary Hoeine, a daughter of Henry and Rachael Hoeine, and to their marriage there have been born six children, as follows: William H., who died at the age of eighteen; George, president of the Normal school at Portland, Ind., but who died after this sketch was written; Charles, who died when four years of age; Edward, a teacher in Portland, Ind.; Ferdinand, who died in infancy; and Benjamin, living at home. Mary (Hoeine) Riese, wife of our subject, was born in Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, July 22, 1840, and died August 24, 1890, a member of the Lutheran church. After his marriage the subject of this sketch rented a farm for two years, when he moved upon his present farm, then consisting of eighty acres of woodland. The first thing he did was to erect a log cabin for the protection of his family, then to begin clearing and improving his land, which he placed under cultivation as fast as cleared, and made a good farm. In 1875 he erected a large barn, which, together with all his other buildings, except his house, was swept away in May, 1886, by a cyclone, the upper story of his house also being carried away. The total loss was about $5,000. His present house he erected in 1887, as well as most of his other buildings. In this fine house he has since lived, and since then he has added to his farm, as above described, forty acres of woodland. Here he has always followed general farming and stock raising, and has proven himself fully adequate to the task of making them profitable.

Politically Mr. Riese has always been a democrat since arriving in this country, and has served as township trustee for six years, and for a number of years he has been a member of the township school board. In 1895 he was a candidate for infirmary director. In his church, the Lutheran, of which his entire family are members, he is a trustee and clerk, and has always been an active worker in the cause of religion and in the support of his church. Being a progressive and successful farmer, a public-spirited citizen, and a man of genial disposition, he is well known to many people, and highly respected by all who know him.

LEVI ROBISON.—The Robison family is a very numerous, highly honored and most distinguished one, as well as ancient. The first one of the name of whom extended mention is made in this connection, was David Robison, who was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1776. His father, whose name is not now remembered, was a native of Ireland. His mother was a native of Pennsylvania, and in religion a Quaker. David Robison was by trade a wagon-maker, and in 1801 he was married to Miss Hannah Shaw. To David and Hannah Robison there were born the following children: John, Isaac, David, Ezekiel J., all deceased; Esther, now Mrs. Walker, living in Ashland, Ohio, at the age of ninety years, and whose eldest son, David Walker, is the honored treasurer of the city of Philadelphia; and Mrs. Hannah Grubb, deceased.

David Robison lived in Pennsylvania until 1828, in which year he removed to Richland county, Ohio—that portion of it which is now included in Ashland county. In his new home he continued to follow his trade, learned when young, and followed it till his death. He was a democrat in politics, was a man of exemplary character, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. The name Robison, it will be found in subsequent sketches of David H. and Francis A., has been changed in the spelling to Robinson, and in the memoir of David H. will be found a full biography of Ezekiel J. Robison, the fourth son of David of this mention.

Levi Robison, second son of Ezekiel J., was born in Ashland county, Ohio, November 12, 1834, and removed with his parents to Mercer county in September, 1839, locating on a farm in the wild woods. Reared on the farm and educated in the common schools of his native county, at the age of twenty-one he began to learn the carpenter trade, at which he worked three years. In 1857 and 1858 he learned the cabinet-maker's trade, and on February 17, 1859, was married to Matilda Davis, daughter of Robert and Anna (Shively) Davis. To this marriage there were born five children, as follows: Laura Ella, born June 29, 1860, and died July 21, 1864; David E., born January 31, 1863, a farmer and school-teacher of Black Creek township; Lewis Howard, born March 10, 1866, and died October 22, 1890; Julia A., born April 27, 1868, wife of Marion Pond, a farmer of Black Creek township, and Mary Etta, born March 26, 1874, and died June 10, 1883.

The mother of these children was born in Ashland county, now Richland county, Ohio, January 23, 1838. Her first experience in the school-room was obtained in her native county, but later she attended school at Fort Recovery. After thus completing her education she taught school several terms. Her father, Robert Davis, was a son of Eli and Hannah (Stevens) Davis, and was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, February 12, 1803. The father of Robert Davis was born in Maryland, married there and reared a family of three children, as follows: Elizabeth Plants, deceased; Amos, deceased, and Robert. The father was an early settler in Columbiana county, Ohio, and took up government land. In 1830 he removed to Ashland county, and there also entered government land. By occupation he was both a farmer and a lawyer. He had a brother, Robert, that was a soldier in the war with Mexico.

Robert Davis was reared on a farm, was well educated in Columbiana county, taught school and was also a minister in the Christian or Disciples' church. In 1827 he married Miss Anna Shively, daughter of Jacob Shively, and to this marriage there were born eleven children, as follows: Hannah, deceased; Rachel, deceased wife of Solomon King; Henry Espy, of Auburn, Ind.; Mary, widow of A. Brown, of Decatur, Ill.; Amos, a mechanic of Willshire; Matilda, wife of Levi Robison; John, a teacher and farmer, living on the home place; Laura, wife of Henry Morrison; Martha, deceased wife of Daniel Pifer, of Celina; James Porter, educated at Bethany college, in West Virginia, and is now a Christian minister, and Sarah, wife of Dr. Girard Bailey, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. With the exception of Sarah all of these children have taught school. The mother of these children was born in Columbiana county, February 6, 1806, and died February 2, 1892. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Three years after his marriage Robert Davis went to Ashland county, where he entered government land. Remaining there until 1851, he then removed to Mercer county and purchased the farm upon which his son John lives at the present time. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Christian church, dying September 5, 1872.

Levi Robison, after his marriage, settled on the present farm, twenty acres of which were cleared. All of the rest of the farm he cleared, and improved, in the meantime working at his trade, and his hand-made furniture is known throughout the entire section of country in which he lives, and in many states outside of Ohio. In 1871 he erected a fine, large barn, which was burned down August 4, 1894, and which, with the exception of $950, was covered by insurance. In 1895 he built another barn, which is, if anything, an improvement on the one destroyed. In 1877 he erected a large and commodious dwelling house, in which he still lives. Mr. Robison is one of most public spirited and progressive of the farmers of his township, and is a most kind and accommodating neighbor. In 1880, and also in 1890, he was appointed, by the government of the United States, census enumerator for his township, and he has also been assessor of his township two terms. In politics he is a republican, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In his church Mr. Robison has held numerous offices, having been recording steward five years, trustee several years, and he has also held other offices. Few men, if any, in his township, stand higher in the public regard than does Mr. Robison, as all know that whenever anything of a public or private nature needing assistance is up for discussion or advancement he can always be relied on to willingly lend a helping hand.

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DAVID H. ROBINSON, one of the leading citizens of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, an ex-soldier and prominent merchant, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, January 6, 1839, and is a son of Ezekiel J. and Jane (Vantilburg) Robinson.

David Robinson, grandfather of our subject, was of remote Irish descent, was for many years a resident of Celands Grove. Pa., and about 1826 came to Ohio and located, with his family, in Ashland county, where he followed the trade of wagon-maker. He reared a family of six children, viz: Isaac, David, John, Ezekiel J., Hannah and Esther. Of this family Isaac left his home in Pennsylvania for the state of Michigan, and became lost to his family; David, who was an expert carpenter and cabinet-maker, came to Mercer county, Ohio, passed two or three years in Rockford, and then moved to Delphi, Ind., where he passed the remainder of his days; John, who in early life, was a boatman on the Susquehanna river, Pa., was also a mechanic, and died in Ashland, Ohio; Hannah was married to a Mr. Grubb, but is now deceased; Esther is the widow of David Walker, of Ashland, Ohio, and has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years.

Ezekiel J. Robinson, the fourth child of the above named family and the father of David H. Robinson, our subject, was born in Pennsylvania August 14, 1807, and when a boy of six or seven years of age was bound out to a farmer, with whom he remained until eighteen years old. When he was released from his indentures, he came to Ohio, and for about twelve years worked with his father at wagon-making in Ashland. In 1837 Ezekiel came to Mercer county, entered eighty acres of land in Black Creek township, erected a cabin, returned to Ashland county, and September 10, 1839, came back to Mercer county with his wife and three children, and cleared up his farm—his nearest neighbor being then three miles away, and his market at either Piqua, Ohio, or Fort Wayne, Ind. He underwent all the harships of pioneer life, labored industriously, added 160 acres to his original tract, and eventually secured from the wilderness as fine a 160-acre farm as there was in Black Creek township, being ably assisted by his children, of whom further mention will presently be made.

Ezekiel J. Robinson was an active and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years his home was the stopping place of the pioneer ministers who visited Black Creek township; he assisted liberally in erecting the earlier churches of all denominations in his neighborhood, was also very active in securing the establishment of schools and in giving teachers a comfortable home, in order that his children might have the best education of the day, and also lent a willing and ready hand in aiding his neighbors in the construction of their dwellings. In politics he was a democrat until 1856, when he changed his political affiliations, became a republican, and under both parties filled most of the township offices. He was enterprising and public spirited in the extreme, and was one of the original contributors to and proprietors of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, as well as a promoter of all other projects designed for the public welfare.

The marriage of Ezekiel J. Robinson took place, in 1832, to Miss Jane Vantilburg, a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, and a daughter of Henry and Jennie Vantilburg, and to this prolific union were born thirteen children, of whom two died in infancy; those who grew to manhood and womanhood were born in the following order: Levi, a farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio; Isaac, a miner of Nevada county, Cal.; David H., the subject of this sketch; Sarah J., widow of John Ehret, of Van Wert, Ohio; Mary, wife of John W. Rutledge, of Black Creek township, Mercer county; Hannah, deceased wife of J. E. Morrison, of Van Wert; Martha, widow of L. T. Clark, a former minister of the Methodist Episcopal church; Silas J., farmer of Black Creek township; Anna, wife of Hugh Evans, of Delphos, Ohio; Siniett, wife of C. S. Mauk, attorney at law, Rockford, Ohio; Francis A., clothing merchant of Rockford.

John Ehret, mentioned above as the deceased husband of Sarah J. Robinson, was a soldier in the Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry during the late Civil war, and died in 1862, while at home on a furlough. Ezekiel J. Robinson the father of this large and respected family, died September 26, 1879, one of the most prominent and most highly honored citizens of Black Creek township—his widow surviving until September, 1889.

David H. Robinson, the subject of this memoir, was a child of but a few months of age when brought by his parents to Mercer county, Ohio, where he attended the public schools and assisted on the home farm until he reached his majority; he then took a course of study at Bryant & Stratton's commercial college, accepted a position as clerk in a dry-goods store in Shanesville—now Rockford—and held the position until August 11, 1862, when he enlisted in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry. At the organization of the company he was made fifth sergeant; February 13, 1863, was commissioned second lieutenant, and in November, 1864, was promoted to first lieutenant, and with that rank served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio. Among the many battles in which Mr. Robinson participated may be mentioned, as the more important, those of Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, and all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign; he was then at Nashville, and was later transferred to the east, where he fought under Sherman at Goldsboro, N. C., and was present at the surrender of Gen. Johnston.

After his return from the war Mr. Robinson resumed his old business as clerk at Rockford, took a second course at Bryant & Stratton's commercial college at Cleveland, and then, in the spring of 1867, formed a partnership with Henry Vantilburg, under the firm name of Vantilburg & Robinson, succeeding H. F. Holbrook & Co. in the general merchandise business and carrying a stock of $5,000—then considered to be one of the best assortments of goods in the county. The busines was chiefly in the hands of Mr. Robinson, he acting as the buyer or purchasing agent and increasing the trade in all its details. At the end of fifteen years, Mr. Vantilburg sold out his interest in the concern to L. A. Burgess, and the style was changed to D. H. Robinson & Co., and so continued until September, 1887. After a continuous mercantile career of twenty-one years Mr. Robinson relinquished trade.

In July, 1888, Mr. Robinson purchased an interest in the Farmers' Bank of Rockford, a private institution, and under his direct management this bank does a general deposit, loan, and foreign and domestic exchange business; the firm is composed of J. S. and D. L. Brumback, of Van Wert, Ohio, D. H. Robinson, of Rockford, Ohio, with J. C. Van Fleet, as cashier; it was the first banking house in Rockford, and is one of the most substantial moneyed institutions in the county of Mercer. Mr. Robinson was also one of the founders of the Shanes Crossing Manufacturing company, which is devoted to the manufacture of handles, lumber, etc., and also to planing. His interest in the handle factory he disposed of some five or six years later, but retained his interest in the lumber and planing branch of the business until May 2, 1885, when he sold, having bought and shipped large quantities of lumber during his connection with the business. In conjunction with his mill Mr. Robinson was also engaged in raising live stock; he also handled real estate extensively, and erected a greater number of dwellings than any other individual dealer in Rockford, for the purpose of selling, and still owns several fine pieces of property in the village and a valuable farm of 120 acres adjoining the corporation limit. In 1890-91 he erected the finest modern brick residence in Rockford, and this dwelling and its surroundings plainly indicate the characteristics of the man. In all in all, Mr. Robinson is a self-made man in the broadest acceptation of the term as applied to success in business life. He has been one of the most liberal men of Mercer county in his contributions to the aid of meritorious objects tending to promote the public welfare, and while his innumerable acts of charity are effectually felt, he seldom permits them to be known. A devout member and elder in the Presbyterian church, he has been one of its pillars and most liberal supporters—one of its most enthusiastic workers, and has represented his congregation in the presbytery of 1887 at Omaha, Nebr. Politically, Mr. Robinson is a stanch republican, and fraternally is a member of the G. A. R., Dolph Gray post; he is also a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M.

David H. Robinson was united in marriage, November 17, 1867, to Miss Rebecca Borchers, a daughter of George F. and Sarah (States) Borchers, and a native of Fairfield county, Ohio; this union has been blessed with two children, both of whom have been highly educated. The elder of the two, Frank E., is a graduate of Wooster (Ohio) university, of the class of 1893, and is also a graduate of the Cincinnati (Ohio) law school, of the class of 1895, and in that city has associated himself with the law firm of Harrison & Aston, a very prominent legal firm at the corner of Fifth and Main streets.

The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Nellie G., now the wife of Dr. J. P. Symons, of Rockford, Ohio, was a student of the Western Female seminary at Oxford, Ohio. Shakspere has told us that "some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them," and it requires but a little exercise of logic to decide that the greatest and only true man of this category is the second one mentioned, and of such is David H. Robinson, even if we have to go back to Aristotle for the definition of his word as applied to quality.

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FRANCIS A. ROBINSON, of the fashionable clothing house of Burgess & Robinson, Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, is a native of Black Creek township, in the same county, and was born February 2, 1860, a son of Ezekiel J. and Jane Robinson, of whom further mention will be found within the covers of this volume.

Francis A. Robinson was reared on the home farm in Black Creek township and was educated in the public and normal schools of his district and county, being thus well prepared for the business affairs of life. In September, 1890, he attended to the cultivation of over 160 acres of land, and the raising of live stock, and settled in Rockford, joining L. A. Burgess in his present extensive clothing and merchant tailoring business. The firm carries the most extensive and varied stock in its line to be found in Rockford, and this stock comprises every variety of ready-made clothing, hats, caps, gents' furnishings, etc., together with trunks, valises, umbrellas, and everything usually found in a first-class clothing establishment. Attached to the ready-made clothing department is the manufacturing division, where garments are made to order by experts, the customer having placed before him a large and choice assortment of piece goods to select from. Of this extensive business Mr. Robinson has the sole charge, his partner, Mr. Burgess, devoting his attention to his dry-goods trade in the adjacent store.

Mr. Robinson was most happily married, December 25, 1889, to Miss Lorena L. Smith, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1854, a daughter of Jacob Smith, an old resident of that county, and this union has been blessed with one child—Eugene J. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are active and ardent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they contribute quite liberally of their means and in which Mr. Robinson has filled all the secular offices, having served as recording secretary of the circuit. Their residence is on Main street, Rockford, where a generous hospitality is dispensed and where the society of a large circle of devoted friends is frequently enjoyed. Politically Mr. Robinson is a prohibitionist, and fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed all the chairs. As a progressive young business man, Mr. Robinson stands in the front rank of the merchants of the county.

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SILAS J. ROBISON, one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Mercer county, was born in Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, January 23, 1850. He is a son of E. J. and Jane (Vantilburg) Robison, for fuller reference to whom see biographical sketch of David and Levi Robison, elsewhere in this volume.

Silas J. Robison was reared on a farm in Black Creek township, and was well educated in the district schools—so well, in fact, that at the age of nineteen years he began teaching school himself, and for three years taught in Black Creek and Dublin townships. On the 21st of September, 1873, he was married to Miss Catherine Harrod, daughter of David and Jane (Ritemire) Harrod, and to their marriage there were born seven children, viz: Heber H., who has recently completed a thorough course in penmanship and bookkeeping at Delaware Business college; Lucy, wife of E. Alspaugh, of Van Wert county; an infant daughter, deceased; Annie and Florence, at home; Leah, living with the sister of the subject of this sketch, Mrs. Ehret, of Van Wert; and an infant son, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Washington township, Mercer county, February 18, 1852, and she was there reared, educated and married. She was a member of the United Brethren church, was a most excellent woman, and died September 3, 1893. For a fuller mention of her parents the reader is referred to the sketch of C. M. Bienz, elsewhere in these pages.

After his marriage Mr. Robison purchased the 103 acres of land on which he still lives.

He began farming upon it, and was unusually successful. Many are the improvement he has made, not least among them being the fine large barn he now has. After the death of his wife his second marriage took place to Elizabeth Zarbaugh, on February 7, 1895. She is the daughter of Jacob and Marguerite Elizabeth (Armpriester) Zarbaugh. She was born in Fairfield county, November 5, 1866, and was educated in Franklin county, and in Columbus, Ohio, followed dress making five years. While in Columbus she united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and she still remains a member thereof. Her father, Jacob Zarbaugh, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Stambaugh) Zarbaugh, and was born in York county, Pa., September 13, 1826. He was of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, and was reared on a farm, educated in his native state, and when yet a young man came with his parents to Ohio, they locating in Fairfield county. In this county he was married to Miss M. E. Armpriester, daughter of John and Eliza (Alspaugh) Armpriester. To them were born eight children, viz: Ella, wife of Silas Harner, of Neptune, Ohio; Effie, wife of D. A. McKinley, produce dealer of Lithopolis, Fairfield county; Elizabeth, wife of the subject; John, now engaged in mercantile business in Lithopolis; Mollie, deceased wife of John Foor, Van Wert county; Frank, deceased; Lawrence at home, and Myrtle, also at home. The mother of these children was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 14, 1841, and is of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage. She is a member of the Lutheran church, and is still living. Jacob Zarbaugh was formerly a farmer, but now follows the trade of painter for a livelihood. In politics he is a democrat, but takes little interest in political affairs, preferring to perform his duties as a painter, as the head of a family, and as a member of the German Reform church, to which he belongs.

Silas J. Robison is a strong republican in politics, takes great interest in his party's affairs, and has been elected to several local offices. He has often served on the election and school boards, and has always performed his duties well. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and takes an active interest in everything calculated to promote the public good. He is an energetic man in all that he undertakes, in farming, in politics, in church matters, and is in every sense a public-spirited and excellent citizen.

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BRANSON ROEBUCK, the oldest pioneer in Mercer county, is a son of Reuel and Sarah (Jones) Roebuck, and was born near Bloomingburg, Fayette county, Ohio, January 24, 1813. Reuel Roebuck was born on the Greenborough river in Virginia, about 1778, his father having been William Roebuck, a farmer and a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was marching toward Yorktown, within eight miles of the place, when Cornwallis surrendered. William Roebuck was the father of the following children: George, John, Reuel, James, Abner, Mrs. Nancy Harmon and Mrs. Hanson.

Reuel Roebuck was reared on the farm, and learned the cooper trade, and when a young man came to Ohio and located in Pickaway county, where, about 1807, he married Sarah Jones, a daughter of Peter Jones, who was born within six miles of Charleston, S. C., in 1781, and who removed with her father to Virginia, and later to Fayette county, Ohio, being there among the earliest settlers. Her uncle, brother of Peter Jones, was a colonel in the Revolutionary army. To Reuel Roebuck and his wife there were born the following children: George, Ishmael and Garrison, all three deceased; Branson, the subject of this sketch; Eliza, deceased wife of Isaac Sanift;

Polly, deceased wife of Fleming Greer; Oliver H., Elias Bishop and Washington, all three deceased; Lewis, a retired farmer and merchant; and Joseph, deceased. On March 17, 1819, Reuel Roebuck, after living some time in Fayette county, reached Mercer county, located on Twelve Mile creek, and camped out that summer, entering eighty acres of land, and later eighty acres more. With the assistance of three white men and three Indians he raised a log house, into which he moved his family, and then began in earnest the work of clearing his land. All the hardships of pioneer life became altogether too familiar to him, and, as he was crippled in his youth, and later was shot in the thigh accidentally by his son, who shot at a deer and hit him, his life's labor was by no means an easy or pleasant task. At the time of his settlement in the county there was no one living where Rockford now stands, and only two white families in the county, and Anthony Shane, a half-breed Indian, who was friendly to the whites; and Mr. Roebuck was compelled to go to Pickaway to mill. He was one of the liberal men of pioneer days, and never could do enough for the church of which he was a member, the Methodist Episcopal, and his house was always headquarters for the preachers of pioneer days. In politics he was an old-line whig, strong in the belief that that party was correct in its policies and principles. His death occurred in November, 1841, his wife following him to the great beyond in 1843.

Branson Roebuck, subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm in Mercer county, and was twelve years of age before he began to attend school. August 22, 1839, he married Mary Eichar, a daughter of Peter and Mary Eichar, and to them were born three children, as follows: Albert, died when thirteen years of age; Catherine, deceased wife of Albert Quillian; and Ellen, deceased wife of Morgan Hayes. Mary Eichar was born in Pennsylvania, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died August 14, 1836. Her father, Peter Eichar, was the youngest child born to Jacob Eichar and his wife, Sarah Buck, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, and was a son of John and Margaret Eichar.

Branson Roebuck's second marriage took place in March, 1837, to Phebe Ann McChristy, a daughter of Jesse and Nancy (Lawler) McChristy, she having been born in Greene county about 1822, and to this second marriage were born three children, as follows: John, a farmer of this township; Jane, wife of Edward Dunavin, of Indiana, and an infant deceased. The mother of these children died in June, 1843. Her father, Jesse McChristy, was a native of Ireland and an early settler in Warren county, Ohio. He was the eldest of three children, and worked at his trade, that of tanner, until he was twenty-five years old, after which he followed farming. He was the father of eleven children, Mrs. Roebuck being the third child. In 1830, after living for some years in Greene county, he removed to Mercer county, and entered government land, and there died in 1838, his wife surviving him until 1860. Mr. Roebuck was next married, December 1, 1855, to Mrs. Rebecca D. (Scholes) Blossom, a daughter of Andrew and Hannah (Mercer) Scholes, and to this third marriage there were born five children, as follows: Mary, who died at the age of two years; Melissa, wife of Adelbert Dull, of Black Creek township; Wesley Scholes, a gardener living at New Haven, Allen county, Ind.; Eudocia, wife of Frank Shingledecker, of Dublin township; Lewis and William P., both at home. The mother of these five children was born in Knox county, May 13, 1827. Her parents were natives of Belmont county, and emigrated to Indiana about 1836, and there passed the remainder of their lives. The sons of Andrew Scholes served in the Civil war, as follows: George Calvert, all through the war; Wesley, as a member of the Forty-seventh Indiana volunteers, and was killed at Champion Hills, and Sylvester, who served one hundred days.

Branson Roebuck's present wife was married, as Rebecca Scholes, in 1847, to Ira Blossom, a native of Ohio, born in 1817, and a son of Ansel Blossom, a native of Maine. Ira Blossom was the eighth of ten children, and with his parents located in Van Wert county among the very earliest settlers there. Ansel Blossom entered a tract of land near Willshire, and lived there the remainder of his life. Ira Blossom was reared and educated in Van Wert county, and to him and his wife there were born three children, as follows: Henry Clay, who died at the age of three years; Andrew Ansel, who was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck, and George, deceased—both Henry Clay and George being buried in the same grave. Ira Blossom was a prominent man in his time, was a whig, and in 1853 started to Oregon, but died of cholera at Calhoun, near Indian creek, on the way. His widow, as already related, then married the subject of this sketch.

In 1839 Mr. Roebuck bought a farm which lies across the road from where he now lives, but which he still owns. Upon this quarter-section of woodland he built a log house into which he moved in the fall of 1840, and lived in until 1867, when he erected an immense brick house at great expense. Being a strong republican during and after the war, he made certain men his enemies by his outspoken support of the government, and in the fall of that year he had $750 worth of wheat burned by Knights of the Golden Circle. General farming has always been his preference, but he has given more or less attention to the raising of stock, and he has also bought considerable for the eastern markets. His sons have always been devotedly attached to him, and have always helped in every possible way. As a friend of education he has served as a member of the school board, and as a republican he has served four terms as township trustee. In 1894 he lost his house and its entire contents by fire, and then moved across the road to seventy-five acres, which he had purchased in the early 'forties, and which are well improved. For fifty-five years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, has always been an active worker therein, and has held the offices of trustee and class leader for a number of years. Formerly he was a member of Shanesville grange, which is now abandoned. He has always been a liberal man, aiding all enterprises of a public nature when possible for him to do so. He contributed $100 toward building the plank road; $200 toward the C., J. & M. railroad, and has aided in the building of churches everywhere. No man did more to assist new comers in the early days, when such aid was exceedingly welcome. He was a warm friend of Anthony Shane, for whom Shanesville, now Rockford, was named, who served in the late Civil war, and who made a present of eighty acres of land to Garrison Roebuck, a brother of the subject, for some slight service rendered him. Few men, if any, are more worthy of having their deeds recorded, and their memories perpetuated, than is Branson Roebuck, whose life is herewith briefly presented.

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WILLIAM P. RODECKER, senior member of the firm of Rodecker, Fryer & Davis, proprietors of the Eureka Roller mills, at Mendon, Ohio, was born in Bond county, Ill., June 30, 1863, and is a son of Thomas Rodecker, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in 1832, and who at an early age learned the carpenter's trade, and continued to work at this trade thirty-five years.

Thomas was married, in 1859, to Miss Mary A. Fahnestock, a native of Pennsylvania, and by this marriage became the father of the following children: Sarah; William P., the subject of this sketch; Clara, Bertha, Benjamin F., and Della. Of these six children all are living but Sarah, who died single. Thomas Rodecker was taken to Illinois by his parents when he was one year old, and remained in that state until 1871, when he returned to Ohio, settling in Shelby county, where he remained about ten years, working at his trade, and at the end of this time removed to Logan county, where he remained three years, following his trade with gratifying success. When he finally removed to Union township, Mercer county, he gave up his trade, and turned his attention to the saw-mill business, which he has followed ever since, and in which he is still engaged. As a democrat he was elected trustee of Union towhship, and served one term. Religiously he is a member of the Dunkard church, and is in every way a man of liberal views and charitable in disposition. Mary A. Fahnestock, wife of Thomas Rodecker, was born October 30, 1840, in Pennsylvania. She is a member of the United Brethren church. Her father, Peter Fahnestock, was born August 20, 1817, in Pennsylvania, and was of German descent, was reared on a farm, and when yet quite young married Rebecca Bender, also a native of Pennsylvania. To this marriage there were born the following children: Barbara, who died young; John D.; George W.; Mary A., wife of Thomas Rodecker; Sarah, Rebecca, Mahala, Catherine and William. After his marriage Mr. Fahnestock settled in Miami county, Ohio, bought a farm of eighty acres, which he cleared and improved, and upon which he lived three years, when he sold it and removed to Bond county, Ill., where he again bought eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved; after a three years' occupation he sold it, and removed to Fayette county, Ill., and again bought eighty acres of land, which some time afterward he also sold and removed to Shelby county, Ohio, and bought forty acres of land near Sidney, the county seat. These forty acres he sold soon afterward and removed to Indiana, remaining there, however, only a short time, when he removed, in 1875, to Grand Rapids, Mich., for the benefit of his health, but died there in 1886, leaving his family in moderate circumstances. He was, as his wife is, a member of the Dunkard church, and in politics he was a republican.

William P. Rodecker, who was born in Bond county, Ill., early began working in Ohio at the carpenter's trade, and worked at this trade for six years. On December 24, 1885, he was married to Miss Irene Wilson, in Union township, Mercer county, and to them have been born the following children: Ola, Ota, Frank and Charles, the three former of whom are living, and the latter, who was born September 14, 1894, died October 14, 1894. After his marriage Mr. Rodecker became interested in the milling business and has met with unusual success. Politically he is a democrat; and religiously a member of the Church of God. Being liberal in his views and charitable with his means and in his disposition, he enjoys the respect of all who know him.

Irene Wilson, wife of Mr. Rodecker, was born December 26, 1867. Her father, Harrison Wilson, was born in Ohio in 1845, was reared on a farm, and located in Mercer county, where he purchased a farm of forty acres of woodland, cleared ten acres, and died in 1871. He married Miss Barbara E. Fryer, who is still living, who bore him three children, as follows: Irena, John and Willie. She is a member of the Church of God. After her husband's death Mrs. Wilson married G. A. Cooper, by whom she has one child—L. A. Harrison Wilson served as a soldier in the army of the Union for three years and was a strong republican in politics, as were many of the men who wore the blue. G. A. Cooper is a republican in politics and in religion is a member of the Church of God. Irene Fryer was born in Union township, Mercer county, and when she was two years of age was taken by her grandmother to rear, and she remained in her grandmother's care until her marriage to Mr. Rodecker. She is a member of the Church of God, a woman of many virtues, and enjoys the esteem of all her friends and acquaintances to an unusual degree.

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WILLIAM ROETTGER, one of the prominent and successful farmers of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born September 29, 1833, and is a son of Charles and Louisa (Erlich) Roettger, the former of whom was born in Lavergne, Prussia, in 1801, was reared on a farm, educated in Prussia, and married Louisa Erlich, who was a native of the same place with himself, and born in 1803. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Louis, of Shelby county, Ohio; Henrietta, wife of George Ortmann, of Auglaize county, Ohio; two that died in infancy; one that was drowned; Charles Frederick; William, the subject of this sketch; one other that died; Christian, who served through the entire war in an Indiana regiment; and Frederick, a farmer, who also served throughout the entire war as a member of company C, Thirty-seventh regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry. He enlisted three separate times, was wounded in the leg, and is now living in Auglaize county.

Charles and Louisa Roettger lived in Germany from the time of their marriage until August 15, 1850, when they sailed for the United States, landing in Baltimore after a nine-weeks voyage on the Atlantic ocean. They came direct to Ohio, reaching New Bremen, Auglaize county, Ohio, two weeks before Christmas. Mr. Roettger there rented a farm which he worked for some years, borrowing money to send for those of his family that did not come with him. The subject of this sketch aided his father to pay back the borrowed money. Mr. Roettger lived on the farm until 1857, when he died. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church, and people well respected by all that knew them. For some time after her husband's death Mrs. Roettger lived with her children, and in 1859 married Christ Koch, who died about one year later, she herself dying in 1881.

William Roettger was reared on the farm in Germany, and has by his own effort added to the education he received in his native country, acquiring the English language, and is now well educated in both English and German. In 1850 he came to the United States with his parents, and for one year afterward worked on a state boat in order to earn the money borrowed to pay his passage across the sea. After farming for two years he worked on the canal two years, and next learned the miller's trade in New Bremen, and at this trade worked fifteen years. On July 31, 1856, he married Charlotte Koch, a daughter of Frederick and Charlotte Koch, who was born in the same place with himself, December 24, 1835, and who was educated in Germany and in Auglaize county, Ohio, having come to Auglaize county in 1845, when she was but ten years old. Her mother died in 1846 and her father in 1856. Mrs. Roettger has one brother, William, living in Fort Recovery, a tanner by occupation.

William and Charlotte Roettger are the parents of nine children that are living, and two of their children have died. Those that survive are as follows: Lewis W., a merchant of Elmwood, Nebr.; Allie, wife of Henry Huchriede, a tile manufacturer of Bryant, Jay county, Ind.; Lucilla, wife of George Anselman, of Liberty township; Emma, wife of August Huckriede; Josephine, wife of Frank Eisenhauer, a saloonist of Dayton, Ohio; William H., a tile manufacturer of Liberty township; Edward, a farmer living at home; Flora, wife of Henry E. Huckriede, and Christian. From the time of his marriage until about 1871 Mr. Roettger operated a mill at New Bremen, and also one between New Bremen and Minster, until failing health compelled him to desist. In 1871 he sold his place, bought a farm of eighty acres in Shelby county, which was covered with timber, which he partially cleared and upon which he lived five years. In 1889, selling his farm, he removed to Mercer county, where he purchased his present farm, containing eighty acres, on which he has since lived. Since settling here he has purchased forty acres more land, and also a tile mill, which he operated until 1895, and which he then sold. His farm exhibits many indications of careful cultivation and improvement, and is in every way a credit to his industry and management.

As a republican Mr. Roettger was appointed by President Grant, during his second administration, postmaster of Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio. He is not in any sense of the word an office seeker, preferring, as most sensible men do, to attend to his own private affairs, which, in the case of every man, must necessarily suffer if left to the care of other parties. He follows general farming and gives some attention to the raising of stock. Religiously he is in sentiment of the German Reform faith, but as there is no church of that denomination near his home, he and his family are members of the Evangelical church. He is one of the leading men of his township, public spirited and enterprising, and is highly respected by all for the sterling qualities of his character, and for his pleasant and genial disposition.

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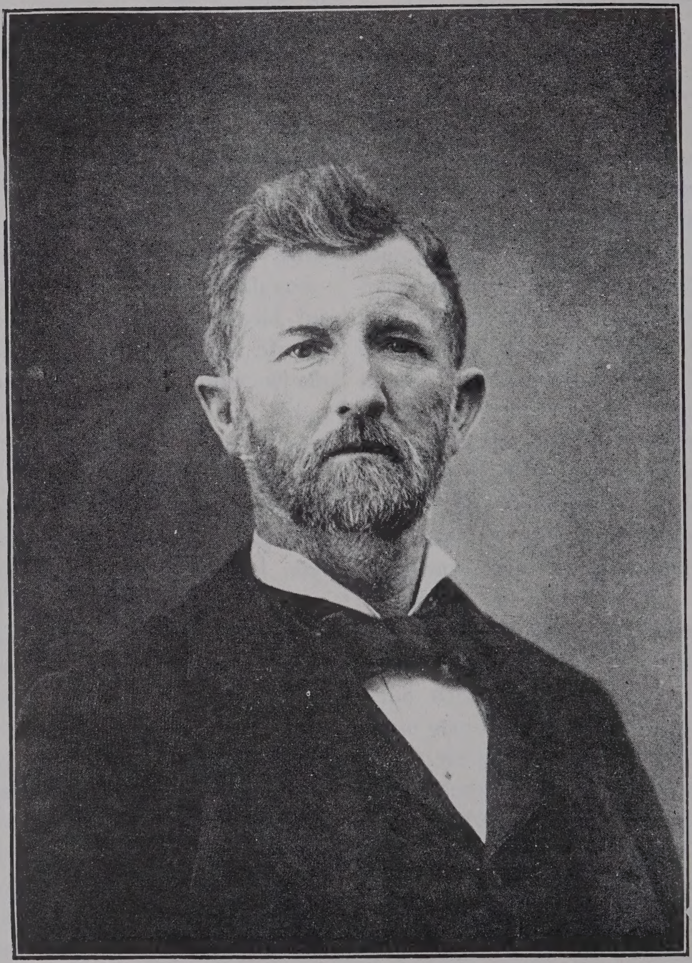
DAVID HERBERT RICHARDSON, a leading physician of Celina, was born in Darke county, near the southwest corner of Mercer county, August 25, 1848. He is a son of the late Dr. John C. Richardson, one of the pioneer physicians of Mercer county. Dr. John C. Richardson was born in Penn Yan, Yates county, N. Y., his parents removing to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, soon after his birth. About 1831 they had removed to Allegany county, N. Y., and about 1833 they removed to Livingston county, that state. In the fall of 1834 they came to Ohio, locating in Medina county, and while in that county Mr. Richardson served a year or two as apprentice to the wagon-maker's trade. His next move was to Ravenna, Ohio, where he worked at the same trade. Leaving home in the spring of 1837, he removed to Minster, Auglaize county, and there began reading medicine with Dr. Churchill. In the fall of the same year, his preceptor removing to Montezuma, he also went to the same place, and there continued his study of medicine. He next went to Knox county, and there studied under Dr. William Richardson two or three years, and completed his study of medicine.

In 1842 he and his brother removed to Fort Recovery, where in partnership they practiced medicine for a year, when D. William Richardson went west, to Illinois. Dr. J. C. Richardson remained in Fort Recovery and practiced medicine there from that time until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1891, with the exception of the summer of 1854, which he spent in Spencerville, Allen county,



DAVID H. RICHARDSON, M. D.

MRS. MARY RICHARDSON.

and the following winter at Columbus, attending medical college. He was married at Fort Recovery to Mary Gray, who was born April 3, 1824, and was a daughter of David Gray, a pioneer Methodist minister of Mercer county. Her death occurred in March, 1881. To them were born two sons and a daughter, as follows: Annetta, of Celina; John Vincent, a physician of Fort Recovery; and David Herbert, the subject of this sketch.

David Herbert Richardson was reared at Fort Recovery, where he attended the common schools, and where at the age of eighteen he began reading medicine under the instruction of his father. About one year later he took his first course of lectures at Starling Medical college, at Columbus, Ohio, and graduated thence in the spring of 1869. The same spring he located in Celina, and there practiced his profession until the spring of 1870, when he returned to his old home at Fort Recovery. Here he remained until the fall of 1882, then returning to Celina, where he has been permanently located ever since; and since then he has been universally recognized as one of the leading and most skillful physicians of the place. Dr. Richardson is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical association, and of the Ohio State Medical association. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity. In 1892 he was elected coroner of Mercer county, and he was re-elected in 1894. Previous to his election to that office he had twice served by appointment. He has also served two terms as an active member of the school board.

Dr. Richardson was married in January, 1869, to Mary Lehmkuhl, who was born in Celina, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late Henry Lehmkuhl. To Dr. Richardson and his wife there have been born two children, viz: A son that died in infancy, and a daughter, Minnie, wife of John M. Bretz, of Celina. Dr. Richardson and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and stand high as citizens of Mercer county.

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JOHN V. RICHARDSON, M. D., a leading physician of Mercer county, and for many years a successful practitioner of medicine, was born at Fort Recovery, Ohio, February 13, 1851, a son of Dr. John C. Richardson, and his wife, Mary Gray.

Dr. John V. Richardson gained his preliminary education in the public schools and began the study of medicine at Fort Recovery in 1868, when but seventeen years of age, under his father's instruction, and continued thus to study until 1870, when he entered the Ohio Medical college at Cincinnati, graduating therefrom in 1872. Beginning the practice of medicine at Montezuma, Ohio, he remained there five months, and then formed a partnership with his father, Dr. John C. Richardson, his brother, Dr. David H. Richardson, and Dr. J. W. Blizzard, under the firm of Richardson, Blizzard & Co., which firm continued in existence until 1874. After that time Dr. John V. Richardson practiced medicine in Fort Recovery on his sole account until 1885, when he formed a partnership with Dr. E. F. McLaughlin, which lasted until 1887, since which time he has been in practice alone. During his long period of service as a physician he has built up a large and lucrative practice, and has made many friends and acquaintances in the county, not only because of his skill in the treatment of disease, but also because of his willingness to visit all cases of sickness, whether of the poor or of the rich. He has a large and valuable medical library, collected throughout his long career, and is a constant reader of medical books and an extensive patron of medical magazines and periodicals.

Dr. Richardson was married in June, 1878, at Fort Recovery, to Ann Snyder, who was born in Mercer county, and is a daughter of William and Martha Snyder, the former of whom is a substantial farmer of Gibson township. To the marriage of Dr. and Mrs. Richardson there has been born one child, Elva E. Mrs. Richardson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is in every way a good and worthy woman, wife and mother. Politically the doctor is a democrat, but confines himself to the practice of his profession rather than taking part in political affairs. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical association, and of the Mercer county Medical society. Throughout his long and useful career he has established an enviable reputation not only as a physician, skillful and successful, but also as an honorable gentleman, careful to observe the ethics of his profession no less than those of general society. Coming from a family of physicians, it has been easy and pleasing for him to acquire his reputation and success, and he stands high, especially among his professional brethren. Besides his father and his brother, three of his uncles are physicians, a distinction enjoyed by but few families. For many years his father was one of the leading physicians of Mercer county, beginning the practice of medicine at Fort Recovery in 1841, and continuing until 1892, pursuing a career of success and honor throughout his entire professional life.

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GEORGE HENRY HEFFNER, sheriff of Mercer county, and one of the well known citizens of Celina, was born in Black Creek township, July 21, 1857. He is a son of the late Conrod Heffner, one of the ancient pioneers of Mercer county, he having settled here in 1838. He was a native of Bavaria, Germany, was born in 1822, and came to the United States in 1838 with his mother, Margaret, and his stepfather, John Beecher. They came direct to Mercer county, locating in Black Creek township, and here Conrod Heffner followed farming the remainder of his life, paying exclusive attention to his farm, one result being that he was one of the most prosperous farmers of the township. He married Margaret Miller in Mercer county, she being a native of the same place in the old country as himself. To them there were born twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, and of these all the sons and four of the daughters are living. The father died in 1878; the mother still lives on the old home farm, in Black Creek township.

George Henry Heffner was reared on the home farm, securing his education in the common schools, until he was twenty years of age, when he entered Capitol university at Columbus, Ohio, which institution he continued to attend until his father's death. Then he gave up his intention of securing a full literary education, and engaged as clerk in the dry-goods house of August Fanger, in Celina. Here he remained about seven months, and in October, 1879, engaged in the retail grocery business on his own account, in which he remained about two years. In 1885 he was elected constable, and in a short time afterward he entered into the real estate and insurance business with B. M. Clen Dening. The office of constable he held nine years, retiring from that position in 1894. In April, 1894, he was nominated by the democratic party of the county for sheriff, and upon the opening of his canvass he gave up his real estate and insurance business, and entered into the work of the campaign. At the regular election he was elected sheriff by a majority of over 700 votes, the term being for two years. He took possession of his office in January, 1895.

Mr. Heffner was married September 14, 1879, to Miss Lucinda Karch, who was born in Union county, Ohio, and is a daughter of George Karch, of Granville township, Mercer county. To Mr. and Mrs. Heffner there have been born four children, viz: Eddie C., deceased; Edward F., Ralph R. and Frank C. Mr. Heffner and family are members of the Lutheran church, of which church the parents of Mr. Heffner were also members. Both are excellent people, and that Mr. Heffner is a popular young man is sufficiently evident by the result of the election in 1894.

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**JOHN HENRY WILLIAM KRENNING**, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and for many years a successful merchant, is a native of Germany, and is a son of Bernhard William and Elizabeth (Bieshof) Krenning. Bernhard William Rrenning whs born in Hanover, formerly a kingdom, but since 1866 incorporated with Prussia. In his native country he followed farming during his entire life, and died at the age of sixty-seven years. He was always a hard-working, industrious and highly respected man, and reared an excellent family. As a Lutheran, he held the office of deacon, and both he and his wife were devoted members of their church. They were the parents of the following children: Matthias, Mary, Charlotte, Bernhard, Mena, Emma, Elizabeth and John Henry William, the subject of this sketch. After her husband's death Mrs. Krenning came to the United States, as did all of her children, and she died in this country at the age of seventy-six years.

John Henry W. Krenning was born in the kingdom of Hanover, on the farm, February 25, 1821. He received a good common-school education and read the Bible through while yet young, and was also well versed in the catechism. He was confirmed at the age of fourteen, having attended school from the age of six. Working at first for his father on the farm, he also learned the cabinet-maker's trade, being bound out from the time he was seventeen years old until he was twenty. For the privilege of learning this trade his father agreed to pay $50, and he worked during that time for no compensation whatever. His father dying before the above mentioned sum was paid, and his mother being unable to pay it, he was obliged to serve another year. His trade was, however, thoroughly learned. At the expiration of this extra year he determined to come to the United States, and with the assistance of the man of whom he learned his trade and his fellow-townsmen, he started for this country when twenty-one years of age, sailing from Bremen in September, 1842, on a sailing vessel. After a passage of eight weeks and two days he landed in Baltimore, Md., and was assisted in reaching Cincinnati by friends who came with him, to whom he subsequently repaid the money as soon as he could earn it. Upon reaching Cincinnati, he immediately began to work for his brother-in-law, Bernard Kleyer, who was a contractor, and for this brother-in-law he worked three years, at the end of which period he began the business of contracting on his own account. Making a success of his business, he erected many buildings in Cincinnati, remaining there until 1867, when he removed to Fort Recovery, bringing his family with him. During the late Civil war he was a member of the Ohio national guard.

In 1844 J. H. W. Krenning married Anna Maria Kruse, who was born November 18, 1816, in the kingdom of Hanover, and was a daughter of Rudolph and Elizabeth Kruse. Rudolph Kruse was born in Hanover, was a farmer, and came to the United States in 1832, settling in the woods of Auglaize county, Ohio, where New Bremen now stands. He cleared up a farm and died in New Bremen at an advanced age. He was always a hard-working, industrious, honest man, and both he and wife were members of the Lutheran church. His children were Rudolph, Herman, William, Anna Maria, Catherine, Charlotte, Regina and Elizabeth.

Before coming to Fort Recovery, Mr. Krenning, in 1866, furnished the capital, and sent his son William to this place, and established a woolen-mill, which was in operation when he came here. In 1868 they added the sale of cotton goods also; in 1872 he erected the first brick building in Fort Recovery and commenced a general mercantile business; in 1889 he erected the present two-story and basement brick block, 47x80 feet, adjoining the first one. The upper half of this building is occupied by the F. & A. M. lodge, and in the lower part is conducted the general business of Krenning & Son, who carry a large and well selected stock of dry goods, notions, carpets, clothing, hats, caps, shoes and boots. The firm first consisted of Mr. Krenning and his son William, but in 1883 William withdrew and is now conducting a woolen-mill in Virginia. William was succeeded by his brother George, and the firm name remains unchanged.

After arriving at Fort Recovery, J. H. W. Krenning bought 300 acres of land near the village, but, not being fitted for a farmer's life, he soon afterward sold this property and bought real estate where he now lives, and which is on the site of old Fort Recovery. His present residence he erected in 1868, and then he engaged in mercantile business, in partnership with his son William. By steady perseverance, industry and thrift, Mr. Krenning continued to prosper, and accumulated his handsome property, owning, at the present time five farms in Mercer and Darke counties, and valuable real estate in Fort Recovery, a portion of which has been alluded to above.

To Mr. and Mrs Krenning there have been born five children, as follows: William, Louisa, Henry, George, and Amelia. In religious belief both Mr. and Mrs. Krenning are devoted members of the Lutheran congregation, in the support of which Mr. Krenning has always been liberal, having aided to build the first Lutheran church in Fort Recovery, in which he had held several of the offices. While living in Cincinnati, he was one of the founders and promoters of the German orphan asylum, to which he contributed unstintedly. Mr. Krenning has been a member of the town council of Fort Recovery and also a member of the bord of education. Upon reaching the the United States he was not only a poor boy, but was, beside that, $24 in debt, but by his own exertions and energy he has become one of the well-to-do citizens of Fort Recovery, and is known to all as a self-made man, in the true sense of that term, and is highly honored and respected by all classes of citizens, without regard to political party or religious creed.

JOSEPH A. ROEMER, a leading and representative merchant and citizen of Celina, is a native of Mercer county, Ohio, having been born at Saint Henry's, Granville township, December 19, 1851. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Trimpe) Roemer, who were the first settlers in Granville township. The parents were both natives of the grand duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, and came to the United States on the same ship about 1833. They were married in Cincinnati, and, in 1835, settled in Mercer county, where Mr. Roemer purchased of the government 120 acres of land. Here he followed farming and merchandising the remainder of his life, his death taking place in

1890, when he was in his seventy-fourth year. Both he and his wife were members of the Catholic church, and were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living.

Joseph A. Roemer was reared on his father's farm, received his education in the common schools, and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age. He then left his home and went to Cincinnati, where he spent some time as clerk in a dry-goods store. For a year afterward he worked in a general store at Fort Recovery, and in the spring of 1875 purchased the general store of D. J. Roop of Fort Recovery, in which were kept dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes. This business he conducted successfully until 1888, ween he sold out and removed to Celina, where he engaged in the dry-goods business, and also carried a line of boots and shoes and clothing, and continued to conduct this business until 1892, when he sold his dry-goods department to William H. Anthony. Since that time he has carried a large stock of clothing and of mens' and boys' boots and shoes. In 1892 he erected his present place of business, which is known as the Roemer block, and is situated on the northeast corner of Main and Market streets, opposite the court house. The block is 44x100 feet, two stories high, and is one of the most conspicuous business blocks in the town. The lower floor is divided into two large storerooms and the upper floor is partitioned off into offices. It is altogether a fine building and a great credit to the place.

Mr. Roemer was married, in 1875, to Miss Caroline Anthony, daughter of Jacob Anthony, deceased, late of Fort Recovery. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Eleanora, Mary, Charles, Clara, Walter, Ruth and William. All are bright and intelligent children, and have received, or are receiving, good educations in the public schools. Mr. Roemer is a most excellent citizen as well as business man, and his character and career show what any man of business push and integrity can accomplish in a country like that which we possess.

JOHN THEODORE RUSCHAU, one of the leading and most successful farmers of Granville township, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, December 11, 1847. He is a son of John Theodore and Elizabeth (Klunenburg) Ruschau, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany, May 14, 1805, was reared on a farm in Germany, and there learned both the cabinet-maker's and carpenter's trade. His parents were John Henry and Elizabeth (Kehring) Ruschau. John Henry Ruschau was born September 27, 1769, and though his parents were Protestants he became a Catholic in 1791. In 1796 he went to Munster, Germany, and was married, June 24, 1800, to Elizabeth Kehring. To this marriage there were born six children, the father of the subject being the third child. The father of these six children died April 18, 1816.

John Theodore Ruschau, father of the subject, served with honor in the German army as a grenadier from 1826 to April 30, 1832, when he received an honorable discharge. On May 29, 1836, he took passage for the United States, setting sail June 18, and reaching Cincinnati, Ohio, September 21, 1836. In October following he went to Minster, Auglaize county, and was there married on the 11th of the same month to Anna Maria Rekelhof, who was born July 4, 1811, and died September 1, 1838. He was married, the second time, to Elizabeth Klunenberg, by whom he had nine children, the subject of this sketch being the only one still living. Mr. Ruschau removed from Minster to Saint John's, where he bought 100 acres of woodland, upon which he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1849, when the subject of this sketch was but two years of age. His wife died in 1851. Mr. Ruschau was an unusually intelligent and well educated man, and kept a diary of events, written in a beautiful, even German hand, of his entire life, which is still in possession of the subject of this sketch. He was a prominent member of the Catholic church and a valuable citizen to the community in which he lived.

John Theodore Ruschau, the subject proper of this sketch, was reared on a farm by a Mr. Kramer, the administrator of his father's estate, and there he lived until his marriage, February 7, 1871, to Dorothea Dippold, daughter of John and Mary Dippold. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Anton, a farmer of Indiana; Henry Bernard, an enterprising young man, living at home; Eleanor, Andrew, Henry, and two deceased. The mother of these children was born in Lorain county, Ohio, in 1849, and when twelve years old removed to Mercer county. After his marriage Mr. Ruschau located on his own farm in Marion township, and there lived four months. Selling his farm he removed to Cold Water, where he worked in a saw-mill five months and then purchased a farm in Recovery township, which he partly cleared up and lived upon ten years. In 1882 he bought his present farm of eighty acres, excellent farming land in Granville township, of which fifty acres are cleared and under cultivation, and upon which, in 1884, he built his present neat and cozy cottage. Upon this farm he follows general farming and stock raising.

Politically Mr. Ruschau is a democrat, and is a member of the Catholic church, of which he has been a director two years. He is a good citizen, a public-spirited man and is highly respected by all. He is a firm believer in the education of the young, is himself a great reader, and has in his possession several books more than 100 years old. He has also numerous family relics which he prizes highly, one of which is a silver piece of the size of an American dollar, presented by his father to his mother previous to their marriage.

**REV. BERNARD RUSS**, pastor of the Catholic church at Saint Henry's, Mercer county, was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, and is a son of John and Barbara (Litz) Russ, the former of whom was born in Bavaria, Germany, in June, 1812. Reared on a farm and receiving a good education, John Russ married Barbara Litz, who was born in Bavaria in 1815. In 1847 they came to the United States, and during their first summer's stay in this country resided in Cincinnati. In the fall of that year they removed to Auglaize county, located on a tract of woodland, and there Mr. Russ began the herculean task of clearing up a farm upon which he lived many years. He then moved to the town of Minster, and died in 1872. He was a member of the Catholic church, was a good farmer, and also worked at the cooper's trade. Politically he was a democrat, and he was considered by all who knew him a good man and a good citizen. His wife died March 10, 1890. They were the parents of the following children: Mary, wife of William Wendeln, a merchant of Minster; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Father Boniface, priest of a Catholic church in Wapakoneta; and Father William.

Rev. Bernard Russ was reared in Minster, Auglaize county, was educated in Saint Charles Boromeo seminary, Carthagena, Mercer county, and ordained priest in Cincinnati, in 1879, by Archbishop Purcell. He was first sent to Glendorf, Putnam county, a full historical sketch of the Catholic church of which place may be found in the volume on Putnam county. He remained at Glendorf until November, 1880, from which time until 1883 he was stationed at Stockton, Rooks county, Kans. From this place he came to Philothea, Ohio, remaining there two years, and then removing to Saint Henry's, where he has been since located. By his entire congregation and by the community at large he is highly regarded as a successful and high minded priest, his work having been eminently satisfactory to all, which is evinced by the fact that he has been retained in his present responsible position for more than ten consecutive years.

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**JOSEPH SAGER, M. D.**, one of the distinguished men of his profession of Celina and Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Fairfield county, January 19, 1839, and is a son of Shem and Mary B. (Nonnamaker) Sager, of whom the latter died about the year 1857, when the subject of this sketch was eighteen years of age and preparing himself, through his studies, for a professional career in life.

Joseph Sager, after taking the usual primary educational steps, attended the high school at Findlay, Ohio, and in 1859 went to Saint Louis, Mo., where he began the study of medicine under Dr. J. J. Updegraff, a famous physician and surgeon in that day. He next attended two courses of lectures at the Saint Louis Medical college, better known as the McDowell Medical school—and when the Civil war broke out entered the army, in 1861, as hospital steward, but the same year was captured by the rebels and confined on the famous island, No. 10, in the Mississippi river, for four months—the island, in April, 1862, falling into the hands of the Union forces. In 1863 Mr. Sager was transferred to the United States navy and was assigned to the steamer Tennessee as surgeon's steward. After the Union troops had "conquered a peace," Mr. Sager attended lectures at the Starling Medical college, at Columbus, Ohio, and from that institution received his diploma. In 1871, the doctor again attended lectures at his alma mater, taking a post-graduate course, and finally, in 1880-81, attended a course of lectures at the Maryland university, Baltimore.

After receiving his diploma, Dr. Sager located at North Washington, Hardin county, Ohio, and was engaged in the active practice of his profession until 1884, earning an excellent reputation and no small recompense of a different character. In the year last named he came to Celina, and assumed, as a speciality, the treatment of diseases of the eye and ear; but general practice was not ignored, and he has successfully treated some very tedious and complicated cases of ovariotomy and lithotomy. His skill and ability in the general practice of medicine was early recognized in Celina and a reputation and extended line of practice accorded him, such as is vouchsafed to but few physicians in a town not metropolitan. Dr. Sager was first joined in matrimony with a Miss Shoemaker in 1870, but in November, 1886, this lady was called from earth, and in 1888 the doctor wedded Miss Jennie Krisher, a highly educated and accomplished lady, with strong proclivities toward the practice of medicine, in which she is well informed, and competent to assist her husband in all the minor operations, surgical and other, that take place in the doctor's office.

Fraternally the doctor is a member of the Knights of Pythias order; of medical sodalities, he is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical society, of which he has been twice elected vice-president; also a member of the Ohio State Medical society; of the American Medical association, and of the National Railway Surgeon's society, and of the American

Microscopical society; he likewise holds the position of surgeon to the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railway company. The doctor has written many valuable essays for the various medical associations of which he is a member, and some of these contributions have possessed such merit as to justify the societies in giving them to the fraternity and the public through publication in some of the best medical journals in the country, and among these articles may be mentioned, "Milk Sickness," "Specific Poisons," "The Toxic Effect of Alcohol," all of which appeared in the Journal of American Medical Associations; and one grand paper by the doctor, on "Craniotomy," in which he advocated humane and philanthropic midwifery, was copied largely by American journals and many in Europe, and most favorably commented upon. The doctor also served on the United States pension board four years during Cleveland's first administration.

The doctor is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, and gives no outward sign of severe thought and studious astuteness that characterize his mentality, but with a pleasant countenance and a cheering word enters the sick-room, carrying with him the sunshine of hope to the invalid, and bringing to the convalescent, through this means, a tonic that often accomplishes as much as a potent drug.

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PHILIP SAUER, one of the well known business men and citizens of Celina, was born in Prussia, August 25, 1856. He is a son of John Peter and Mary Sauer, both of whom are natives of Prussia, and life-long residents of that country, the latter dying there about seven years ago, and the former in June, 1894.

Philip Sauer received his education in his native town and later learned the shoemaker's trade. In October, 1872, he came to the United States, landing in New York, and coming thence almost direct to Mercer county, Ohio. On his way, however, he was compelled to stop at Canton, Ohio, because he had run out of monny. Remaining there two days he then went to Van Wert, paying his way with six dollars he had borrowed in Canton. His brother John, who had come to America seven years before, was to meet him at Van Wert, but it was some ten days before his bother arrived. In the meantime, all the six dollars he had borrowed in Canton having been expended, he had to saw wood in order to pay for something to eat and a place to sleep. At length his brother, John, reached Van Wert, from his farm in Jefferson township, Mercer county, and he then went home to the farm with him. Remaining on the farm about two weeks, he then went to Celina, where he began working at his trade for John Pohlmann, and remained in Mr. Pohlmann's employ until April, 1873. He then went to work at the Mercer county infirmary, where he remained three years and one month, and then he worked at different places and at different things until 1880.

In 1880 he went to work for A. Ott, driving a beer wagon for three years. He then drove a beer wagon one year for M. Lynn, and afterward clerked for Schmidt & Co., in their billiard and pool room. In 1888 he bought out Jacob Bauer, and engaged in the saloon business on Fayette street, which business he continued in the same place for nine years and seven months. In December, 1894, he completed his present handsome business block on Main street, between Market and Fayette streets, next to the Commercial bank building, where he has one of the finest blocks in the city, and where he has one of the leading retail liquor stores in either city or county. September 29, he took the agency for the Fred Miller Milwaukee Brewing company, which he still retains, supplying eighteen out of the twenty-two saloons in Celina, and also selling to many customers outside of the saloons.

In 1882 Mr. Sauer married Mary Fox of Mercer county, by whom he has two chileren, viz: Paulina and Clarence. In politics Mr. Sauer is a democrat, and he and his family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church. He is also a member of the German Aid society—a society organized for benevolent purposes.

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GOTTLIEB SCHAAF is a successful manufacturer of carriages and an honored citizen of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and was born in the town of Hessegheim, in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, and is a son of John C. and Christina (Glaser) Schaaf. John G. Schaaf was a farmer, owning his land, and he and his wife were the parents of six children, as follows: Frederick; Christian; William, who died at the age of ten; Gottlieb; John and Christina. John G. Schaaf died in Germany when fifty-three years of age. He was always an industrious man, highly esteemed by all, and a member of the Lutheran church. He served as a soldier in the German army eight years. His children who came to the United States were as follows: Gottlieb, John and Christina, the former of whom is the subject of this sketch.

Gottlieb Schaaf received the rudiments of his education in his native country, attending school until he was fourteen years of age, and learned the wagon-maker's trade in Germany, and came to this country when about twenty-two years of age, in 1866, sailing from Bremen, Germany, and landing in Baltimore, Md., after a voyage of forty-two days. After working one year in Baltimore at his trade, he then, in December, 1867, went to Union City, Ind., where he remained nine months. Then going to Columbiana county, Ohio, he remained there some time and then returned to Baltimore, Md., where he came near dying from typhoid fever, with which disease he lay sick in bed ten weeks. Recovering from this illness, he again went to work in Baltimore, and after a time went to Saint Louis, Mo., and after a stay there of nine months, finally located at Fort Recovery, Ohio, where he worked at his trade for a few months. In September, 1869, he established himself in business, beginning in a small way, and, by industry and strict attention to business, he prospered, and is now a substantial citizen. On June 8, 1870, he married Mary Spornhauer, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, September 1, 1853, and is a daughter of Andy and Henrietta Spornhauer.

Andy Spornhauer came from Germany to this country in 1850, settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and there followed his trade, that of shoemaker, for a short time, and then went to Hamilton, Ohio, whence he removed to Fort Recovery in 1855. He was a good citizen and reared a respected family. His children were as follows: Louisa, who died after her marriage; Mary, Rhinehart, Frederick and Peter. After his marriage Mr. Schaaf settled on his present property, which he gradually improved, and upon which, in 1876, he erected a good brick house. His present shop he erected in 1883. For years he manufactured buggies and wagons, and was the leading manufacturer, and at the present time he carries a line of buggies, and carriages, and manufactures farm wagons,.and does all kinds of general repairing. Mr. and Mrs. Schaaf have seven children, as follows: Henrietta, Louisa, Amelia, Adelia, Sophia, August, and Carl.

Mr. and Mrs. Schaaf are members of the Lutheran church and he has held the office of trustee of his church. As a democrat he has held the office of treasurer of Gibson township six years, and is well known as a man of sterling integrity of character. Being worth nothing when he began life for himself he has, by his own exertions, accumulated what he now possesses, and is in every good and proper sense a self-made man. He and his faithful wife have reared a most excellent family, and all stand high in the esteem of the community in which they live.

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JOHN FREDERICK SCHAADT, familiarly known as "Fred," was born in Hamburg, the largest of the free cities of Germany and the commercial emporium of northern Europe, September 10, 1840. He is a son of Adam and Phœbe (Giesler) Schaadt, the former of whom was born in Lilbach, Prussia, August 18, 1808. Adam Schaadt was reared on the farm and learned cooper trade. After receiving his education in Germany and completing his trade he served two years in the regular army, and about 1835 married Phœbe Giesler, who was born in Bridenheim, Prussia, in 1812. To this marraige there were born ten children, as follows: Phœbe, deceased wife of P. Kline; Margaret, deceased wife of M. Kreisher; John Frederick, the subject of this sketch; Caroline, deceased wife of Jacob Bollenbaugh; Adam, deceased; Phillip, of Willshire township, Van Wert county; the others died in infancy.

After his marriage Adam Schaadt, the father of the subject, followed his trade and also farming until 1845, when he emigrated to the United States, landing in New York in June of that year. There his brother Frederick was engaged in the manufacture of chairs and vinegar, and there Adam remained three months at work in the chair factory of his brother, then removed to Ohio, and located in Van Wert county, where he had a sister living—Mrs. Margaret Giesler. In Van Wert county he purchased forty acres of woodland for $1.75 per acre, upon which he erected a a log cabin, into which he moved the next spring. This farm was in Willshire township, where the brother of the subject of this sketch now lives. Upon that farm the father passed the remainder of his life, clearing it up and improving it and adding to it until he had in all 100 acres of land, and all under a high state of cultivation, except such as he preferred to remain in timber. Upon this farm he died September 18, 1895. Adam Schaadt was one of the industrious, good-hearted men of Van Wert county, a democrat in politics, and he and his wife, who died, February 9, 1873, were members of the Evangelical church. He was one of the genuine self-made men of his day, never complaining because he had no opportunity to work, but finding work and lived an industrious and useful life.

John F. Schaadt was reared on the farm in Van Wert county, was educated in both German and English in the schools, and since leaving school has by private reading and study acquired a large fund of general information, which is very useful to him in his life work, and which he has always been willing to use for the benefit of his fellow-men. For four years after attaining his majority he worked at the carpenter trade, saving in two years $220, with which he bought eighty acres of woodland near Convoy, Ohio, or with which, rather, he made the first payments, and finished paying for it in a few years afterward. Five acres of this land he cleared, and in October, 1866, removed to Mercer county, Ohio, where, on February 26, 1867, he married Catherine Koch, a daughter of John and Mary (Schear) Koch. To this marriage there have been born eleven children, as follows: Phebe, wife of John Bollenbacher, of whom fuller mention is made in the biography of Charles Bollenbacher, elsewhere in this volume; Antony, of Liberty township; Emma, wife of William Leininger, also of Liberty township; John and William, living at home; Mary C., died at the age of seven weeks; Joseph, George, Annie Magdalena, Lewis and DeWalt, all at home. The mother of these children was born in Butler county, Ohio, February 26, 1849, her parents being John and Mary Koch.

After his marriage John F. Schaadt worked for two years at his trade, and in the meantime bought eighty acres of land, only twelve acres of which were cleared. Upon this farm he erected a log cabin, and in October, 1868, moved into it, and has lived upon this farm ever since. Sixty acres of his land he has under a high state of cultivation. In 1880 he bought forty acres more land, eighteen acres of which were cleared. In 1883 he bought eighty acres more, woodland, and now he owns in all 200 acres of fine land, and has of this nearly 120 acres under cultivation. In 1886 he erected a fine two-story brick residence, 18 x 44 feet in size, with a wing 20 x 24 feet. In June, 1875, he built a fine barn, and beside these two buildings he has other improvements, such as are needed on every well regulated farm. He follows general farming and stock raising, preferring good breeds of cattle, and the Norman horse for draft purposes. In all branches of farming he has been unusually successful, and is truly a model farmer.

Politically Mr. Schaadt is a democrat, and has been honored by his party friends by election to several local offices. He and his family are members of the German Evangelical church, and all stand high in public estimation. He is public spirited, using only judicial prudence in connection with lending aid to enterprises bidding for public support, and being always ready and willing to aid such as offer a reasonable prospect of benefiting the community at large. All recognize in Mr. Schaadt a man of honest convictions, a kind-hearted neighbor, and a man of thorough trustworthiness, the head of a respectable family, true to every relation in life, religious, social and moral, as well as one of the wealthiest and most successful farmers of his township.

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LIEUT. THEODORE SCHEID, an ex-officer of the Civil war, and a prominent citizen of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, was born at Reutlingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, October 20, 1827, and is a son of Louis B. and Mina (Wagner) Scheid. He was so fortunate as to receive a college education at Tübingen, Germany, the celebrated university at which place was founded in 1476, by Mathilda, the mother of Count Eberhad of Wurtemberg. Lieut. Scheid read law in this university, and came to the United States in June, 1852, sailing from Havre, France, in the clipper ship, Sea Queen, and landing in New York after a stormy passage of thirty-five days.

Almost immediately after reaching this country he went directly to Cincinnati, Ohio, and there engaged in the grocery business. On February 6, 1853, he married Miss Frederica Schreiner, who was born March 13, 1828, at Tübingen, Germany, and is a daughter of John Schreiner, who married a Miss Pfeifer. Mrs. Scheid's father was born in Tübingen, Germany, in 1786, and was the father of three children, Mena, Louise and Frederick. Lieut. Scheid has but one sister living, viz: Emily Maier, living in Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Scheid there were born six children, as follows: Charles C.; George W.; Matilda, deceased; Emily, Theodore S., Adolphus and Leslie W. Mr. Scheid continued in the grocery business from 1853 to 1856, and in the latter year removed to Mercer county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, five miles southeast of Fort Recovery, which was partially cleared. He completed the clearing of the land and made a good farm, upon which he lived continuously until the breaking out of the war, and then, on the 10th of October, 1861, he enlisted at Fort Recovery, Ohio, and was mustered into the service of the United at Columbus, Ohio, as sergeant-major and as a member of the Fifty-eighth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry. He served until April, 1864, when he was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Ind., on account of wounds received at the battle of Vicksburg. On March 15, 1862, he was promoted to second lieutenant, and to first lieutenant in September, 1862, from which time he acted as adjutant of his regiment. He was in the battle of Fort Donelson three days, in the battle of Shiloh two days, in the siege of Corinth, in the battle of Milliken's Bend, of Bolivar, Haine's Bluff, on the Yazoo River, and at Greenville, Miss.; ran the blockade in front of Vicksburg on the gun-boat, Mound City, and was in command of companies A and B of his regiment, then serving as marines, on the gun-boat named. He was in the engagement at Grand Gulf, Miss., and in the battles in front of Vicksburg during the siege, being under fire twenty days. In this siege he was wounded by a splintered shell, had his left eye destroyed, was wounded in the right side, hand and arm. Receiving a furlough home he was placed on board a hospital boat, the Red Rover, which conveyed him north. Having partially recovered he was placed successively in command of the Forty-second and Fifty-first companies, United States veteran reserve corps and performed provost duty at Indianapolis, at Camp Morton and at Burnside barracks until discharged.

Lieut. Scheid was one of the most active soldiers, was in all the battles, skirmishes and marches in which his regiment participated up to the time of his being wounded. He was an efficient and able officer and performed all his duties promptly and faithfully. After the war he returned to Mercer county, selling his farm in August, 1865, and engaged in the stove and tin business, in which has since continued with success, and is at the present time one of the solid and substantial citizens of Fort Recovery.

On October 10, 1865, he was appointed postmaster at Fort Recovery by President Andrew Johnson, and continued to serve for twenty years in that capacity, resigning on the election of President Cleveland. In 1866 he was elected mayor of Fort Recovery and served as such officer fourteen years. For the past ten years he has been justice of the peace, and still holds that office. In religions matters he is a Congregationalist, and in politics a republican. Lieut Scheid is a member of Harrod McDaniel post, No. 181, G. A. R., and has performed every duty, public and private, that he has been called upon to perform, in a manner creditable to himself, and satisfactorily to those interested. His duty as a soldier was done in a manner suitable to the true patriot until he was overcome by wounds, and he now stands among his fellow-men as an honorable citizen and an intelligent, high-toned man.

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HENRY S. SCHAEFER, a prominent citizen of Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born November 22, 1865. He is a son of Barney Schaefer, who was born in Germany and who was brought to the United States when he was two years old, by his parents, who, landing in New York, went directly to Cincinnati, where they both soon afterward died of cholera, leaving their son, Barney, an orphan and only three years of age. He was then placed in the Cincinnati orphan home, where he remained until that institution burned down, he barely escaping with his life. He was then taken by an uncle living at Saint John's, Mercer county, where he remained until he became of age. Notwithstanding the varying vicissitudes of his earlier years he was permitted to secure a good education in the common schools. At length he purchased eighty acres of land, covered with heavy timber, and this he began clearing and kept on clearing and improving it until he made of it a most excellent farm, one of the best in the county. Mr. Schaefer was married, in 1863, to Miss Anna Bills, a native of Germany, by whom he had eight children, as follows: Henry S., the subject of this sketch; Mary, who married Frederick Heyne, and died June 15, 1892; Anna, who married John Heyne; Agianas, who married M. Heyne (three sisters marrying three brothers), John, who died in infancy; Rosa, not married; Catherine, still unmarried, and Benjamin, also single. Both parents of these children were members of the Catholic church, and the father was a democrat and a most excellent man in all respects.

Henry S. Schaefer was born in Sebastian, Mercer county, and remained at home until he was twenty years of age, acquiring in the meantime a good common-school education. At the age last mentioned he began learning the trade of locomotive engineer and was engaged in this occupation seven years. On January 22, 1889, he was married to Miss Christiana Heyne, by whom is the father of three children, as follows: Elizabeth, born November 2, 1889; Anna C., born April 26, 1892; John H., born September 20, 1894, all living and bright, healthy children. Mr. Schaefer has served his countrymen as justice of the peace three years, and on April 14, 1895, he was elected mayor of Chickasaw for two years, an office which he is filling with credit and success. In politics he is a democrat, and in religion a Catholic, as also his wife.

Christiana Heyne, who married the subject of this sketch, was born November 24, 1863. She is a daughter of Jacob Heyne, who was born October 27, 1827, and at an early age went to England, where he learned the trade of baker, and there married Elizabeth Ball, an English lady. Quite full mention of the life of Jacob Heyne and his wife Elizabeth, is made in connection with the biographical sketch of John G. Bils, on another page in this volume, to which the reader is respectfully referred. Christiana Heyne was born in Franklin township, Mercer county, and lived with her parents until her mariage with Mr. Schaefer. She is a member of the Catholic church and is a most exemplary woman, wife and mother, and is surrounded by a large circle of admiring friends.

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JOHN SCHINDLER, one of the most prominent business men of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and postmaster of the place at the present time, and a man who has held many offices of trust, descends from sterling German ancestry, being the son of Constantine and Julia (Beha) Schindler, who were the parents of seven children, as follows: William, deceased; Albert, Hugo; John, the subject of this sketch; Mary, Julia and Theresa.

John Schindler was born June 23, 1849, in Kensingen, Baden, Germany, on the river Rhine. In his native country he was well educated in the common schools until his sixteenth year, when he came to the United States, sailing from Bremerhaven, a seaport town belonging to the free city of Bremen, for New York. Landing in this country he came directly to Ohio, located in Toledo, there learned the blacksmith's trade, and there he lived three years. Going then to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, he remained there working at his trade for one year, and, in 1869 or 1870, removed to Mercer county, locating in Cold Water, and here worked for his brother, William, in his blacksmith shop. Here, in April, 1873, he married Miss Mary Reasoner, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, in May, 1852, and is a daughter of Jacob and May (Buschfor) Reasoner.

Jacob Reasoner was born in Bavaria, came to the United States, and settled in Somerset, Ohio, where he worked at his trade, that of shoemaker, and whence he removed to Mercer county, and entered eighty acres of land in Recovery township, adding to this first purchase from time to time until he at length had 120 acres of land, upon which he followed farming successfully for many years. His children are as follows: Michael, Daniel, David, Mary and Lena. Mr. Reasoner died at the age of sixty, his wife dying when she was fifty years of age. He was a member of the Catholic church and a highly respected citizen.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Schindler settled in Seneca county, Ohio, lived there one year, and then removed to Monterey, where Mr. Schindler made his start in business and lived until 1877, when he removed to Fort Recovery. In this place he started a blacksmith shop, and by hard work and painstaking industry he gradually built up a prosperous trade. Afterward he began the manufacture of buggies and farm wagons, which, being constructed of first-class material and of excellent workmanship, found ready sale throughout the surrounding country, and by this means established for their maker a good reputation. Mr. Schindler is a prosperous and substantial citizen and owns his business property, a pleasant residence, three houses and lots, beside some vacant lots. His business has been for years very profitable, and he is in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Schindler has traveled widely throughout the country, having visited the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Colorado, in the latter state visiting Denver and Leadville. To Mr. and Mrs. Schindler there have been born the following children: John, Theresa, Julia, Rosie, Dora, Clara, Ferdinand, Hugo, Herbert, Ella and Margaret, all living, and Rudolph, who died while yet young. Mr. and Mrs. Schindler are members of the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. Schindler is a democrat. He has held the office of councilman for eight years in succession, that of township treasurer for ten years, and has been a member of the board of education several times. He was appointed postmaster on the 15th of October, 1894, by President Cleveland, and is a most efficient official, the post-office being well managed under his supervision. Mr. Schindler is a self-made man, and the success with which he has met is due wholly to his own exertions, as he began life in this country without a dollar, and he is now one of the substantial citizens and business men of Mercer county. He stands high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, and is the head of an honored family. He takes an active interest in politics, and has been a member of the democratic state central committee, and has been sent as a delegate to several conventions of his party. He is a man of much energy and strength of character, and makes a success of whatever he undertakes.

Constantine Schindler, the father of the subject of this sketch, believed that his family originated in Switzerland. He was a land holder on a small scale, and he was mayor of Hecklingen, Baden, for some years. He was also clerk of court, and in all respects a valuable and highly esteemed citizen. His education was thorough and sound, and in business he was careful and cautious. He lived to be seventy-two years old, dying of brain fever in Germany. William and John were the only members of the family to come to the United States; Julia, the sister of the subject, married a general manager of a railroad in Germany. The family are all above the average for intelligence, and of high moral standing and character, and are everywhere held in high regard.

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MICHAEL A. SCHLEGEL, one of the prominent citizens of Saint Henry's, Mercer county, Ohio, a dealer in furniture and the undertaker of the place, was born in Buffalo, N. Y., September 28, 1850. He is a son of John and Theresa (Schmidt) Schlegel, the former of whom was born in Bavaria, Germany, in January, 1814.

John Schlegel was reared on a farm and educated in his native land, came to the United States in 1844, and was married in Buffalo, N. Y., about 1846, to Theresa Schmidt, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1818. To this marriage were born two children, viz: Andrew, who died in infancy, and Michael A., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Schlegel removed to Buffalo when a young woman, and lived there until her marriage. She died July 16, 1887, in Saint Henry's. John and Theresa Schlegel lived in Buffalo, N. Y., until 1866, when they came to Ohio, and settled on a tract of land partly cleared in Mercer county. This farm John cleared and improved, and lived upon until 1884, when he removed to Saint Henry's, and has since lived with his son, Michael A. He is a democrat in politics and is a member of the Catholic church.

Michael A. Schlegel was reared in Buffalo, and was educated in both English and German. When thirteen years old he began to learn the wood-working trade, in Buffalo, N. Y, and also worked in a broom factory, in a stove foundry, and at other kinds of work. Removing with his parents to Mercer county in 1866, he went to work for George Gunther, of Saint Henry's, and with him finished learning his trade. For several years he worked at the carpenter's trade during the summer season and taught school in the winter season. On March 29, 1877, he married Maria Catherine Roemer, daughter of Joseph and Maria Anna (Trimpe) Roemer. She was born in Saint Henry's February 11, 1850, and died January 9, 1894. She was a woman of beautiful character and disposition, and was a sufferer from her fifteenth year with a complicated affection of the spine and heart. Her parents came to this country about 1838, and she received her first communion in Saint Henry Catholic church at the hands of the Rev. Erhardt Glück, April 7, 1861, and she was afterward confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rosecrans, coadjutor to the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell.

In 1878 Mr. Schlegel went into business where he is now located, building a storeroom for himself. He manufactures furniture of all kinds, and also carries on the undertaking business, having at all times on hand a complete line of everything that naturally belongs in a furniture store. Beside this he has a job printing press and carries a line of paints, varnishes, etc., and in 1891 established a quarterly journal, called the Economist.

On November 13, 1894, he married Anna Catherine Riegelsperger, who was born in Cincinnati, in October, 1874. Mr. Schlegel is independent in politics, is a Catholic in religion, is in every way a highly respected citizen, and a straightforward business man, enjoying the confidence of all who know him.

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CHARLES SCHNEIDER, one of the leading business men of the thriving town of Fort Recovery, Ohio, and proprietor of the Wayne hotel, springs from sterling German ancestry. He was born

November 14, 1849, in Jeckenbach Kreis, Meisenheim, Prussia, and is a son of Frederick and Catharine (Fender) Schneider, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: Catherine, Caroline, Frederick, deceased; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Peter, Jacob, Adam and Elizabeth, deceased. Frederick, Charles, Peter and Adam came to the United States, the others remaining in their native country.

Charles Schneider received a common-school education in his native land, and there also learned the cooper's trade. He served three years in the German army, and participated in the Franco-Prussian war toward the latter part thereof. He traveled in Germany about seven years, working at his trade in different parts. When about twenty-seven years of age he came to the United States, sailing from Amsterdam, and arriving in New York January 1, 1877. First he came to Celina, Ohio, and almost immediately afterward settled in Fort Recovery, where his brother Frederick was in business, and he worked for this brother fifteen months. Then he engaged in business for himself. His brother Frederick died January 21, 1884, and Charles was made administrator of his estate. The widow of Frederick married John F. McDaniel, and Charles and Adam Schneider bought the Wayne hotel of Mr. McDaniel in June, 1890. This property consists of a substantial two-story brick hotel building, a livery stable and a dwelling house. Charles bought the interest of his brother Adam soon afterward, and is now sole proprietor. He is one of the prosperous and substantial business men of the place, owning, beside the above-described property, a residence and a two-story brick building used for business purposes.

Charles Schneider was married April 11, 1881, in Fort Recovery, to Miss Lucilla F. Koch, who was born in Saint Mary's, Ohio, in 1840, and who is a daughter of William and Dora (Backhouse) Koch. To Mr. and Mrs. Schneider there have been born four children, as follows: Dora, William F., Albert and Eva K. Politically Mr. Schneider is a democrat, and is of excellent business qualifications. He is in every sense of the term a self-made man, and stands high for his reliability and high moral character and conduct.

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MATHIAS SCHRITZ, a prominent merchant and saloonist of Skeel's Cross Roads, is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Nidinger) Schritz, and was born in canton Grevenmacher, in the grand-duchy of Luxemburg, October 27, 1847. Henry Schritz was born in the same place in 1814, and was a son of Michael Schritz, the latter of whom reared a family of one son, Henry, and six daughters, all of whom are now deceased. Michael Schritz was a farmer and a blacksmith by occupation, and a man of character and standing in his native land.

Henry Schritz was reared on a farm in his native country, was educated in Luxemburg, learned the blacksmith's trade, and in 1846 married Elizabeth Nidinger, a daughter of Mathias and Margaret Nidinger. To their marriage two children were born: Mathias, the subject of this sketch, and Mary, wife of Nicholas Feipel, of Luxemburg. Elizabeth Nidinger was born in the province of the Rhine, Germany, in 1821, and died in 1856, a member of the Catholic church. Henry Schritz married, for his second wife, Catherine Court, in 1856, and to this marriage there were born six children, as follows: Michael, of Luxemburg; Henry, on the home place in Luxemburg; John, a teacher of Minnesota, who came to the United States in 1887; Phillip, a Catholic priest of Millersville, Sandusky county, who came to the United States in 1890; Dominick, who is working in a wire factory in

Joseph Schmitt

Mary M. Schmitt

Cleveland, Ohio; Margaret, wife of John Gasper, of Luxemburg. The mother of these children was born in Luxemburg in 1826 and died in 1892, the father having died in April, 1887, a member of the Catholic church.

Mathias Schritz, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm, was educated in Luxemburg and afterward became a manufacturer of wine, his father having a large vineyard. March 10, 1880, he came to the United States, locating in Mercer county, Ohio, and for some time working on a farm. In January, 1881, he returned to Luxemburg, again coming to this country in July following. Three years were then spent in farming, after which he worked in a store until 1886, when he returned to the farm, and followed farming one year. In 1888, going to Fort Recovery, he was there agent for a brewery for two years. In 1890 he established himself in the grocery and saloon business at Skeel's Cross Roads, in which he was very successful. In 1892 he was appointed postmaster under the Harrison administration, and still retains that position. Politically he is a democrat, and is a good citizen. His friends have elected him to different local offices, which he has filled to the acceptance of all interested. Both he and his wife are members of the Catholic church. Both are well educated, intelligent, sociable and genial people, well known and highly esteemed for many miles around. The fact of Mr. Schritz being appointed postmaster under a republican administration is indicative of his popularity among the people of the vicinity in which he now resides.

Mr. Schritz was married February 12, 1889, to Miss Anna Everling, a daughter of John P. and Mary Anna (Perdang) Everling, and to their marriage there are born three children, as follows: Theresa, born December 3, 1889; Rosalie, born September 1, 1891; and Margaret, born June 20, 1894. Miss Everling was born in canton Remich, in the district of Grevenmacher, grand-duchy of Luxemburg, May 20, 1869, and is in every way a good woman, mother and wife, enjoying the highest regard of her neighbors and friends.

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JOSEPH SCHMITT, a prominent business man of Celina, was born in Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, September 5, 1854. He is a son of Philip and Anna E. (Hemmert) Schmitt, both of whom were natives of Bayern, Germany, and both born in 1812. When they came to the United States they were yet unmarried, their marriage taking place at Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio. At that time their home was at Bodkins, and they walked from there to Minster, a distance of fifteen miles, in order to be married. The ceremony having been performed, they walked back again, and theirs was probably one of the most unromantic wedding journeys on record. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Sidney, where they lived twelve years, and where Mr. Schmitt owned and ran a brewery. In 1855 Mr. Schmitt removed his family to Mercer county, locating ten miles west of New Bremen, on the old plank road running from New Bremen to Carthagena. Here he purchased eighty acres of timber land, upon which he erected a very large brewery, and from that time until 1865 he supplied all the surrounding country with common beer. In 1865 he removed his brewery to Celina, and gave it to his two eldest sons, Philip and Casper, and selling his land upon which his brewery had stood, he removed his family to Carthagena, where he purchased 160 acres of land. This land at Carthagena, he sold in 1869, and removed to Celina, and purchased sixty-six acres of land just west of the city, which is now within the corporate limits of the town, and known as Citizen's addition. Upon this sixty-six acres he resided and followed farming until 1874, when he rented the farm and moved into the city of Celina.

Philip Schmitt was an unusually fine musician, having received an excellent musical education in Germany. When he came to the United States it was as a member of a string band or orchestra. He was one of the finest violinists in the western part of Ohio, and was also a composer of violin music of great merit. He and his wife were the parents of six sons and two daughters, the daughters and three of the sons being still alive. The childern are as follows: Philip, residing at New Haven, near Fort Wayne, Ind.; Casper, dealer in stoves and tin ware in Celina; Michael, who died in California, February 2, 1895, where he had gone for the benefit of his health four years previously; Frank and John, who died young, and Joseph, the subject of this sketch. The daughters are Mary, wife of Valentine Fortman, formerly of the firm of Schmitt & Co., and Barbara, widow of Frederick Stelzer, who died December 22, 1886. Mary Schmitt. daughter of Philip Schmitt, was the widow of Christian Desch when she was married to Valentine Fortman. Mr. Desch was a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and by his wife, Mary, became the father of four children, viz: John, Mary, Anna and Azzie, and died in 1870, and in 1874 his widow married Mr. Fortman, who, in 1886, became a member of the firm of J. Schmitt & Co., but April 30, 1896, withdrew from this firm, and the business is now conducted solely by Joseph Schmitt, the subject of this sketch, Mr. Fortman being now engaged in business for himself in the same line.

Joseph Schmitt was reared on the farm, and being the youngest of the family was the last to leave the paternal roof. This was in 1874, when he removed from the farm to Celina, and in company with his brother Michael engaged in the grocery business on Fayette street, under the firm name of M. Schmitt & Brother. This arrangement continued until 1880, when Frederick Stelzer bought an interest in the business, or, in other words, bought out M. Schmitt, and the firm name then became Stelzer & Schmitt. This firm erected the present business block of J. Schmitt & Co., which stands on Main street, in 1883, and continued on as a firm until October, 1886, when Mr. Stelzer sold his interest to Valentine Fortman, the firm name then being changed to J. Schmitt & Co. This firm carries a full line of groceries and fruits, chinaware and lamps, and have the largest trade of any firm in their line in the city of Celina.

Mr. Schmitt was married January 12, 1886, to Miss Mary Bang, who was born at Tiffin, Ohio, November 10, 1862, and is daughter of Charles and Margaret (Uhl) Bang, the former of whom is now dead. Mr. Schmitt and family are members of Saint Mary's Catholic church, and he has served as secretary and treasurer thereof for six years. He was one of the organizers of the German Aid society, and was one of the founders of the Mercer County Bote, one of the best German newspapers in this part of the state. He also has an interest in the old Celina Light & Fuel company, and was financial secretary thereof for two years. But of late he has given all his time and attention to his business, which is constantly growing and needs all his time. Mr. Schmitt is a representative citizen of Celina, is a good, straightforward business man, and has earned and obtained the confidence of the community to very great degree.

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ADAM SCHUNCK, one of the most eminent of the citizens of Celina, Ohio, and proprietor of the largest harness, saddle and boot and shoe factory in the place, is a native of Bavaria, Germany, having been born there October 16, 1836. He is a son of Peter and Mary (Beckel) Schunck, both of whom were natives of Bavaria. They came to America in 1852, landing in New York city, and going direct to Mercer county, reaching there in May of that year.

Adam Schunck was engaged in farming in Mercer county for twelve years, and then, having had three attacks of typhoid fever, he was advised by his physician to leave the farm. Therefore, on July 17, 1864, he moved to Celina, and engaged in the manufacture of harness and saddles, erecting a frame shop on the corner of Fayette and Walnut streets. When he first began he manufactured everything he sold, and he continued with success, his trade growing from year to year. In the big fire, which occurred on July 26, 1894, his shop was burned down, but he saved a portion of his stock in trade. He at once began the erection of his present two-story block, known as Schunck's block, which is 42x80 feet in size, and is one of the finest blocks in the city of Celina. The lower floor is divided into two large rooms, one of which is occupied by Mr. Schunck with his business, and the other is used as a billiard and pool room. The upper floor is occupied by a photographer's gallery and living apartments. Mr. Schunck at the present time manufactures and sells all kinds of harness, saddles, boots and shoes, and has a large and thriving business.

In 1883 he erected a large, two-story frame residence on Fayette street, where he has a comfortable and pleasant home. He was married in September, 1857, to Annie Fleck, who was born in Hesse-Homburg, formerly and independent German landgraviate, but now a portion of the kingdom of Prussia, May 11, 1837. She came to this country about one month later than her husband. To this marriage eight children have been born, of whom six are living, as follows: Peter, Charles, William, Christian, Elizabeth and Annie. Mr. Schunck and his family are members of the Catholic church, and are most excellent members of society, true to all duties and responsibilities that fall to their lot to perform and to sustain.

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FREDERICK SCHUMM, one of the prominent farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert county, April 1, 1844. He is a son of Frederick and Magdalena (Myer) Schumm, both of whom were born in Germany, and are the parents of ten children, all of whom are living, as follows: William, Frederick, Louis, George, Henry, Ferdinand, Catherine, Hannah, Mary and Barbara. The father of this family was by occupation a farmer. He emigrated to the United States in 1836, and located in Holmes county, where he followed farming for five years. He then removed to Van Wert county, where his father had entered 160 acres of government land and where he accumulated other landed property; but where he himself now owns only 156 acres of land, all finely improved. His father died in Van Wert county at the age of sixty-nine. Mr. and Mrs. Schumm are both consistent members of the Lutheran church, and excellent people in every way.

Frederick Schumm, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the parochial schools and grew to manhood in Van Wert county. During his minority he worked one year at the carpenter's trade, and upon attaining his majority he received from his father his present beautiful farm of 113 acres, upon which he now lives. Upon this farm he has made valuable improvements, having erected a large, fine brick residence, and other buildings to correspond. This farm is three miles from town and in a high state of cultivation.

On October 26, 1871, Mr. Schumm was married to Miss Margaret Ehrman, to which marriage were born six children, as follows: Katie, Hugo E. Leona, Eddie, Mary and Lawrence W. Mrs. Schumm died in 1885, and in 1888 Mr. Schumm married Mary Buechner, daughter of John Buechner and his wife. To this second marriage there have been born two children—Amos and Erna. Politically Mr. Schumm is a democrat. He is a most successful farmer, and both he and his wife are among the most highly respected people of the community in which they live.

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LORENZ SCHUNCK, one of the well known citizens of Celina, and senior member of the firm of Schunck & Corwin, manufacturers of wagons, buggies and carriages, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, March 5, 1865. He is a son of Jacob Schunck, deceased, who was one of the leading citizens of Mercer county for many years, and was superintendent of the Mercer county infirmary for about twenty years.

Jacob Schunck was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1854, and came direct to Mercer county, where he purchased a farm. On his farm he lived uhtil 1866, when he was made superintendent of the infirmary, and held this position until 1886, when he resigned. His long term in that office is sufficient evidence of the high estimation in which he was held, and of his exalted character. After leaving the infirmary he returned to his farm, three miles west of Celina, in Jefferson township, where he continued to reside until his death, in 1890, he being then in his sixty-seventh year. He was one of the largest and strongest men physically in Mercer county, and was noted for his strength for many miles around. He was married in Germany to Catherina F. Meier, who is still living and is in her seventieth year, enjoying the best of health. Her father lived to reach his ninety-fourth year, and her husband's father lived to reach his eighty-fourth year. They were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are living. Of these twelve the subject of this sketch was the tenth in order of birth.

Lorenz Schunck was reared on his father's farm and attended school in district No. 5 in Jefferson township, and also in Celina, receiving a good common-school education both in English and German. He remained on the farm until he reached his fifteenth year, and then went to Cold Water, where he served an apprenticeship of three years at the blacksmith trade. In all he remained three and a half years in Cold Water, and then removed to Celina, where he worked a short time for different parties. He then traveled to the west and south, working at his trade until 1888, when he returned to Celina, and on February 16, of that year, bought out the blacksmith business of David Overley. From that time until May 1, 1885, he ran a general blacksmith business. At this time he formed a partnership with B. M. Corwin, and the firm began the manufacture of carriages, buggies and wagons. The new firm is meeting with success and has built up an extensive trade in the country, and are fully two months behind with their orders. The business now occupies three buildings on Fayette street, between Walnut and Sugar streets. These buildings are as follows: Blacksmith shop, two and a half story frame, 28x76 feet in size; wagon shop in the rear of the blacksmith shop, one story frame, 30x34 feet, and a repository, a two and a half story frame, 40x50 feet, of which the second and third floors are used for the trimming and paint shop respectively.

On September 25, 1894, Mr. Schunck was married to Miss Elizabeth Dwyer, who was born at Piqua, Ohio, and is the daughter of James Dwyer. Mr. and Mrs. Schunck are members of the Catholic church and faithful to their religious duties, as to all other duties in life. To Mr. and Mrs. Schunck was born one child, Alma, December 17, 1895. Mr. Schunck has always been a stanch democrat, and has been somewhat prominent in the politics of Mercer county. In 1892 he was chosen chairman of the democratic county central committee, and conducted the campaign that year, when Grover Cleveland received the largest majority ever given a democratic candidate for any office, in Mercer county. He remained chairman of the same committee during the years 1893 and 1894. Mr. Schunck has the confidence of the people to an unusual degree, and is fully deserving of any trust that may be reposed in him.

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J. H. SCHWIETERMANN, a prominent and enterprising farmer of Franklin township, was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, October 27, 1840. Like nearly all sons of German parents, he received an education in both English and German, and is thus able to converse and to transact business in either language.

He is a son of John H. and Mary (Breorman) Schwietermann, who were natives of, and married in, Germany, they coming to this country after the birth of their first child. This emigration took place in 1836. Crossing the Atlantic ocean in a sailing vessel, they landed in New York after a seven weeks' voyage. After working for a time in Buffalo, N. Y., John H. at length reached Mercer county, Ohio, and located in Marion township. Having a little money left, he purchased an eighty-acre tract of land, upon which there had been a log cabin erected, and one acre cleared. He immediately began making improvements and worked at clearing the remainder of the farm, at times, when opportunity offered, working on the construction of the Ohio canal and on the grand reservoir, to get money for ready use. At length, getting his affairs into better shape, and making progress in the accumulation of money, he added to his landed possessions, and at the time of his death had 300 acres of fine farming land. He had at that time over 140 acres cleared, and in a high state of cultivation for the times in which he lived. He was also engaged to some extent in raising stock of all kinds, and did remarkably well, especially with hogs. For many years after settling in this township he used to go to Piqua to do his milling, and his nearest market was at Bremen. His death occurred in 1861, when he was fifty-eight years old. His wife died in 1868, also at the age of fifty-eight. Both he and his wife were Catholics. Mr. and Mrs. Schwietermann were the parents of the following children: Gerhardt, a prominent farmer of Marion township; J. H., the subject of this sketch; H. H., county commissioner, whose biographical sketch follows this notice; J. B., formerly a successful and prominent farmer, but now retired; Catherine M., deceased wife of Henry Gast, and who, when she died, left nine children; John, who died July 9, 1888; William, a farmer of Cranberry Prairie; Joseph, a prominent farmer of Franklin township; and Anna, deceased wife of John Dorston, by whom she became the mother of one child, who is still living.

J. H. Schwietermann, together with the rest of the family, was reared on the old homestead, all working in the interest of each other. In 1866 he was married and removed to his present farm. After the death of their mother, and after the children were of age, they divided the estate among them, amicably, without the assistance of legal advice, and to the satisfaction of all. The subject of this sketch settled on 200 acres, of which ninety acres were cleared, and which had a log house, with frame sheds and a frame barn. At the present time there are 140 acres cleared, ditched and underdrained with tile, and under a high state of cultivation. There is also now a good two-story brick dwelling house, a large barn and all necessary outbuildings, such as are needed on a well-regulated, modern farm. Taken altogether this farm is one of the most desirable anywhere to be found. All kinds of improved machinery are in use upon it, and Mr. Schwietermann has for some years owned and run a threshing machine. He is also engaged in raising stock to some extent, grading up and improving what he keeps, his object being more to benefit his farm than to make sales or send to market.

June 24, 1847, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wenzislans Meinerding a daughter, named Mary. The parents both came from Germany in 1835, and located in Mercer county upon a farm in the wilderness. There they reared their family and there Mr. Meinerding died in 1870, when he was sixty-six years old. His wife yet lives on the homestead at the great age of ninety-one. They had a family of six children, as follows: Clement, Charles, Wesley, Elizabeth, Mary, and Catherine. Elizabeth married Joseph Tangemann and Catherine married William Myring. Mary married J. H. Schwietermann, the subject of this sketch. To this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: John, born July 8, 1871, now teaching school in Missouri, married and settled in that state; Charles, born March 4, 1873, a farmer of Mercer county; Elizabeth, born February 16, 1876, living at home, and Frank C., born October 4, 1883, living at home. Mr. Schwietermann has always been a farmer and prefers giving this calling his undivided attention, for in this way only can it be made a success. He and his family are all Catholics, and all are most excellent people, standing high in the estimation of all that know him.

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H. H. SCHWIETERMANN, an enterprising and influential farmer of Mercer county, was born in that county, September 14, 1842. He is a son of J. Hannan, and Mary (Breorman) Schwietermann, both of whom came from Hanover, Germany, and of whom an account in full is given in the preceding biography of J. H. Schwietermann.

H. H. Schwietermann grew to manhood on his father's farm, and attended the country schools and also a German school, thus acquiring an education in English and in German, which is very useful in the present condition of this country. From the time of the death of their father to the settlement and division of the estate, all the children worked the farm, and pooled their earnings, buying other lands as they were able. When the farm was at length divided the portion on which the subject now lives fell to his share. At the present time our subject has 115 acres cleared, ditched and drained with tile, and well cultivated. He has a fine-two-story brick house, a large barn and other buildings, all of which he has himself erected, and his farm, lying eight miles southeast of Celina, is one of the most desirable in the county. He has followed the precepts of his father in his dealings with men, and has always been industrious and enterprising. A democrat in politics, he has filled some of the most important offices in the county. In the fall of 1891 he was elected one of the county commissioners, and in 1894 was re-elected, and has served as president of the board. During his term of service there have been built five turnpikes, and numerous iron bridges with stone foundations, this style of bridge being now universally adopted throughout the country.

Mr. Schwietermann was married to Miss Annie Birtke, who was born in Mercer county about 1850. She is a daughter of Barney Birtke, who came to this country at an early day. He purchased a farm and to aid him in paying for it worked on the canal and also in the construction of the grand reservoir. His farm consists of 120 acres, and upon it he yet lives, a son doing the active and laborious work of the farm. He raised a family of eight children, viz: Elizabeth, Catherine, John; Annie, wife of the subject of this sketch; Mary, Matthias, Bernard and Frances. He was married in all four times. The first wife had no children; the second had one; the third four; and the fourth had three. He and his fourth wife are still living, both at the advanced age of eighty years.

H. H. Schwietermann and his wife are the parents of ten children, three of whom died young. The other seven are as follows: Barney, residing at Celina; Xavier, Francisco, Matthias, Rosa, Eleanora and Mary, all at home. The family are all Catholics and are all of high standing in the community in which they live.

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JAMES SHEPHERD, one of the oldest and most widely known citizens of Mercer county, Ohio, as well as a very intelligent and well-informed man, was born in Cumberland county, Md., January 10, 1819. He is a son of George M. and Elizabeth (Redburn) Shepherd, natives respectively of Berkeley county, Va. (now W. Va.), and Hancock county, Md., and of English and German descent. George M. Shepherd was born in Berkeley county, Va., in 1777; the paternal grandfather of this subject was of German descent, and came to America in 1751; the maternal grandfather was of English descent, and came to America in 1765, and both of them settled in what is now West Virginia, and were soldiers in the war of 1776, in which Grandfather Shepherd was wounded in the battle of Brandywine. All his life Mr. Shepherd followed farming. In 1821 he came to Ohio and settled in Muskingum county, where he lived one year, then removed to Miami county, remaining there until 1832, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Union township, Mercer county, upon which he immediately erected a house. Between his newly erected house and Saint Mary's there were no houses or settlements of white people; Indians, however, were plenty, but not so very troublesome; and at that time there was not a church or school-house in the county. This farm in Union township he cleared up and lived upon until 1845, when he removed to Warren county, Ind., and then to Richland county, Ill., where his devoted wife died in 1853, after which the father lived with his son, Samuel, in Coles county, Ill., then with our subject, and then returned to Illinois, where he died in February, 1858.

James Shepherd was the third son and fifth child of a family of ten. With his parents he came to Ohio, and with them endured all the hardships of pioneer life, all of which he well remembers. When the family came to Mercer county he was about twelve years of age, and had then received all the education he ever received by the aid of teachers and schools, but, being anxious to become well informed as to matters of science and current events, it was his custom to sit up nights and read and study before the light of a fire on the hearth. To the habit and taste for knowledge thus established and cultivated he gives the credit for the fact of his being now one of the best educated and most thoroughly well informed men of his county.

After remaining at home during the first twenty-six years of his life, James Shepherd began working for himself at the carpenter trade, in the summer time, during the winter season teaching school, and was thus occupied for about thirteen years. On April 18, 1852, he married Polly Ann Hamilton, eldest daughter of William and Charlotte Hamilton, pioneers of Mercer county, among the most respectable and influential people of the time, and the progenitors of many of the older residents of the county. Mrs. Shepherd was born in Ontario county, N. Y., in March, 1828, and is one of the very oldest residents of Union township. She was a passenger, in 1837, on the first railroad train in America.

Previous to his marriage, and two years after he had begun life for himself, Mr. Shepherd had purchased a farm, which had not had a stick of timber cut upon it, and upon this farm, or rather tract of eighty acres of land, he erected a frame house, one of the very first houses of the kind in the township, thereby keeping good a resolution he had made when a boy, not to marry until he had a home of his own to which to take his wife. This brought him up to 1848. From 1847 to 1888 Mr. Shepherd devoted his time to farming, clearing up his land, and setting out his first three acres with fruit trees, and gradually getting it into a suitable condition for successful agriculture. At the same time he gave considerable attention to the study of the law, a profession he had in mind while teaching school. In 1888, his health having become somewhat impaired, and thinking he had done enough hard work for one man, he removed to Mendon, and has since led a retired life; his daughter, however, conducts a millinery business there. In the spring of 1896 he concluded to again move out upon his farm.

Mr. Shepherd was present at Huntington, Ind., when the Indians received their last pay for their reservation of land in this locality from the government of the United States, this being about the time of their removal beyond the Mississippi, and he has some very pronounced views as to the treatment of the Indians by the government of the United States. Mr. Shepherd has traded farms several times, and now has a farm of eighty acres three miles west of Mendon. He and his wife are the parents of seven children, six of whom reached maturity, as follows: Zelmira McDonald, a resident of Latty, Paulding county, Ohio; Frances Keyser, of Mendon; Lorinda Werts, deceased; Dorinda Taylor, of Van Wert, the latter two having been twins; Lovina, of Delphos; and William Lester, who died at the age of twenty-one, just as he was completing a thorough education at the Ada normal school.

Although Mr. Shepherd was not himself in the army, yet he had five brothers in the service of their country, one of whom was wounded and died before reaching home. Mr. Shepherd has served as township clerk and assessor, is a republican in politics, and now, at the age of seventy-eight years, is still hale, hearty and well preserved, his mental faculties being perfectly sound and his mind as rational as ever. In 1888 Mr. Shepherd retired to Mendon, where he has lived until the present time, but now contemplates returning to his farm. For over twenty years Mr. Shepherd practiced law, but relinquished the practice on account of defective hearing.

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JACOB SHINGLEDECKER, a farmer and a prominent citizen of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born June 23, 1855. He is a son of Jeremiah and Lydia (Harp) Shingledecker, the former of whom was born in Green county, Ky., September 29, 1823, and was a son of Abraham and Rebecca (Hoover) Shingledecker. Abraham Shingledecker was born in Pennsylvania and died June 22, 1871, aged eighty-four years, eight months and twenty days. He was a son of Jacob and Abigail (Longstroth) Shingledecker, the former of whom was both a farmer and a millwright, and located in Cincinnati when there was nothing there but the fort. Abraham Shingledecker sold quails at Fort Washington to Hull and his men. After the treaty made there with the Indians he removed to Xenia, where he followed his trade the remainder of his life, and there died. He was the father of eight children: Jacob, who served in the war of 1812-15; John, Isaac and Abraham, and four daughters.

Jacob Shingledecker was in politics a democrat and was a member of the Lutheran church. Abraham, his son, was reared on the farm, received a common-school education and studied medicine in Cincinnati with Dr. Odell. In 1812, he married Rebecca Hoover, a daughter of Israel Hoover, who was born on the Licking river in Kentucky, and died April 27, 1873, at the age of seventy-nine years. To Abraham and Rebecca Shingledecker there were born eleven children, as follows: Cyrus, deceased; Ezra, of Dublin township; Barbara, deceased wife of William Parrent; Anna, wife of Peter Frisinger, of the same township; Abigail, deceased wife of John Piper of Michigan; Jeremiah; Maria, wife of Jacob Frisinger, of Dublin township; Rachel, widow of Perry Beer, living with Mr. Frisinger; Lorena, widow of Aaron Buckmaster, of Michigan; Harriet, wife of Lewis Hays, and John, of Dublin township.

Abraham Shingledecker, after his marriage, lived in Xenia, Yellow Springs, Whitewater, and was a good deal of a traveler, going all over the state as a botanical doctor and as a minister of the gospel, he being a member of the United Brethren church. He was also a soldier in the war of 1812, and before had lived in Clermont county for nine years. It was in 1836 that he removed to Mercer county, and upon arriving there he entered somewhat more tnan half a section of land, upon which he lived until his death. He practiced medicine for forty-five years, and after 1865 was a member of the Christian Union church. He was in politics a democrat and one of the most public-spirited citizens of his day. Two of his brothers, Jacob and John, served as soldiers in the second war with Great Britain in 1812.

Jeremiah Shingledecker was reared on a farm, was educated in Mercer county, and was married, about 1854, to Lydia Harp, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Harp. To this marriage there were born three children, as follows: Jacob; Frank, who is living on the home place, and who married Eudosia Roebuck (for full mention of whom the reader is respectfully referred to the biography of Branson Roebuck, on another page); and Clarke, who died at thirteen years of age. The mother of these three children was born in Montgomery county, and died in October, 1882, aged fifty years. Her father was one of the early settlers of Mercer county, and she was a member of the Christian Union church. After his marriage Jeremiah Shingledecker bought an uncleared farm in Van Wert county, upon which he lived two years, and then he exchanged that farm for the one upon which he now lives, which contained eighty acres, and which was partially cleared. This he now has under a high state of cultivation, and has erected upon it a fine house. He is a democrat in his political views and has held the office of township trustee for fourteen years—an office which he could have held for life had he been so inclined. For thirty-seven years he has been a member of the Christian Union church, and has been a ruling elder for many years. Mr. Shingledecker is one of the best of men, is public spirited, and is liberal in all things.

Jacob Shingledecker, son of Jeremiah, was reared on the home farm, was educated in Dublin township, and remained at home until his marriage, May 18, 1875, to Miss Elizabeth Street, a daughter of Elijah and Irene (Wiley) Street. To them have been born three children, as follows: Thurman, born May 9, 1880; Tony P., born November 17, 1881; and Jacob Clifford, born November 14, 1886. Miss Elizabeth Street was born in Mercer county, and was there educated and married. Mr. Shingledecker, after his marriage, located on the home farm, his mother having died and his father being thus left alone. He remained there twelve years, and in 1891 moved to his present home, which he purchased one year after his marriage. It consists of seventy-five acres, and all but a few acres are now under a high state of cultivation. In 1884 he erected a fine dwelling, in which he now lives. All the property he possesses he has accumulated by his own exertions and good management. While he is not an office seeker, yet his democratic friends have elected him to the office of township trustee, in which he served two years, and he was also clerk of the school district one year, and then declined to serve longer. In religion he is a member of the Christian Union church, and held the position of superintendent of the Sunday-school for ten years. He was also financial elder of his church three years. His wife is a member of the same church with himself, is an excellent woman, and an exemplary christian lady. Mr. Shingledecker is a member of Rockford lodge, No. 790, I. O. O. F., is in good standing, and is highly esteemed by all the members. Outside of his occupation as general farmer, he clerked for six months, in 1871, in a dry-goods store in Rockford, and in 1873 he entered into partnership with Mr. Van Almen, under the firm name of Van Almen & Shingledecker, and together they carried on the grocery business for nine months, at the end of which time Mr. Shingledecker sold his interest and returned to the farm, being unable to stand the confinement. General farming and stock growing are his preference, and he is one of the most public-spirited men of the present day. He is well thought of, and held in high esteem, and at present holds the office of township trustee.

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JACOB SHERER, a prominent and successful farmer, of Union township, was born March 28, 1840. He is a son of Jacob Sherer, who was of German ancestry but a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1804. Jacob Sherer, the father being in somewhat moderate circumstances, began at an early age to learn the weaver's trade, in order that he might take care of himself. He married Miss Sarah Mohler, a native of Cumberland county, Pa., and to this marriage there were born thirteen children, as follows; Christine; Sarah, born in 1834 and died in 1880; Mary, Samuel, Martha; Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Esther, who died when twenty-four years of age; Joseph, who died in the army while serving his country during the war of the Rebellion; John, who died young; Elizabeth, deceased; David, deceased; Catherine, and one that died in infancy. Removing to Union township soon after his marriage, John Sherer, the elder, there bought eighty acres of woodland, which he cleared, sold, and bought another farm of sixty-five acres. Later he added eighty acres to the sixty-five, and upon this land he carried on farming till his death. He was a very liberal man, highly respected by all, a moderate republican in politics, a member of the Dunkard church, and was for some time supervisor in his district and a member of the school board. His wife died in 1895, at the age of eighty-four years, also a member of the same church with her husband.

Jacob Sherer, our subject, was born in Union township, Mercer county, and was reared on his father's farm, remaining there until his marriage, which took place October 13, 1861, to Miss Mahala Hays. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Charles M., Nettie, Alfred, Laura, Joseph, Libbie, Maud, Esther and Vernie. All these children are living and six married. After leaving his home Mr. Sherer bought forty acres, of land on which he lived seven or eight years, when he sold out and removed to Van Wert county, where his wife owned a farm of eighty acres, upon which they settled down. This farm Mr. Sherer cleared and improved, lived upon it eight years, and then exchanged it for a farm of thirty-seven acres, to which he afterward added enough to make seventy-four acres. Still later he purchased sixty-nine acres, and later still seventy-three acres more, making in all 216 acres. This farm he lived on and improved until 1887, when he built a grist-mill in Mendon, and ran it for two years, when he sold out and returned to the farm, upon which he has lived ever since. Leasing his farm to the Mendon Oil company, this company, in 1894, sank a well, which turned out to be a good producer, and afterward nine other wells were sunk, nearly all of which became profitable producers of oil.

As a democrat Mr. Sherer served as school director of Union township two terms. In religion he is a Dunkard, and in every way he is a man of respectability and character. Miss Mahala Hays was born February 18, 1843. Her father, Alfred Hays, was born February 24, 1812, in Ohio, and reared on the farm. Upon attaining his majority he went to Missouri and there worked in a pottery for some time. Returning home he went on the farm and was married to Miss Charlotte Ruper, a native of Ohio. To this marriage there were born the following children: Scott, Matilda, Rachel, Jane, D. G., Sabrin and Mahala, the wife of the subject of this sketch. Four of the seven are yet living, viz: Scott, Jane, Sabrin and Mahala. He and wife are members of the Dunkard church and in politics he is a democrat. Mahala Hays, born in Union township, Mercer county, remained at home until her marriage to Mr. Sherer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sherer are people of high standing and prominent among the residents of Mercer county. Both are members of the Dunkard church, and have many friends in their community.

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SOLOMON SHOCK, one of the most prominent farmers and stock dealers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, was born in Allen county, Ohio, October 28, 1851. He is a son of Levi and Mary Jane (Carr) Shock, the former of whom was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, May 9, 1836. Levi was a son of Peter and Mary A. (Boyd) Shock, the former of whom was a son of George Shock, whose wife previous to her marriage was named Elizabeth Schultz. Peter Shock was born in Somerset county, Pa., February 5, 1800, his father being a native of the same county, and his grandfather having been a native of Germany.

By trade and occupation George Shock was a weaver, and his wife, Elizabeth Schultz, was a native of Somerset county, Pa., her parents having come from Germany. George Shock and his wife were the parents of ten children, Peter, mentioned above, being their fifth child. About 1836, George Shock and his wife removed to Coshocton county, Ohio, and there passed the remainder of their lives. Both were members of the Dunkard church, were good people, highly respected by all, and when they died left many friends. He was a democrat in politics, but cared less for politics than for his own regular business and private affairs.

His son, Peter Shock, was reared on a farm, was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania, and on April 20, 1827, married Mary A. Boyd, a daughter of James Boyd. To Peter Shock and his wife there were born eleven children, as follows: Levi, father of the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of David Baxter, of Allen county; Hulda, wife of Reuben Carr, of Allen county; Carlisle, wife of Amos Crites, of Allen county; Catherine, wife of Daniel Allen, of Allen county; George, deceased; Sarah, wife of William C. Wagoner, of Black Creek township, Mercer county; Mary, A., wife of William Rumple, of Black Creek township; Elvina, wife of Asa Binkley, of Van Wert county; William, of Allen county, and Peter, of Van Wert county. Mary A. Boyd was born in Somerset county, Pa., December 22, 1810, her father having emigrated from Ireland to that county some years previously.

After their marriage Peter Shock and his wife lived in Somerset county, Ohio, where Mr. Shock took up forty acres of government land, which he lived on and cleared up, converting it into an excellent farm. In 1846 he removed with his family to Allen county, where he carried on farming successfully until 1886, a period of forty years, and then removed to Mercer county, bought eighty acres of land, made his home with his son, Levi, until 1892, since which time he has resided with his daughter, Mrs. Wagoner, of Black Creek township. His wife died October 1, 1895, a member of the United Brethren church, and his own death occurred about six weeks later. He was a democrat in politics and a prominent, public-spirited man, highly esteemed by all that knew him. He was a member of United Brethren church, holding the office of steward therein for a number of years. His brother, Samuel, served in the late Civil war as a member of the Eighty-first regiment Ohio volunteer infantry.

Levi Shock, the father of the subject, was reared on the farm, and was educated in the public schools of Allen county. In 1850 he married Mary J. Carr, and to their marriage there were born the following children: Solomon, the subject of this sketch; James B., postmaster at Rockford; Martha, wife of James P. Skinner, a minister of the United Brethren church; Willis W., an insurance agent of Rockford; Ida, wife of S. F. Pifer, of Rockford; Jesse, a manufacturer of draining tile of Mendon, Ohio. Mary J. Carr, the wife of Levi Shock, was born in Allen county. She was one of the good women of her day, a member of the United Brethren church, and died December 31, 1869. From the time of his marriage until 1852 Levi Shock lived in Allen county, then removed to Mercer county and entered eighty acres of land, which he cleared, improved and cultivated until 1885, when he removed to Rockford, and was there for three years engaged in the grocery business. Since 1888 he has lived in Rockford, a retired life. After his first wife's death he married Mary Russell. Both in politics and religion he holds high place in the esteem of his fellowmen. His party friends have twice elected him township treasurer, and as a member of the United Brethren church he has served as steward and has always been an active worker. During his entire mature life he has been a prominent citizen, and a successful man.

Solomon Shock, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm, and educated in Mercer county. On January 7, 1875, he married Eliza McDonald, a daughter of Alexander and Eliza (Parker) McDonald, and to this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Delbert, born August 15, 1876; Mildred, born October 19, 1879; Ralph, born October 9, 1883; Earle, born October 12,

1886. Eliza McDonald was born in Auglaize county, April 29, 1851, where she received her education, and where she resided until 1868, when she removed to Mercer county and there taught school until 1875, fifteen terms in all, two of them after her marriage. Her father, Alexander McDonald, was of Scotch-Irish descent, was born in Fairfield county in 1816, and in 1840 married Eliza Parker, by whom he had the following children: Theodore G., a physician of Redkey, Jay county, Ind., who served three years in the war of the Rebellion as a member of company A, Eighty-first regiment Ohio volunteer infantry; Margaret (Mrs. E. Partner, of Rocky Ford, Colo.); Olive, wife of C. L. Toner, of Albion, Mich., who served through the entire war as a member of the Fortieth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, being promoted to lieutenant; Thomas, living on the old homestead; Eliza, wife of the subject; Parker, engaged in the oil business at Saint Mary's; Delilah, wife of Lewis Brewer, of Saint Mary's; and Samuel, a carpenter of La Junta, Colo. Alexander McDonald and his wife, in 1844, removed to Auglaize county, entered government land, upon which Mr. McDonald lived until his death, which occurred in 1877, his wife from that time on until her death, in 1891, living with the subject of this sketch. He was a good man, one of the best, and was highly respected by all. In politics he was a republican and both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church.

After his marriage to Miss McDonald, the subject of this sketch lived in Black Creek township one year, at the end of which time he purchased fifty acres of land, which he improved in every way, putting up good buildings and farming there for nine years. In 1886 he removed to the old homestead in the same township, where he still resides. and manages the home farm. For twelve years he has been engaged in dealing in stock and has been unusually successful. Like all his ancestors, he stands high in the esteem of his fellow-men, and as a democrat has been elected to the office of township trustee, in which he is now serving his second term. His services have also been demanded on the school board of his township, and also on the county board of agriculture. Both he and his wife are prominent members of the United Brethren church, of which for several years he has served as trustee. Few citizens, if any, in Black Creek township are more public spirited and none highly respected than is Mr. Solomon Shock. His wife is at present, and has been for the past two years, superintendent of the Sunday-school. In addition to their own children, they have taken care of four orphan children, and are now schooling the fourth one.

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JOSEPH SIDENBENDER, deceased pioneer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Ross county, Ohio, near Chillicothe, a son of George and Susan (Brandell) Sidenbender, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The father was a farmer and passed the major part of his life in Ross county, where his death took place, and he and wife had reared a family of eight children, viz: George, Richard, Samuel, Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret and Joseph.

Joseph Sidenbender, our subject, was reared on his father's farm, and for his day received a very good education in the common schools. September 4, 1830, he married Miss Ann Van Gundy, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Connor) Van Gundy and a native of Ross county, born October 4, 1808, and the year after his marriage started for Indiana in a covered wagon, with his bride and household goods, but in crossing Mercer county, Ohio, where he had a sister living, he concluded to stop here for a short time, but was so pleased with the country that he purchased forty acres of the land near where Mendon now stands, but on the opposite bank of the river, and after paying for this property had but $1.50 left, with which to begin life in a new country. He, however, set manfully to work and built a one-room log cabin, about eighteen feet square, and in this they lived about one year, when the rising river drove him out; he then erected another cabin, on higher ground, but the swollen stream again drove him from his home. These mishaps so disgusted him that he sold his farm, with its improvements, for the price that he had paid for the land alone, and moved to the government road, or rather trail, that ran from Piqua, Ohio, to Detroit, Mich., and here entered eighty acres about a mile and a half southeast of the present site of Rockford; here he soon afterward erected a good log house, in which he and his family lived for many years, and in which the first Methodist services in this part of the country were held and continued for two or three years. In this log house, also, was the first Methodist society of the vicinity organized, in 1840, by six members, and this nucleus has grown to the present large Methodist congregation at Rockford. Of these six members, Mr. Sidenbender was one, and this was his life-long faith. Later on, Mr. Sidenbender erected a much better residence, which was occupied by himself and family until 1866, when he retired to Rockford, where his death took place November 25, 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years.

Mr. Sidenbender had always followed agriculture and was one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Mercer county, and, beginning with forty acres, accumulated 233 acres, of which he had cleared up 200 acres. Politically he was a democrat and a strong advocate of temperance, and was honored by his fellow-citizens by being chosen to fill many of the local offices, the duties of which he performed with conscientious fidelity. He was a man of decided and strong convictions, and was always liberal in his giving to his church of his time and money, never refusing to aid other denominations than his own in their building operations. By his uprightness, generous disposition and genial love for his kind, he won and held to him an almost countless number of friends, who deeply deplored his loss, feeling that they should "never look upon his like again." His venerable and worthy life-companion and helpmate is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sidenbender were born the large family of fourteen children, in the following order: Shepherd, George, Ann Jane Montreville, Richard S., Bishop and Harrison P., all deceased; Mary Ellen, wife of Harry Guy, of Winfield, Kans.; Millie Ann, widow of Lafayette Snyder, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Claybourn D. Work, of Rockford; Alvina, widow of J. F. Smith and now residing in Rockford; Maria J., also residing in Rockford and the wife of Henry K. Smith; Joseph Van, a farmer, near Rockford, and Seymour B., also a farmer, with his residence in Rockford village. The surviving members of the family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are all most highly esteemed in their various places of residence.

Joseph Van Sidenbender, son of Joseph the pioneer and Ann (Van Gundy), a biography of whom is published herewith, and one of the leading citizens of Mercer county, was born on the old homestead, on which he still resides, in sections Nos. 16 and 21, Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, February 24, 1841. He was reared to farming on the old place, received a very good common-school education, and remained at home until twenty-five years of age, when he married and followed farming on his own account until his parents retired to Rockford, when he took charge of the old homestead, of which he later purchased eighty acres. To this he continued to add until he became owner of 216 acres, from which, in 1892, he selected seventy-six acres and had platted as an addition to the village of Rockford, this plat being now known as Sidenbender's subdivision. On the old homestead he has also made many valuable improvements, erecting modern buildings, fences, etc., adding to the tiling, and otherwise increasing its fertility and beauty.

February 15, 1866, Mr. Sidenbender married Miss Mary A. Whitley, daughter of Rev. C. B. Whitley, a memoir of whom will be found on another page of this volume. This union has been crowned by the birth of four children, as follows: Carrie, wife of W. M. Symons, of Rockford; Dallas, who died at the age of eighteen months; Etta, wife of Edward Voke, of Dublin township, and Frank, at home. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and none is more highly esteemed.

In politics Mr. Sidenbender is a wheelhorse in the democratic party. In October, 1878, he was elected to the office of county auditor of Mercer county, and proved himself to be so competent and faithful that he was re-elected 1881 almost without opposition, receiving every vote cast in the county excepting 137, and serving in all six years. In 1890 he was elected land appraiser, and gave the utmost satisfaction in this position. He has long served as a member of the democratic central committee and has frequently been delegate to conventions of his party, and has served nine years on the school board. Mr. Sidenbender has contributed most liberally to all measures that have been put forward as beneficial to the county. Railroads have been aided to the extent of hundred of dollars advanced by him; pikes have been pushed along through his contributions; churches have reason to feel thankful to him for his beneficent acts, and, in fact, all things designed for the public good have met with his hearty aid and liberal support.

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WILSON SELBY, a man of prominence in his township, an enterprising farmer, and a son of one of the oldest of the pioneers of Mercer county, was born in this county, May 29, 1855. He was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the district schools, and inherited a large part of his energy and his industry from his father. After leaving school he continued to read and study, and thus secured a better education than most of the country boys of his age and time.

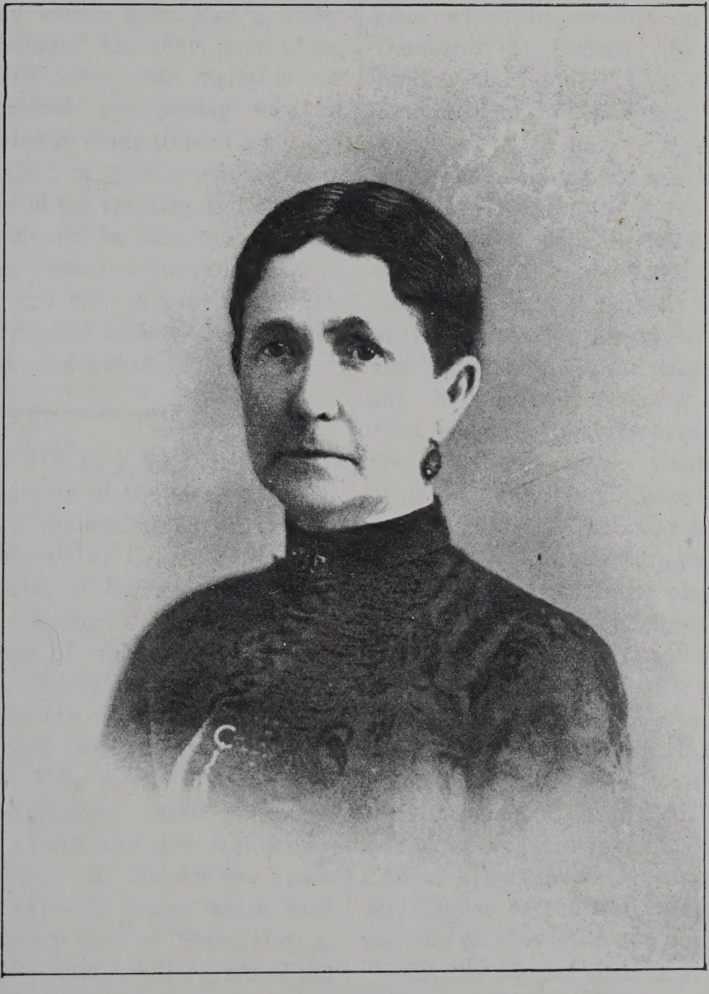
He is a son of Jacob and Mary A. (Winters) Selby, the former of whom was a son o Charles Selby, of Pennsylvania, who came to this county at an early day. He was enterprising man, and entered considerable land, reared his family, did much hard work and died. He was of German descent, and a sturdy, industrious man. His lands he left to his children, the father of the subject of this sketch obtaining that upon which the subject now lives. Jacob Selby was reared on this land. At the time he was a boy in this county the advantages offered for securing an education were very poor, and his school-boy days were very few. His father gave him 160 acres of land, all in the woods, upon which, afte marrying, he settled, cleared it of its timber and converted it into a good farm. His firs work was erect a log cabin, and later he erected another cabin by its side, so that he had fo a number of years a double log cabin to live in After getting a good start on this farm he bought two other eighty-acre tracts, and of the

the entire body of land, thus acquired, he cleared off 160 acres before his death, and he also had a considerable amount underdrained with tile. In 1861 he erected a good barn, and in 1862 a good frame house. At different times he owned a large amount of land, was among the most successful men of his day, and one of the most prominent farmers in his township. Besides improving his home farm he cleared and improved other land, and did much to assist in developing the country. To the people of his county he was very useful, as he purchased their surplus stock, and fed many cattle and hogs for market. He died October 16, 1893. His wife had died on February 1, 1889, a true Christian.

Mrs. Selby was a daughter of Bradley Winters, of Virginia, who, upon coming to Ohio, originally settled in Clarke county. Afterward he removed to Mercer county, and took up a piece of land in the wilderness, which he steadily improved until it was an excellent farm and until he became an unusually prosperous farmer. He handled large herds of cattle, and at times owned some fine stallions, improving the breed of horses in the county. He died about 1870. Jacob and Mary A. Selby reared a family of four children, viz: Elizabeth, who married Charles H. Smith, and now resides at Saint Mary's; Sarah A., wife of I. W. Rush, a very prominent farmer of Logan county, Ohio; Emma B., wife of E. A. Magee, of Tipton, Ind., and Wilson, the subject of this sketch.

Wilson Selby resided with his parents until he attained his majority. As may be naturally inferred, he was reared to agriculture and stock raising. When of age he formed a partnership with his father, continuing in that relation for a number of years. December 4, 1881, he married, but remained with his father, who after a number of years turned all the business over to him, and he conducted both the farm and the stock business on his own account. In 1885 he purchased a valuable tract of land in Nebraska, which he yet owns, this tract containing 320 acres. In 1887 he erected his present fine residence on an eighty-acre tract of the homestead, and left the parental roof. Afterward his father gave him eighty acres of land and still later sixty acres more. Since then he has had additional underdraining done, and he has built a large barn and has his farm under a high state of cultivation. He gives most of his attention now to general farming, though he continues to look after the stock business to some extent. He has followed the teaching and example of his father in politics as well as in business, and votes the democratic ticket, though he has never had any desire to hold office. His father and mother were church members—he of the Christian Union, she of the United Brethren.

Wilson Selby married Miss Sarah Miller, a native of Mercer county, born February 4, 1865, and a daughter of Calvin and Cynthia (Preston) Miller, the former of whom was of Mercer county and died July 12, 1889; she of Hamilton county, and died April 22, 1865. Mr. Miller opened up a farm in Mercer county, and married there, his wife having come to the county at an early day with her parents. She was a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Miller and wife had five children, viz: William P., now living in Missouri; Alexander, also living in Missouri; Benjamin F., who died at the age of twenty-four; Agnes, who died young, and Sarah, wife of the subject of this sketch. After the death of the mother of the above children, Mr. Miller marrried Priscilla Croy, by whom he had six children, viz: Mary, who married A. Morningstar, of Mercer county; Matthias, yet single; Hester, who married John Splain, of Cold Water; Julia, who died young; Minnie, who married James



MRS. MARTHA J. McGAVREN,

DECEASED.

Cothren, of Montezuma, and Nelson, yet a single young man.

Wilson Selby and his wife, Sarah, have had five children born to them, viz: Russell D., born December 26, 1882; Floyd, born January 8, 1884; Verdie, born May 4, 1885; Murrill, born January 27, 1887, and Oma, born November 18, 1889. Mr. Selby is one of the public-spirited, enterprising men of Mercer county, always ready to lend a helping hand to a neighbor, or to any public movement that will stand the investigation that all such movements should be able to stand before expecting to command the confidence of the people. He and his wife are both excellent members of general society, and have the good opinion and good will of all.

HON. ALEXIS P. J. SNYDER, editor and proprietor of the Mercer County Standard, the leading democratic paper published at Celina, Ohio, was born June 24, 1828, at Bellefontaine, Ohio. His parents were Henry and Sarah (Smith) Snyder, the former of whom was a native of Hagerstown, Md. Early in life Henry Snyder came to Greene county, Ohio, and there engaged in milling until 1823, when he removed to Logan county. Prior to his removal from Greene county he married Sarah Smith, an English woman by birth, and their family consisted of ten children. Mr. Snyder was a pensioner of the war 1812–15, during which time he did active military duty at Saint Mary's, Fort Defiance, and other frontier posts of the northwest. He died in 1874, in his ninetieth year, and Mrs. Snyder died in 1862, aged seventy-seven years.

The subject of our sketch, A. P. J. Snyder, like many others in the newspaper profession, acquired his education, in the main, while working at his trade. He attended the common schools, and when seventeen years of age entered the office of the Ohio Censor, at Bellefontaine, which was then the democratic paper of Logan county. There he remained for three years, until his trade was completed, after which he worked on the Champaign Democrat, at Urbana; the Republican, at Kenton; the Banner, at West Liberty, and the Examiner, at Bellefontaine. On the 17th of March, 1851, he became a resident of Celina, since which time he has been actively identified with the growth of the town.

For three years Mr. Snyder worked in the office of the Western Standard, owned at that time by W. L. Blocher and S. S. Snyder, and at the end of that period he bought out Mr. Blocher's interest in the paper. The partnership between Snyder Bros. continued until 1865, when they sold the paper to D. J. Callen. Once in the newspaper business it is hard to acquire a liking for anything else, and at the end of eighteen months A. P. J. Snyder resumed the editorial harness, becoming, this time, sole owner of the plant which has attained long life and usefulness under the name of the Mercer County Standard. Mr. Snyder has also been identified with other interests in Celina, having in the 'seventies helped to establish a handle factory, and again, in 1880, becoming one of the original stockholders in the Krenning Woolen mills. He has also served as a member of the town council of Celina. In 1859, the democratic party elected Mr. Snyder to the legislature, and he was a member of that body two successive terms.

On the 22nd of February, 1859, he was married to Susan E. Slicer, who was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, February 29, 1837. She is a daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Stover) Slicer, both natives of Maryland. Walter Slicer was one the prominent pioneer residents of Logan county. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder's family at present consist Elizabeth, wife of

Charles A. McKim, a druggist of Celina; Carrie, wife of A. W. Fishbaugh, an attorney, and now serving in the capacity of county surveyor of Mercer county; Cora, and Frank A. Snyder, business manager of the Standard.

Mr. Snyder has been a life-long democrat, and he uses the power he possesses as proprietor of the official organ of the county to promote the best interests of the party for which he has never ceased to work with unswerving and effective fidelity.

In 1894 the entire plant of the Standard office was destroyed in the big fire that swept away part of the town, and the loss entailed on its owner was a heavy one, but with commendable energy he at once resumed business and the publication of the paper was not delayed for a single issue. Since June, 1895, the Standard has been merged into a twice-a-week publication, and apart from advocating the principles of democracy, the paper is largely and actively engaged in promoting the industrial growth and development of the town and county.

WILLIAM SIMISON, the oldest settler in Granville township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in that township May 22, 1827. He is a son of John and Rachael (Studebaker) Simison, the former of whom was born in Lexington, Ky., in 1800. His father, John Simison, was a native of county Derry, Ireland, came to the United States with his family, who were sold to pay their passage, and later went to Kentucky, where Mr. Simison followed farming. Seven children were born to him and his wife, as follows: John, Samuel, Robert, Erwin, Betsey, Eliza and Polly. Robert still lives at Buena Vista, Ind. Judge David Studebaker of Decatur, Ind., who is a son of Polly Studebaker, is a double cousin of the subject.

John Simison and his family, on coming to Ohio, stopped a short time in Fort Greenville, and in 1822 removed to Fort Recovery, where he erected a cabin and took up a squatter's claim, remaining there five years. The family then, on New Year's day, 1827, removed to Granville township on a sled, and there John Simison, father of the subject, lived many years, dying in August, 1863. He married Rachael Studebaker, daughter of Abraham Studebaker, who was of German descent. His wife was born in Hamilton county, was captured by the Indians, who kept her seven years, adopted her into the family of a "medicine man," who had all kinds of recipes for the cure of disease, which the subject of this sketch has used very effectively in cases of sickness, and especially in cases of rattlesnake or other reptile bites.

To the parents of the subject there were born the following children: John, deceased; Nancy (Mrs. McCarthey), now deceased; David, deceased; William, the subject of this sketch; and Sarah (Mrs. Welch), deceased. When William was a young man his mother died, and his father married Margaret Johnson. He sold his farm, bought 500 acres of prairie land in Granville township, upon which he engaged in cattle raising, but at length sold this land and before the breaking out of the Civil war went to Iowa. He died at Redfield, Iowa, in 1863. Politically he was a republican, and was a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was also a member. They were highly respected by all who knew them.

William Simison was reared in the woods in Mercer county. He never attended school a day in his life, but by his own efforts learned to read and write the English language, also high and low German, as well as that of the Miami Indian tribe, and also became a skillful mathematician, showing what a man with application and determination can accomplish. He was a great friend of the Indians, was a great hunter, and killed many a deer, bear, wolf, turkey, catamount, etc. He sold the horns and hide of the deer, made clothing of deer skin, as well as moccasins, and hats of buckskin. He went to Piqua to mill when yet a boy, and while game was plenty was always able to make plenty of money. He killed the last deer in Mercer county 1882. He was always generous to his neighbors, and was always well liked by them. In 1850 he went to Indiana, where he followed farming two years for his aunt, Polly Studebaker, while her son, Judge Studebaker, attended college. In October, 1852, he married Eliza Neil, who was born in Montgomery county in 1827. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Erwin, of Darke county; Mary, who died at the age of thirty-two years; Nancy (Mrs. David Ross), of Paulding county; Rachael, at home with her sister, Alice; William, of Granville township, and Alice, wife of John Keller, living on the home place.

After his marriage William Simison bought several tracts of land and in 1876 bought his present home place, which he cleared. He owned more than 200 acres of land, and has given each of his children a home. Mr. Simison is one of the self-made men of Mercer county. In politics he is independent and served as constable of his township two years. While he has suffered many hardships in his lifetime, he has, notwithstanding, made an honest living and has never refused to help a human being in need. He is everywhere known as a man with a large and generous heart, and is everywhere honored for his sympathy with those who suffer and need aid. Beside his own children he reared Mrs. Ida (Stein) Cox, of Mercer county, from her infancy until her marriage.

The subject of this sketch has a fine reputation in this locality. He is well known fo miles as a successful doctor in the use of Indian medicines. He has cured, successfully, twelve men, as many women, and as man children, who have been bitten by rattlesnakes Many of them are still living.

* * *

SAMUEL Mc. LOREE was born Jun 18, 1822, in Franklin county, Ohio, near what was then known as the Bi run. His father's name was Joh Loree, who was a son of one of three brothers, who are said to have come from France at an early period in the history of this country, an to have settled in New Jersey. With his father, the grand-father of the subject of this sketch, he came to Ohio and located in Zanesville. The maiden name of Samuel's mother was McMillen, who was born in Scotland.

Samuel worked upon his father's farm, attended school in winter and obtained such an education as the country schools at that time afforded. In 1840 he came to Mercer county, where he taught school for many years, on the prairie in Dublin township, and there he met and married his wife, Martha McChristy. She was born in Warren county, Ohio, December 18, 1824, and was a daughter of Jesse McChristy. Her father was of Scotch-Irish descent. He was a pioneer of Mercer county, having come to the county in 1832, and located on Shane's prairie, in Dublin township, where he followed farming many years. Samuel Mc. Loree was a man of sterling qualities of character. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was leader of a little band that met in an old log school house to worship. He was much more than ordinarily intelligent, was better educated than the average man of his day, and enjoyed the reputation of being an exceptionally good man.

On September 22, 1864, Mr. Loree was

enrolled as a private soldier in company F (Capt. William H. Farber), Sixty-fourth regiment of Ohio infantry, veteran volunteers, in which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out of service at Nashville, Tenn., June 16, 1865. Before the coming on of the war he had been elected to various township offices, and when he returned from the war, in 1867, he was elected treasurer of Mercer county, and was re-elected in 1869. After vacating the office of county treasurer he returned to the farm in Black Creek township, where he lived until his death, in October, 1878, his wife surviving until December, 1890. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom still live—Samuel Marion, John Wesley (whose life-sketch is given below), Mary Jane, Elisha D. and Martha Anne.

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JOHN WESLEY LOREE, a well known member of the Celina bar and the junior member of the law firm of Marsh & Loree, is a native of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, and was born July 18, 1853. He is a son of Samuel Mc. and Martha (McChristy) Loree, of whom the biography is sketched above.

John Wesley Loree was reared on his father's farm in Black Creek township. His education was received in the old log schoolhouse, to which he went sometimes three months in the year, sometimes not at all. However, by dint of hard study and what is sometimes called "self-help," he managed to secure a good education, and up to the time he was twenty-five years of age he spent his time in farming and in teaching school. Besides this he attended school in Celina, and spent four years at Mount Union college, in Stark county. For some time after this he taught school in the winter season and attended college during the summer, and assisted his father also, as he had met with some reverses which rendered this course necessary. When twenty-five years of age he entered the law office of LeBlond & Day, as a student, August 12, 1878, and was admitted to the bar April 5, 1881. A few days afterward he formed a partnership with Hon. A. D. Marsh, which partnership is still in force. Mr. Loree was appointed county school examiner of Mercer county, Ohio, August 16, 1879. In 1880 he served out the unexpired term of C. L. Clippinger as superintendent of the Celina Union schools, and in 1892 he was nominated by the democracy in his congressional district, over his protest, as a candidate for presidential elector. In 1893 he was elected city solicitor of the village of Celina, Ohio.

Mr. Loree was married December 22, 1886, to Miss Anna Day, daughter of Judge James H. Day, and born in Celina. To this marriage there has been born one child, Marjorie Day, an exceptionally bright young lady, living at home. Mr. Loree is a member of Masonic fraternity and also of the Knights of Pythias. He is a man of fine legal ability, and of excellent character, and doubtless has a splendid career in future.

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REV. WILLETS SKINNER, of Black Creek township, Mercer county, a prominent farmer and a minister of the gospel, belonging to the United Brethren church, was born in Monroe county, Ohio, November 27, 1822. He is a son of Cortland and Susannah (Porter) Skinner, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in Somerset county, in 1800. His father, Willets, was born in New Jersey, was of English ancestry, and was an early colonial pioneer of that state. Willets Skinner, grandfather of our subject, when a boy, removed from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, settled in Somerset county, and there married Sarah Colborn, a native of that county. To this marriage of Willets and Sarah Skinner there were born twenty children, twelve of whom grew to mature years. At the time of her marriage the mother of these children was but sixteen years of age, and she lived to be eighty-four. Cortland was their oldest child, and at the present time there are but two of the twenty children living, viz: David Skinner, of Spencer, Iowa, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe, living somewhere in the west.

When Cortland Skinner was but a boy, his father removed to Fayette county, Ohio, where he died. He was a Baptist in religious belief, as were the entire family, and he was a democrat in politics. The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Colborn, served seven years in the Revolutionary war, and was present in many of the hardest-fought battles of that struggle, among them Valley Forge and Trenton. Cortland Skinner was reared on the farm, was educated in Pennsylvania, and about 1819 married Susannah Porter, a daughter of James Porter, a native of Ireland, who came to this country in his youth. She was born in 1798, in Pennsylvania, and became the mother of six children, as follows: Elizabeth, deceased wife of William McKune, of Pennsylvania; Willets, the subject of this sketch; Mary, widow of James Wilson, of Fayette county, Pa., one of whose sons is a Presbyterian minister in Philadelphia, and another a Presbyterian minister in Michigan; James, deceased, formerly of Galesburg, Ill.; William P., who died in Taylor county, Ia.; and an infant, deceased, unnamed.

After his marriage Cortland Skinner, in 1819, removed to Monroe county, Ohio, in which county he remained two years, and there he began his ministerial career. He was a preacher in the Baptist church. In 1823 he went to Morgan county, entered land, carried on farming and preached at the same time fo the Baptists of that county. His wife died i 1832, and in 1833 he married Mrs. Mary (Lynn Hill, and to this marriage there were born als six children. After his second marriage Mr Skinner moved to Guernsey county, and subsequently to Perry county, locating in Ne Lexington, after which he removed to Kno county, where he lived three years. In 183 he returned to Fayette county, Pa., purchase the old homestead and lived upon it severa years. He then removed to Greene county Pa., and still later to Illinois, where his wif died. After living in Illinois six years he removed to southwest Missouri, and there himself died in 1880. In politics he was a whi until the formation of the republican party, an then he became a republican. Mr. Skinne was a man of character, and a good man in every way. It will be seen from reading the above recital that he lived in many differen localities, in at least four states, and was on of the pioneer ministers in each of the state in which he resided. He was a true Christian and his heart was in his work, an essential element in the successful pursuit of any calling but more especially that of a minister of th gospel, for the religious susceptibilities of mankind are exceedingly sensitive, and the slightest taint of insincerity in a minister, or of hypocrisy, is easily detected, and from that tim on his usefulness is much impaired, if not entirely destroyed.

Willets Skinner, the subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and was educated i the schools of the several states in which hi father lived. At the age of seventeen he began to make his own living, and at the age o eighteen began in the town of Washington, i Washington county, Pa., to learn the trade o blacksmith. At this trade he worked for fifteen years. In 1845 he removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, and worked that summer o a farm. In the fall of that year he removed to Ashland county, then Richland county, and worked there at his trade for ten years. March 25, 1847, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Swineford, a daughter of John and Mary (Younge) Swineford, the latter of whom was a daughter of an old settler of Ashland county, in which county Mrs. Skinner was born in 1824. To this marriage of Willets and Elizabeth Skinner there were born the following children: John, now living on the old homestead; Mary Ellen, deceased; Benjamin Franklin, of Iowa; Clara and James P., twins, the former the wife of D. P. Stover, and the latter living on a part of the old farm; and two children that died in Indiana.

In 1855 Mr. Skinner went to Indiana, where for ten years he carried on farming. In 1865 he returned to Ohio and purchased the farm of 170 acres, on which he now resides, in Mercer county. At that time it was uncleared and unimproved. This farm he has cleared and improved, and on it he erected, in 1883, a neat modern house. His wife, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died September 20, 1878, and in November, 1885, he married, for his second wife, Mrs. Martha J. (Rea) McElhenny, who was born in 1824, in Belmont county, Ohio, was a member of the United Brethren church, and died some time in the winter of 1892.

Willets Skinner was a republican most of his early and middle life, but at the present time is a prohibitionist. He served as township trustee in Ashland county for a number of years. In religious matters, he was, at first, as were the rest of his family, a member of the Baptist church, but he afterward joined the Protestant Methodist church, in which he was licensed to preach. For this church he spent considerable time in preaching, but when he removed to Mercer county he united with the United Brethren church, and joined the Auglaize annual conference, and he still belongs to the radical branch of the United Brethren church, but is not now actively engaged in preaching. He has always held office in the church, and taken an active part in church work everywhere he has been. All other good and proper causes and movements have had in him an ardent advocate and supporter, and in these things, and also in his more humble, but not less honorable, calling of agriculturist, he has always been progressive and prominent.

Mr. Skinner has helped his boys by dividing his land among them, and now retains only sixty of his 170 acres.

* * *

JOHN SLIFE, a prominent citizen of Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, an ex-soldier of the Civil war, a man of remarkable characteristics, and a collector of interesting historical relics, is of sturdy Pennsylvania Dutch stock. He is a grandson of Jacob Slife, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, a weaver by trade, a resident of Pennsylvania, and later one of the pioneer settlers of Montgomery county, Ohio. Here Jacob Slife cleared up a farm from the wilderness and became a prosperous and substantial farmer, owning 120 acres of excellent land, for which kind of land Montgomery county is famous all over the state. While yet living in Pennsylvania he married a lady who was, like himself, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and to their marriage there were born the following children: Elizabeth, Jacob, Samuel, John, Michael, and Abraham. The father of these children passed all of his remaining days, after coming to Ohio, in Montgomery county, and died at the advanced age of seventy-five years, a straightforward and honorable man.

Abraham Slife, the youngest of the children named above, was the father of the subject of this sketch. He was born April 2, 1802, became a farmer and married, in Montgomery county, Ohio, Anna Moyer, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Moyer, and who was born May 9, 1809. To Mr. and Mrs. Slife there were born the following children: David, John, Elizabeth, Daniel and Emanuel. The father of these children cleared up a farm and lived all his life in Montgomery county, dying in 1890, at the age of eighty-eight years. He was a man of unusually hardy constitution, very industrious, a member of the United Brethren church, in which he was for many years a class leader, a devout Christian, and highly esteemed by all for the sterling integrity of his character.

John Stife, the subject of this sketch, was born February 11, 1836, in Montgomery county, on his father's farm, and received the education of a pioneer settler's boy. On August 28, 1861, he enlisted in company A, Eighth Indiana volunteer infantry, for three years, or during the war, and was honorably discharged on account of expiration of term of service at Washington, D. C., September 7, 1864, having served his country faithfully and well for three years and twenty days. During that time he participated in the following battles: Blackwater, Mo.; Sugar Creek, Ark.; Cotton Plant, Ark.; Port Gibson, Mauritia Hill, Champion Hills, first battle of Jackson, Miss.; and in the siege of Vicksburg, including the general engagement and assault on the fortifications. When in line of battle and during a charge on the rebel works he was wounded at 5 P. M., being shot through the right lung by a minie ball, the ball striking the lower part of the right lung and breaking the third rib. Falling on the field of battle he lay there all night and until ten o'clock next morning, and, though suffering greatly, he retained consciousness, a dead man lying at his side the whole time. William Rumsey and Thomas Smith, both members of his company, carried him from the field, Rumsey dressing his wounds. To his wonderfully strong constitution does he owe his life. After remaining in the field hospital ten days he was then taken to Chickasaw Bayou on a hospital boat, and thence to Memphis, and afterward lay in hospital there until he recovered. All the hardships of a soldier's life he bore with fortitude, and was not otherwise sick than as above described, being a well and rugged man, well able to endure fatigue and exposure.

In 1865 he married, at Fort Recovery, Elizabeth A. McDaniel, who was born February 22, 1840, and is the daughter of William and Sarah (Stone) McDaniel, referred to in the biography of Lieut. Jesse S. Clum, page 219. After marriage Mr. Slife settled on his present place, forty acres of woodland, which by hard labor and patient industry he converted into a good, and well cultivated farm. He has erected a good frame house and other buildings to correspond. To Mr. and Mrs. Slife there have been born two children, viz: William B. and Clarence, of whom one died in infancy. The parents of these children are members of the Christian church. In politics Mr. Slife is a republican and also an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was one of the charter members of Harrod McDaniel post, No. 181, G. A. R., and has held all the offices of the post.

Some years since Mr. Slife began to collect relics of the famous battle field of St. Clair's defeat, which is now his farm, and has taken great intesest in this historical work. Among these relics are two finely preserved officers' swords, which performed services in this noted struggle with the Indians. He has four complete muskets, with flint locks and bayonets, which were found on this battle-field. The wood work was entirely gone, but the metal work was found in a good state of preservation. He has many parts of muskets, such as flint locks, together with cannon-balls, grape-shot, shells, musket-balls, scalping knives, etc., anvils for the army blacksmith shops, straps, buttons, knee-buckles, and many other objects of great interest, from their known associations in the historical past. In addition to the above mentioned relics, he has collected many valuable relics of the Mound Builders, and of the men living on earth during the stone age, many of them very rare and of the finest workmanship. Mr. Slife's collection possesses great historic interest, and together with his Indian relics, such as tomahawks, scalping knives, arrow-heads, etc., probably forms one of the most complete and interesting of any to be found in the state. Mr. Slife is one of the best known citizens of Mercer county, and is everywhere highly respected.

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GEORGE SMITH, one of the oldest settlers and pioneers of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Rothime, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, February 7, 1828. John and Margaret (Dengas) Smith were his parents, the former of whom was born in the same place in 1800. Reared upon the farm, John was educated in his native country and learned the weaver's trade. His wife, Margaret Dengas, was born and reared in Germany. She became by her marriage to Mr. Smith the mother of five children, and died in her native land. After her death Mr. Smith married again a native of Germany, who bore him three children.

John Smith followed his trade in Germany until he emigrated therefrom to the United States, leaving home on Monday, April 6, 1840, and being nine weeks crossing the ocean, experiencing rough and stormy weather most of the way across the sea. Arriving in Baltimore, he went direct to Fiersville, near Chambersburg, Pa., where he worked in an iron foundry and machine shop three months, then buying a horse and wagon he drove through from Chambersburg to Pittsburg in three days. Crossing the Ohio river by means of a ferry boat, he drove down to Wheeling, where he again crossed the Ohio river and proceeded on to Sidney, where he remained one month working on the canal. In the following fall he located in Mercer county, Ohio, bought eighty acres of woodland in Liberty township, and upon this farm he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1882. Mr. Smith was a good, honest, upright citizen, a democrat in politics, and a member of the Lutheran church. His second wife died two or three years later, a woman of sterling qualities of head and heart, and, like her husband, a member of the Lutheran church.

The five children of John Smith and his first wife, Margaret Dengas, were as follows: Andrew, who served for five years in the Seventy-first regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and died the next day after returning home from the war; Conrad, deceased; George, the subject of this sketch; John, a carpenter of Celina, Ohio; and Margaret, wife of John Koch, of McGuffey. The three children of the second wife were as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Kaser, of Sidney, Ohio; Lena, wife of Earnest Kraft, a shoemaker of Lima, Ohio; and Philip, of Kansas.

George Smith, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm and educated in Germany, being twelve years old when he came to the United States. He remained one year in Sidney, where he worked the entire year for twenty dollars, and then had to take a cow in payment, which was worth only nine dollars. From Sidney he walked to Mercer county, remaining over night in Belden, where he had for supper only potatoes roasted in ashes. When he reached New Bremen, he found there only one store, and that sold wooden shoes. The entire trip from Sidney to Mercer county required four days, and he shook with the ague most of the way. Upon arriving at his father's home he found him living in a shanty made without the use of a single nail, the door of which was scarcely tall enough for a man to stand in upright. His first meal in Liberty township consisted of potatoes, and corn cakes made of meal grated on a hand grater and stirred up with water, and a little salt, the coffee being made of roasted corn. For six years he raised potatoes and corn with a hoe, his father's horse having died, which method of performing farm work would now be considered a great hardship. It was then necessary to go to Piqua to mill, though most of the pioneers had their corn ground in a hand mill. From the time of his arrival in Mercer county until he was twenty-one years of age, he worked on his father's farm, and then went to Saint Mary's, where he worked for three years on the canal, saving sufficient money with which to purchase his present place, earning when working for the government twelve dollars per month. In 1850 he purchased 120 acres of woodland, paying for it entirely before leaving his work on the canal. Upon this farm so purchased and paid for he still lives, and prizes it very highly, because it was secured by his own hard labor, without aid from any quarter.

On August 19, 1852, he married Gertrude Wappas, a daughter of Casper and Margaret Wappas, and to this marriage there were born the following children: William, of Hopewell township; Margaret, wife of Frank Miller, of Hopewell township; Catherine, who died when five years old; Matilda, wife of William Roberts, but now deceased; Cyrus, deceased; George W., living near the home place; Emma, wife of Henry Smith, of Hopewell township; Rosetta, wife of John Gorham, of Lima; Louisa, wife of William Roberts, of Hopewell township, and Dulcena, living at home. Gertrude Wappas was born in Germany, and came to the United States with her parents when two years old. Fuller mention of her family is made in connection with the sketch of Mrs. Hellwarth, her sister, which may be found on page 349 in this volume. She was born January 22, 1832, and while most of her people are Catholics, she was a member of the Evangelical church. She died November 16, 1890, at fifty-two years of age, sincerely mourned by her friends and neighbors.

After his marriage George Smith located on his present farm, upon which he had previously built a log cabin, and upon which he has lived ever since. By hard and continuous labor he has cleared it up, improved it and cultivated it until at the present time he has 160 acres of excellent land, well drained and thoroughly fertilized, and in as good a condition for successful agriculture as can be found anywhere in the county. In 1876 he erected his present house, which is one and a half stories high, the main part being 32 x 20 feet in size, and the wing 28 x 14. Politically Mr. Smith was a democrat up to the breaking out of the Civil war, then a republican until a few years ago, when he united with the populist party, with which he still affiliates. He has served for some years as a member of the township school board, and he and his family, with the exception of Rosa, who is a Methodist, are members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Smith is a public-spirited citizen, highly respected by all that know him. He is believed to be the oldest settler in the township, and well remembers the time when the chimney to his house, instead of being constructed as now, of bricks, was constructed of sticks and clay; when he had no lamps, and received his light to read by in the evening from the fireplace. At that time his wife often went to mill with him before they were married, her father being a cripple. He was one of the hospitable pioneers of his township, his latchstring being always out. He often went as much as ten miles to help a newcomer in the settlement raise a house, and many a frolic he had at such times, for people in a new country enjoy themselves when they meet in ways that people in old countries know nothing of. Seeing each other seldom always heightens the pleasure of meeting, and so social pleasures are intensified, compensation being thus afforded for the infrequency of such pleasures.

* * *

CORNELIUS SMITH, a distinguished citizen of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, eminent as a banker and prominent as an agriculturist, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, August 4, 1836, a son of Israel and Matilda (Wade) Smith, who settled in Mercer county in 1840.

Mr. and Mrs. Israel Smith were natives of Ohio, and were here married. In 1838 they removed to what is now Washington county, Iowa, but in 1840 returned to Ohio, journeying in a wagon with their family, which then comprised five children, intending to settle on some land which Mr. Smith had traded for in Van Wert county. On the way, Mr. Smith stopped in Mercer county at the house of an old settler—a Mr. Guy—with whom he left his family while he went forward to Van Wert county to inspect his land. This he found to be too swampy for his purpose, and so at once returned to Mercer county, where, two years later, he purchased section No. 6, in Dublin township, in Godfrey's reservation, upon which he made settlement, and which he began to improve, but of which he subsequently sold one-half. The remaining half he continued to improve and reside upon until his death, in April, 1857, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, and in politics a democrat. He became one of the solid men of the county, and was greatly respected for his purity of character and intrinsic merit as a man. To his marriage with Miss Matilda Wade were born nine children, as follows: J. Findlay, farmer, deceased; Z. A., a merchant of Coffey county, Kans.; Jacob, deceased; Cornelius, our subject; John W. and Henry, of Rockford, Ohio; Sarah Ellen, wife of George Griffan, of Lincoln, Nebr., and two infants, deceased. The lamented mother of this family was called away in 1848.

Cornelius Smith, the subject proper of this memoir, was early inured to the toils and hardships of pioneer farm life, received as good an education as the schools of his early day afforded, and assisted on the home farm until twenty years of age, and then began working out as a farm hand by the month for his own benefit. A short time thereafter, however, he began farming on his own account, and this occupation he has never since entirely relinquished. In 1863 he moved to Rockford, which town he has ever since made his place of residence. Here, in connection with his farming interests, he was for five years engaged in mercantile business, and in 1888 he purchased a quarter interest in the Bank of Rockford; in 1892 he withdrew from this bank, and the following year (April, 1893), organized the Rockford Savings bank, associating with himself J. S. Riley, his son-in-law, and doing a general banking business, which continues to increase day by day. His present farm of fine arable land comprises 338 acres, which he personally superintends in conjunction with his banking interests.

Cornelius Smith was united in marriage March 29, 1860, with Miss Nancy E. Hedges, daughter of Col. W. B. Hedges, and born March 24, 1840. This felicitous union has been made the happier by the birth of five children, but, nevertheless, the parents have suffered severely through the heavy hand of affliction bereaving them of three of their offspring, viz: William, Elmore and Jennie. The surviving two are Nimmie L., who was born January 20, 1861, and is now the wife of J. S. Riley, co-partner with Mr. Smith in the banking business at Rockford, and Carroll C., at home with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics, Mr. Smith is a stanch democrat and for a long series of years filled the office of justice of the peace—more from a sense of public duty than from any desire of holding a public position. He has always held the welfare of Rockford and the county of Mercer "grappled to his soul with hooks of steel," and has been generous in his pecuniary outlay toward the promotion of their material advancement. He is recognized as one of the most progressive and sagacious business men of the county, and socially he and family stand in the center of a circle of its most highly respected and influential citizens.

Col. William B. Hedges, a deceased pioneeer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Boone county, Ky., June 27, 1797, and was a son of Samuel P. Hedges, who married a Miss Botts, both of whom were of English birth and were early settlers of Boone county, Ky., where they reared a large family and passed their useful and worthy lives.

William B. Hedges, the subject of these remarks, received a very good education for the times in which he was of school age by an attendance at an academy in Cincinnati, Ohio, conducted in a log building. At the age of eighteen years he came to what is now Mercer county, Ohio, and located at Shanesville, now Rockford, and began trading with the Indians, going on horseback from camp to camp and gathering furs, peltries, etc.; he also kept a small store—the first in the county—in which he handled a meager stock of merchandise for barter with the redskins, and this traffic he carried on as long as there were any Indians left in the vicinity. He also studied surveying and civil engineering and assisted largely in making the early surveys of his part of the country. The colonel was also a "mighty hunter," and many a stately deer fell before his unerring rifle, as well as bear and numerous other kinds of game of less pretentious degree or importance.

Col. W. B. Hedges was first married April 15, 1824, to Miss Susan Graves, who died May 25, 1835, leaving six children, viz: Matilda, Samuel P., Polly J., William B., Jr., John and James R., the last named being the only one now living. The second marriage of Col. Hedges took place June 11, 1839, with Elizabeth Eichar, to which union four children were born, viz: Nancy E. (Mrs. Cornelius Smith), Sarah, Harriet and Henry, of whom Nancy E. is the only survivor. Col. Hedges continued many years in business and finally sold out to his son, William B. Hedges, Jr., who carried it on until his own death. In politics the colonel was an active whig and for many years served as a justice of the peace and as tax collector. He was very prominent in his day, and to him the county owes much of its early prosperity. He died, full of years and honor, in February, 1870.

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HENRY SMITH, a prominent citizen of Hopewell township, Mercer county, was born near Giessen, the principal town of the province of Upper Hesse, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, January 1, 1837. He is a son of Frederick and Ann Elizabeth (Gerlach) Smith, the former of whom was born at the same place April 8, 1807, and was a son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Bender) Smith. Christopher Smith was a farmer and a cooper. To him and his wife there were born eight children, Frederick, mentioned above, being the second from the youngest.

Until 1828 Frederick Smith worked upon the farm, and then, being twenty-one years of age, enlisted in the regular army and served six years. In 1832 he married Elizabeth Gerlach, born March 21, 1808, at the same place with himself. To them there were born seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, widow of Conrad Smith, of Hopewell township; Catherine, wife of George Wappus, of Indiana; Henry, the subject of this sketch; George, of Hopewell township; Margaret, who died in infancy; Andrew of Hopewell township, with whom the father of the family lives; and Lena, wife of Frederick Stedcke, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. Frederick Smith, while living in his native country, worked on a farm and in the iron mines, and in 1846 emigrated to the United States, being twenty-eight days making the trip across the sea, and arriving in this country February 28. Coming direct to Mercer county he purchased forty acres of woodland, to which he subsequently added forty acres. He now owns eighty acres of land, but since 1890 he has lived with his son, Andrew, as noted above. In 1848 he married his second wife, Susan Hull, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and to this marriage there were born four children, as follows: Frederick; an infant son, deceased; Caroline, wife of George Smith, of Hopewell township, and Susan, wife of William Bunge, also of Hopewell township. Frederick Smith is one of the oldest men in Mercer county, being now eighty-nine years old, and is still hale and hearty. Formerly he was a democrat in politics, but of late he has favored the populist ticket, especially in local affairs. He is a member of the Evangelical association and is strictly moral.

Henry Smith, the subject of this sketch, when twenty-one years of age, began working for himself. March 9, 1862, he married Sarah Bever, a daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth Bever, and to them seven children were born, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Conrad Eichenauer, of Hopewell township; William H., on the home farm; Melinda, wife of Charles Rutledge of Hopewell township; Anna, wife of Adam Eichenauer, of Hopewell township; Amelia, wife of William Stroh, of Auglaize county; George Edward, a farmer at home; and Nettie, at home. Sarah Bever was born in Ohio, February 26, 1844, but her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. They lived for many years in Allen county, Ind., and died at Fort Wayne. The following of their children survive: Jonathan, of Indiana; Harriet (Mrs. Hettler), of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Hattie, wife of Christ Mellinger, a shoemaker of Fort Wayne; Kittie Ann, wife of George Conrad, of Pennsylvania; Melinda Jane (Mrs. Valentine Burgle), of Fort Wayne, and William, a farmer of Fort Wayne.

In 1859 Mr. Smith purchased the farm on which he still lives, at the time all in the woods. To his first purchase he has added eighty acres, and now has 160 acres in all, most of it under a high state of cultivation. He has cleared up his farm himself and has placed all the improvements thereon that it now carries. Originally he erected a hewed-log house, but in 1887 he erected a fine frame house. General farming and stock raising are his preferences, and he is very successful in each branch of farming. On August 14, 1890, his wife died of typhoid fever, and since then his daughter has kept house for him. His wife was and he is a member of the Evangelical association, of which he is a class leader, exhorter and steward, and is prompt to discharge all his church duties, as well as any other duties that devolve upon him. Politically he was a democrat until recently, but now he is thoroughly in accord with the populist party. He is one of the best men in the township, one of the most public spirited, and always anxious to see the country prosper.

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**GEORGE W. SMITH**, for many years an honored resident of Mercer county, Ohio, but now a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was born in Perry county, Ohio, September 5, 1840. His father, Andrew Madison Smith, was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1810, and when twelve years of age came to Ohio, settling in Perry county, and from that time until he attained his majority he lived with a woolen manufacturer, who owned and operated a woolen mill on Rush creek, in than county. Young Smith was put to work in the mills, learning the business thoroughly. When he was twenty-one years of age he removed to Virginia, and there married Miss Sarah Elizabeth Lacey, daughter of Mahlon Lacey, a slaveholder and one of the aristocratic families. This marriage occurred in 1838. In Virginia Mr. Smith resided some years engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods. While thus engaged he met with an accident which rendered him a cripple for the remainder of his life. Returning to Ohio after his few years' residence in Virginia he became the proprietor of a flouring-mill, which he operated until he was past middle life, and then retired from active business on account of his crippled condition and of his being afflicted with rheumatism. Notwithstanding these troubles, however, he lived to the advanced age of eighty-four years and some months. His wife died in 1868. Andrew M. Smith and his wife were the parents of eleven children, as follows: George W., the subject of this sketch; Mahlon, who died while in the service of his country as a Union soldier; Thomas and Jacob, both deceased; Andrew M., who lives in Arkansas; J. Carper, a shoemaker of Mendon, Ohio; Preston, deceased; Albert, a farmer; Mary Ann, deceased; Matilda, deceased wife of Odell Alexander, of Rockford, Ohio; and Charlotte, wife of O. N. Clark, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

George W. Smith, born in Perry county, Ohio, September 5, 1840, when twelve years of age was set to work in a woolen mill. After being thus engaged for two seasons he went to work in his father's flouring-mill. His health failing, he became a farmer, following this occupation two years, and in 1857 went to work at the shoemaker's trade. At this trade he was engaged for three years, and then, his health having once more become impaired, he went to the oil fields in Morgan county, Ohio, where he remained one year in out-door exercise and labor. January 1, 1865, found him in Rockford, Ohio, then Shanes Crossing, and there he became engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes in partnership with Frank Davis. After remaining thus engaged until 1871, he in 1872 established himself in the business of a shoe manufacturer, and he also put in a line of eastern stock, continuing in these two lines in Rockford until March, 1876, when he removed to Celina, where he continued in business until October, 1891, with the exception of the period between May 20, 1884, and October, 1885, which was spent with his family in the northwest, principally in Washington territory, residing most of the time in Olympia, and visiting numerous points along the coast. In 1891 he disposed of his business in Celina, and located in Fremont, Nebr., soon afterward removing to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he still resides, and where he is at present conducting a boot and shoe manufacturing establishment. Mr. Smith has always led an active life and has always been a most industrious man. He is full of energy, is genial and whole-souled, and has hosts of friends. Politically he is a republican and fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias. He has always been an active worker in religious circles.

On October 29, 1865, he was married to Miss Charlotte Ellen Borchers, daughter of George F. and Sarah (States) Borchers. She was born in Rockford, Ohio, in 1846, and died April 27, 1890. For years she was the leading spirit in the Presbyterian church at Celina, Ohio, and it was through her efforts that the little edifice of that denomination was erected in that place. She was a woman of most exemplary character and of high attainments, and her influence was always exerted for the good of society at large. At her death she left three daughters, viz: Clara Ermina, Sadie E. and Nellie May. Clara was married March 1, 1888, to C. M. Floyd, by whom she has one child, Ellen Vellone.

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JAMES SMITH, a prominent farmer of Liberty township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of William and Sarah Elizabeth (Gibson) Smith, and was born in Logan county, June 8, 1842. William Smith was also born in Logan county, in 1798, and was a son of William Smith, who was of English descent and was the father of four sons. The father of the subject was the youngest of these four sons, was reared on a farm, educated in Logan county public schools, and about 1838 married Sarah Elizabeth Gibson, who was also born in Logan county about 1813. To their marriage were born three children, as follows: Mary Ann, wife of Frank Duffy, of Muncie, Ind.; Aaron, of Brice, Jay county, Ind.; and James, the subject of this sketch. The mother of these three children died in 1843, when the subject was one year old, and Mr. Smith married, in 1845, for his second wife, Julia Ann Bird, to which marriage there was born one child, John, who lived for some time in Colorado, but who is now deceased. In 1843 William Smith, the father of our subject, removed from Logan county, Ohio, to Jay county, Ind., and lived there until within two years of his death, during these two years living in Recovery township, Mercer county. His death occurred in 1851, and his wife's occurred in 1895.

James Smith, the subject, was reared on the farm until his father's death, and when he was nine years of age he was taken to rear by George Parsons, a prominent farmer of Jay county, Ind. Remaining with Mr. Parsons until the war came upon the country, he enlisted in October, 1861, as a member of company K, Fortieth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served three years and three months. The first battle in which he was engaged was that of Mill Creek, Ky., and he was also in the two battles fought at Franklin, Tenn.; Chickamauga, Rossville, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and through the Atlanta campaign, his last battle being the second one at Franklin, Tenn. He was in eighteen battles in all, but was not wounded, nor was he ever captured by the rebels. He was mustered out of service at Smithland, near Atlanta, Ga., and thirty-five days later was discharged at Nashville, Tenn., on January 8, 1865. Returning then to Jay county, Ind., he lived with Mr. Parsons until his marriage, October 4, 1866, to Sarah Jane Harry, a daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Premier) Harry. To this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Mary E., wife of Clement C. Kelly, of Jay county, Ind.; Julia A., wife of Frederick Schielscott, of Mercer county; John W., of Indiana; and Charles Elmer, living at home. The mother of these children was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in August, 1841, her parents having also been natives of Ohio and early settlers of Jay county, Ind. Her father was a democrat, both were members of the United Brethren church, and both are now deceased. Their children were as follows, four of whom survive: Emeline, who became the wife of Samuel Tetors, and is now dead; William, of Jay county, Ind., who served three years in company K, Fortieth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry; Sarah Jane, wife of the subject of this sketch, and Solomon, deceased; Mary A. (Mrs. Longacre), now deceased; Elizabeth (Mrs. Hodishell), deceased; Charlotte (Mrs. Ashcraft), of Portland, Ind.; and John, of Nebraska. The mother of these children died in 1856, and the father afterward married Mahala Dare, who lives at Portland, Ind., having borne her husband three children, as follows: Samantha (Mrs. Meyers), of Portland, Ind.; Electa (Mrs. Brumeyer), of Lima, Ohio; and Alonzo, of Portland, Ind.

After his marriage the subject located in Jay county, Ind., where he bought forty acres of woodland, built a log cabin and moved his family into it in the fall. Later he purchased twelve acres more land, and still later forty-eight acres more, so that in all he owned 100 acres, all of which is now cleared and under a high state of cultivation. This land he has improved, and has erected fine buildings, erecting an excellent barn in 1888. He is a prominent citizen, and in the true sense of the word a self-made man. In religion he is a Methodist, and in politics a republican, and formerly was a member of Reed post, G. A. R., now abandoned. Since 1892 he has lived a retired life, having by his own industry and hard work acquired a competency for his old age. Never having had any assistance in any way or shape, what he has accumulated has been wholly through his own exertions in earning and economy in saving. His is an example worthy of imitation by all young men who desire to be independent of the world and of charity when they reach old age.

THEODORE SNYPP, M. D., one of the leading physicians of Mercer county and one of the county's most prominent citizens, was born in Greene county, Ohio, February 28, 1860. He is a son of Rinehart and Sarah L. (Howell) Snypp, and sprang from old colonial stock. The great-grandfather of Dr. Snypp on the paternal side came from France, and his great-grandmother from the German empire, and settled in Pennsylvania. On the mother's side of the family Dr. Snypp is of English and Irish blood. Traced back far enough, the family is of German and of Scotch-Irish origin.

Dr. Snypp received his early education in the public schools of Dayton, Ohio, and began the study of medicine at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1880, at the Eclectic Medical college, receiving his diploma in 1883. Beginning the practice of his profession in Dayton, Ohio, he remained there thus engaged about one year, and then went to Chickasaw, Ohio, where he built up an excellent practice, remaining there until 1891, when he removed to Fort Recovery, where he has been ever since, busily engaged in the general practice of his profession. His practice has become unusually large and extends throughout the surrounding country. Beside his general practice he makes a specialty of hernia, and the treatment of this disease with special instruments, and by this method of treatment has had great success, and has made many permanent cures. Dr. Snypp is a great reader of medical literature, and patronizes many of the best periodicals and magazines of the day. He has a large and valuable library on medical subjects, and keeps fully abreast of the times on all things pertaining to his profession. His library also contains many of the best works in general literature. The doctor is a member of the Ohio Medical association, and of the Mercer County Medical society.

In 1883 the doctor married, at Newport, Ohio, Rachael Perry, daughter of Nathan Perry, who is an attorney-at-law. Dr. Snypp and his wife have three daughters, viz: Florence, Edith and Julia. The parents of these children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a democrat in politics, though taking only a passing interest in party affairs, Fraternally he is an honored member of Versailles lodge, No. 286, I. O. O. F., and he is also a member of Celina lodge, No. 241, F. & A. M., and of the Celina chapter. Dr. Snypp is a man of wide and varied reading, of unusual talent and skill in his profession, and both as a physician and as a citizen stands very high in the estimation of the public. His geniality renders him exceedingly popular and has had much to do in gaining for him the success with which he has met.

The Perry family descends from the same stock as that of Oliver Perry, the hero of the war of 1812-15, and is one of the best in the county. Mrs. Snypp is a lady of excellent characteristics, and a woman of many virtues. She stands high in both church and social circles, and has many friends in Mercer and other counties.

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JESSE D. SPITLER, a prominent farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 4, 1846. He is a son of David and Elizabeth (Fonch) Spitler, the former of whom was born in Virginia, December 30, 1799. He was a son of Jacob Spitler, also a native of Virginia and of German ancestry. Jacob Spitler was a cabinet-maker by trade, and while he worked at his trade, his boys carried on the farm. He married in Virginia and reared a family of twelve children, the father of the subject of this sketch being the youngest of the twelve. In 1802 he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he entered school lands and lived there until his death. In politics he was a whig and in religion a member of the Baptist church.

David Spitler was reared on the farm in Fairfield county, and on the 15th of November, 1832, married Elizabeth Fonch, a native of Ohio, born August 12, 1818, and to this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Jane, deceased; Julia Ann, wife of Lewis Rhodes, of Fairfield county; Margaret, deceased wife of George Adams, of Fairfield county; David, a farmer of the same county; Perry, died in infancy; George W., a hardware merchant of Springfield; Elizabeth, wife of Edward Adams, of Fairfield county, and Jesse D., the subject of this sketch. After his marriage David Spitler continued to live on the home farm in Fairfield county until he died. Politically he was an old-line whig, and religiously he was a member of the Baptist church. His death occurred September 30, 1872, his wife dying in June, 1873.

Jesse D. Spitler was educated in Fairfield county and lived there until he entered the army as a private soldier in company B, Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1865, his enlistment having been in January, 1864. He was in active service during the entire period of his enlistment, being in the battle of Resaca, and all the others of the Atlantic campaign, and then on with Sherman down through Georgia, and up through the Carolinas to Washington, where he participated in the grand review. After being discharged he returned to Fairfield county, and was married August 31, 1871, to Miss Dora Harmon, a daughter of John and Eliza (Huddle) Harmon, who were married in Virginia. John Harmon was born in Fairfield county in April, 1803, his father, Frederick, being a native of Pennsylvania. Eliza Huddle, who married John Harmon, was a daughter of Andrew Huddle, who was born in Virginia, April 18, 1814. John Harmon, who was an early settler of Fairfield county, Ohio, was a large land owner there, owning at one time some 400 acres. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, as follows: William and Sarah Ann, who died in infancy; Benjamin, of Darke county; Margaret Cruett, deceased; Andrew, of Oregon; John, on the home farm in Fairfield county; Victoria, wife of David Ruffner, of Mercer county; Perry and Dora, twins, the former deceased, the latter the wife of the subject of this sketch; Unterbine, of Fairfield county; Ella, wife of Jesse Rowles, of Fairfield county. The father of these children was a democrat in politics and in religion was a member of the United Brethren church, and the mother was a member of the same church. He died September 21, 1868.

Jesse D. Spitler, after his marriage, lived on the home farm in Fairfield county five years, and in 1876 removed to Mercer county, where he bought the farm he still owns, which, though cleared, was unimproved. Upon this farm he has since lived. In 1882 he erected his present house, and has placed all the other improvements on the place that it now possesses. He is one of the most industrious and public-spirited men in his township, and is a prominent citizen as well as a prominent and successful farmer. In politics he is a republican and has held several of the local offices. Religiously he is a member of the United Brethren church, as is also his wife. He has been a trustee of his church ever since he joined, and has also held other offices. He and his wife are the parents of four children, as follows: William Edgar, living at home, born May 26, 1872; Otis Perry, born in May, 1875; Charles Ory, born May 2, 1881, and Effie May, born February 29, 1888.

THOMAS B. SPRY, one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Black Creek township, January 12, 1837, and was the first white male child born in the township named. He is a son of Jonathan and Hannah (Henkens) Spry, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania about 1805, was of German descent, was reared on a farm, and went to Knox county, Ohio, where he married Miss Hannah Henkens, a daughter of William Henkens, who was born in Knox county. To this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Hiram, a farmer of Bloom City, Wis.; Thomas B., the subject of this sketch; Jonathan, who served in the army of the Union several years, was wounded twice—at Cold Harbor and at Williamsburg—and is now living in Wisconsin; Timothy, a carpenter of Wisconsin; Cynthia, wife of Wesley Parrot, of Mendon, who also served in the war; Simon P., a livery stable keeper of Richland Center, Wis.; Mattie, wife of Wesley Webley, of Wisconsin, who served in the war and is now an invalid; and Mrs. Nancy Stevens, deceased.

After his marriage Jonathan Spry lived in Knox county until the fall of 1836, when he removed to Mercer county, locating in Black Creek township, upon eighty acres of land which he entered, cleared and improved, and which he later exchanged for another farm, upon which he lived until his death in the fall of 1851. This event was caused by his being bitten by a wild hog, during his first settlement here—probably 1836 or '37—the subject of this sketch being, at the time of his father's death, fourteen years of age. He was in politics a democrat, and a good, honorable man in all respects. After the death of her husband his widow married James Young, and died in Wisconsin in 1885.

Thomas B. Spry was reared upon the farm, and upon the death of his father was bound out to a man in Wisconsin, with whom he remained one winter, but spent altogether four years in the Badger state. He then began traveling and working on farms, and before giving up this mode of life traveled through seventeen states. On January 2, 1862, he enlisted in company H, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and served three years, five months and thirteen days. He was in the battles of Shiloh, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin and Nashville, and a large number of minor engagements and skirmishes. He was wounded at Decherd, Tenn., went to the hospital, and was discharged from the service at Camp Dennison, Ohio, in May, 1865. Then returning to Mercer county, he here bought an eighty-acre tract of uncleared land, upon which he lived and labored, and which he enlarged to 160 acres in one square quarter-section.

When home on furlough during his war service he married, on March 4, 1864, Miss Ellen Allison, danghter of Caleb and Amy (McFarlen) Allison, and to this marriage there have been born the following children: Byron, now living in Utah; Alice, wife of Dick Hesser, of Mendon, Mercer county; Martha E., deceased wife of Daniel Wollett, of Black Creek township; Iona, wife of Luther Martz of the same township; Charles, living near Mendon; Thomas Garfield, living at home, and an infant daughter, deceased.

Miss Ellen Allison was born in Perry county, December 12, 1838, and, as the wife of the subject, died June 11, 1888, a member of the United Brethren church. Afterward Mr. Spry married Martha Jane (Carr) Baumgardner, daughter of Abner Carr, this second marriage occurring October 13, 1889. She was then the widow of Isaac Baumgardner, to whom she had borne four children, as follows: Newton, Abbie, Harmont and Carmon. Mr. and Mrs. Spry are the parents of two children, viz: Jesse, born in 1890, and Hiram Ansil, born in 1892. Mrs. Spry was born in Allen county, April 30, 1851. Mr. Spry is carrying on general farming, and is engaged somewhat in raising stock. In politics he is a prominent republican. He and family worship in the the faith of the United Brethren church. He is a member of Dolph Graves post, No. 329, G. A. R., and is highly esteemed, as a citizen, as a church member and an ex-soldier. In 1896, Mr. Spry completed a very pretentious and imposing two-story brick residence. Mr. Spry is considerable of a hunter, and is widely known as an excellent marksman. Every winter he and a number of companions go on a hunting expedition and come home crowned with success.

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FREDERICK STEDCKE, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, and a son of Andrew and Rica (Angel) Stedcke, was born in the village of Eichenfelde, Brandenburg, Germany, May 26, 1842.

Andrew Stedcke was born in the village of Dussau, Brandenburg, in 1801, and is a son of a farmer of the same place, who had two children, Frederick and Andrew. Andrew Stedcke was reared on his father's farm, was educated in Germany, and began to work for wages when yet quite young. About 1836 he married Rica Angel, who was born in Eichenfelde, May 6, 1820, and was there educated and married. To them there were born several children—Frederick, John H., Caroline, the wife of William Baker, a farmer and shoemaker of Somerset, Pa., being the only ones that are now living. In 1851 Andrew Stedcke, with his family, embarked for the United States at Hamburg, on board a German sailing vessel, and after a voyage of seven weeks, landed in New York. By steamer they then went up the Hudson river to Albany, by rail to Buffalo, N. Y., and by steamer again to Toledo, Ohio, whence they traveled by canal to Saint Mary's. They then went by team to Celina, and finally to Hopewell township, where Mr. Stedcke purchased a farm of eighty acres of land, covered over with timber, and which adjoins the present farm of the subject of this sketch. The first thing to be done on this farm was to erect a log house, and the next to clear up a portion of the farm, which, when brought under cultivation, was to be a home and a means of support. Upon this farm Mr. Stedcke lived until his death, which occurred April 21, 1881. Both he and his wife were members of the Evangelical church, the latter dying March 25, 1892, at the home of the subject of this sketch. Both father and mother had lived with him ever since his marriage. Previous to the war the father was a democrat, but after that great event he was a republican.

Frederick Stedcke was reared upon the farm and educated in the German language in his native land. After reaching Mercer county he acquired a knowledge of English. On February 26, 1864, he enlisted in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, or during the war. He joined the regiment at Charlestown, W. V., and fought his first fight at Floyd Mountain, in that state. Other battles in which he was engaged were those at Lewisburg, W. Va.; Lynchburg, Winchester, Cedar Creek and in the Shenandoah valley with Sheridan. He was taken prisoner at Beverly, W. Va., to be sent to Libby prison, but he and a comrade escaped after being there twenty-four hours, and within twenty-four hours more they were within the Union lines. After serving until August 2, 1865, he was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, and returned to his home, began farming, and on January 1, 1867, was married to Rosanna Raach, a daughter of John and Magdalena Raach, and to their marriage there were born six children, four of whom are living, as follows: Frank J., a minister of the Evangelical church of Huntington, Ind.; Joseph H., of Hopewell township; Josephine, wife of William H. Smith, a farmer of the same township; and Richard F., a teacher of Hopewell township. Rosanna Raach was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 9, 1848, was a member of the Evangelical church, and died in Newton, Kans., November 19, 1883. Two of her brothers are living: Valentine, near Celina, Ohio, and George, near Mendon, Ohio.

After his marriage to Rosanna Raach Mr. Stedcke located on the home farm and resided there until the spring of 1877, when he sold the farm and removed to Celina, where he engaged in the lumber business, under the firm name of Timmons & Stedcke, and was thus engaged for some three years. Selling out his interest in this firm, he repurchased the home farm, and lived upon it about three years, when he again sold it and purchased forty acres of improved land, upon which he lived and followed farming successfully until the summer of 1883, when he removed to Kansas, where his wife died, as above narrated. Returning to Mercer county he lived one year, and then went back to Kansas, and after a six months' sojourn there again returned to Mercer county, and purchased the forty acres of land on which he now lives. To this he has added 100 acres, and has in all, at the present time, 140 acres, most of it improved land. On February 22, 1887, he married Lena (Smith) Buhr, a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Gerlach) Smith, who was born on the ocean December 25, 1846, educated in Mercer county, and married in 1870 to Henry Nye, to whom she bore one child, Clara, who died at the age of two years. Her husband drove hack to Wapakoneta and there died January 15, 1875. She was next married to Frederick Buhr, February 2, 1978, he having been born in Auglaize county about 1842, and by her became the father of one child, Cora Elizabeth, born December 2, 1880. Mr. Buhr died in Wapakoneta in August, 1885, and she continued to live in Wapakoneta until her third marriage, which was to Mr. Stedcke, as above narrated. Her father and mother were natives of Germany, the former of whom was born April 8, 1807, and became an early settler in Mercer county. To Frederick and Elizabeth Smith there were born the following children: Elizabeth, widow of Conrad Smith, of Hopewell township; Catherine, wife of George Wappas, of Indiana; Henry, George, Andrew and Lena, wife of the subject. After his wife's death, Frederick Smith married for his second wife Mrs. Susan Hull, by whom he had three children, as follows: Frederick, Caroline, wife of George J. Smith, and Susan, wife of William Bunge, of Hopewell township. At the present time Mr. Smith is living with his son, Andrew, and is still hale and hearty at the age of eighty-nine years. In politics he is a democrat, and in religion a member of the Evangelical church.

After his second marriage the subject of this sketch brought his wife to the home in which he now lives. On this farm he carries on general farming and stock raising, giving special attention to Poland China and Berkshire hogs and blooded cattle. Politically he is a populist, coming over into this party from the democracy. He at one time held the office of township trustee for six consecutive years and is township trustee at the present time. He has also served on the township school board, and was constable one year. One post-office in the county is named for him. For many years he has been a member of the Evangelical church, and has been class leader and exhorter, and is superintendent of the Sunday-school, and church trustee. All the offices of the church have been filled by him, and he is always prominent in the work of the church. He is a member of Dolph Gray post, No. 329, G. A. R., and of Hopewell lodge, F. M. B. A. He is in good standing in both organizations, and is a prosperous, public-spirited citizen, always ready and even anxious to do his part toward building up the community.

HENRY STEINLAGE, a prominent citizen of Saint Henry, Mercer county, Ohio, and the pioneer tanner of the place, was born in Hanover, Germany, July 27, 1830. He is a son of John T. and Mary Ann (Schroeder) Steinlage, the former of whom was born in Hanover in 1800, and was one of three children, one of the other two having been Mrs. E. Silah, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, now deceased.

John T. Steinlage was reared on the farm, educated in Germany, and there learned the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he worked in winter and on the farm in summer. In 1828 he married Marry Ann Schroder who was born in Hanover in 1800, and by whom he had seven children, as follows: Harmon; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who died when twelve years old; Joseph, a farmer of Granville township; Dena, wife of Philip Wessel, of Granville township; Agnes, deceased at eighteen years of age, and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Rosekamp of Saint Henry. After his marriage John T. Steinlage followed his trade in Germany until 1846, when he emigrated to the United States, being nine weeks and two days on the sea, and landing in Baltimore on August 8. From Baltimore he removed to Columbus, Ohio, this journey requiring two weeks. In Columbus he worked in a stone quarry, helping to get out the stone for the new capitol building, then in course of erection. In 1852 he removed to Mercer county, purchased a tract of woodland, only a few acres of which were cleared. This farm he cleared and lived upon the remainder of his life, dying June 19, 1865, his wife dying March 16, 1868. Both were members of the Catholic church, and he was a democrat in politics and gave his faithful snpport to that party until he had cast his last vote, and he was equally faithful in his adherence to his church.

Henry Steinlage was reared on the farm, educated in Germany in his native tongue, came to the United States with his parents, and has in this country, by his own efforts, acquired a knowledge of the English language. He learned the trade of tanner in Columbus, and worked at that trade, in Columbus, until 1851, when he removed to Mercer county, bought a lot, and opened out his tannery in Saint Henry, the first tannery in the place, and he has been ever since engaged in tanning. When he arrived in Saint Henry he had only $63 in money, which he had himself earned, and with that money he secured his start. At first his tanning was done in a few whisky barrels which he bought, and later he put up a large vat, increasing the capacity of his tanyard as necessity required. At the present time his tanyard is second to none for the completeness of its equipment. Beside his trade of tanner he also is somewhat skilled in the carpenter's trade, and assisted to erect the first frame house in Saint Henry. Then he erected a frame house for himself, and this was the second frame house in that place. Mr. Steinlage lived continuously in Saint Henry until 1869, when he purchased an improved farm and lived on that for fifteen years, carrying on both farming and tanning during this time. In 1884 he sold his farm and returned to Saint Henry, where he owned several lots, and erected a neat storeroom, 20x40 feet in size, and lives in the two-story dwelling which he erected in 1855. Beside tanning hides he also is a dealer in them, and has in each line of his business, farming, tanning and buying and selling hides, made a success, realizing a competency for enjoyment in his advanced age.

Since Grant's first presidential campaign Mr. Steinlage has been a republican, and he has served as trustee of his township fifteen years. For two years he was constable, and he is a member of the Catholic church, of which he has been secretary and treasurer two years. Mr. Steinlage is the second-oldest settler in Saint Henry, and is one of the leading and most enterprising citizens. Immediately after Easter, 1853, he married Elizabeth Andress, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1827, and came to the United States in 1852. To them there have been born five children, as follows: John, born May 17, 1854, and died February 19, 1874; Henry William, born June 2, 1855, and now in business with his father; Margaret, wife of Frederick Berger, a farmer of Granville township; Agnes, wife of J. H. Wenning, a merchant of Celina, and an infant, deceased. The mother of these children died in June, 1862, and Mr. Steinlage married, in December, 1862, Mrs. Christina Sherring, widow of George Sherring, and whose maiden name was Rassing. At the time of this marriage Mrs. Sherring had one child, now Mrs. Mary Geyer, of Celina. By his second marriage Mr. Steinlage has one child, Anna, wife of Barnard Oldeshulte, a railroader of Saint Henry. Mr. Steinlage is one of the most prominent and progressive of the citizens of Saint Henry, and by his own exertions has accumulated a large portion of this world's goods, is well situated in life, has hosts of friends, and is one of the best of men. He is a faithful supporter of his church, and is highly esteemed in every respect.

WILLIAM STELZER, editor and proprietor of "Der Mercer County Bote" (The Mercer County Courier), was born in Marion township, Mercer county, Ohio, in 1840. His father, Christain Stelzer, about 1842, laid out about twenty acres of his farm, on both sides of the main thoroughfare, into village lots, naming the plat Saint John's, and this now forms the old part of the present town of that name.

William Stelzer attended school six years, and between the hours of school and after he ceased to attend school, he performed hard labor until he was eighteen years of age. This labor was such as was required in a new country on the farm—chopping wood, splitting rails, etc., all of which was calculated to give him strength of body and good health, a kind of labor which most of the youth fail to perform at the present day, because it is not to be performed, and as a consequence they are not physically so strong as were the youth of pioneer days. After six years of hard study in the common English branches and the classics, at Carthagena, Ohio, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1865, the same year going to Sandusky city, and there engaging in the photograph business, in which he met with unusual success. In 1866 he accepted a position in the Buckeye college as professor of mathematics and foreign languages, including Latin, Greek and German, and then, the college failing, he accepted the position of principal of the German parochial schools at Tiffin, Ohio, in 1869, and filled it acceptably for fourteen years. Resigning this position he became manager and editor of a new German paper, started in Celina, Ohio, in 1883, the paper being named the "Deutches Kleeblatt," or German Cloverleaf, the founders of the paper being Joseph Schmitt and Leonard Gebele. Of this paper in May, 1884, he became sole proprietor, the name of which had in the meantime been changed to "Der Mercer County Bote." Mr. Stelzer still sustains this relation to his paper, the circulation of which is now very large and the business of which is unusually prosperous. In politics it is democratic, and on the money question, which at the present time is a very absorbing and interesting one, it is in favor of "sound money," and opposed to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

While engaged in teaching in Tiffin, Mr. Stelzer purchased a nice house, which he still owns, and since locating in Celina he has acquired a fine home, in which he now resides. He has always taken an active part in politics, and being both a German and an English scholar, he has been frequently called upon to address his fellow-citizens in both languages, and especially in German, as there are few public speakers capable of delivering addresses in the latter language. He has spoken in Mercer county, and also in Van Wert, Miami, Auglaize, Darke, Allen and Hancock counties, always acceptably and in strong and forcible defense of the principles and convictions he believes in and entertains.

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ARLINGTON STEPHENSON, M. D., a leading physician of Mercer county, and for the past sixteen years a resident of and practioner in Fort Recovery, springs from sterling Scotch ancestry, and was born September 11, 1851, at Syracuse, N. Y. He is a son of Capt. Thomas and Sarah J. (Wilson) Stephenson. His earliest education was received in the public schools of Syracuse, N. Y., and he afterward attended the university of Syracuse. As to his medical education he first attended the medical and clinical departments of the university of Tübigen, Germany, remaining there nearly two years. Then he attended the medical department of the university of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and afterward the Cincinnati college of Medicine and Surgery, receiving his diploma in 1878, and beginning the practice of medicine in Cincinnati. Later he practiced in Rochester, N. Y., San Francisco, Cal., and at Omaha, Nebr. He has also practiced at Cold Water, Ohio, and Richmond, Ind., and settled down to the practice of his profession at Fort Recovery in 1881, where he soon built up a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. Stephenson has special rooms for the treatment of disease, and many modern appliances not generally to be found outside of large cities. He has a Faradic galvanic cabinet battery, by means of which galvanism is applied to the treatment of all kinds of disease, and the most improved instruments for the modern electric treatment of such diseases as piles, fistula, rheumatism, stricture, sciatica, neuralgia, skin diseases, facial blemishes, moles, warts and cancer. This last dread disease is thoroughly treated and cured in its earlier stages. The doctor has also an electrical chair in connection with the battery, and by his method treatment of disease is absolutely painless. He also has a pneumo-chemic apparatus which is a kind of improved atomizer, and is put in action by compressed air, by which means the passages of the head and nose are thoroughly cleansed, catarrh and throat troubles yielding to this treatment when they will not to any other. The doctor has also an oxygen gas apparatus for the treatment of bronchial and lung diseases, and to purify the blood. He has also an electric cabinet bath for the treatment of chronic diseases, in which many kinds of baths can be given, such as sulphur, Turkish, Russian, hot air, and the phosphate of soda. Dr. Stephenson has the best equipped medical office in western Ohio for the treatment of chronic diseases and has all the practice he can attend to. He is well known and has a justly enviable reputation, which he has established through his success as a physician, his success having been gained because of his extensive knowledge and superior skill. He is also a skillful surgeon and has the finest and most improved and approved surgical instruments known to the profession.

Dr. Stephenson was married July 11, 1876, in Celina, Ohio, to Miss Ella Taylor, daughter of Dr. Martin and Lydia J. (Draper) Taylor. To this marriage there have been born six children, as follows: Martyn, Eva, Lucy, Maud, Arlington and Vinnie. Politically the doctor is a republican, and owns valuable real estate in Fort Recovery. He has won his present high standing in his profession by means of the industrious application of his knowledge, and his known readiness to adopt the latest and best medical and surgical appliances as fast as they are proved to be better than those previously in use. His method of treating disease is more effective than is found outside of the large cities, and in very few of the smaller towns can such improved methods and appliances be found.

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WILLIS L. STETLER, one of the prominent and influential citizens and prosperous farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born on December 12, 1848, on the old Stetler homestead where he now lives. His parents were Jacob and Rosannah (Sharets) Stetler. The father was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, was of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage, and was raised on a farm in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. A few years after his marriage the paternal grandfather of our subject moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, and was among the earliest pioneers of that county. Here he entered a tract of government land and passed through the many privations and sacrifices incident to the opening up of a new country. In 1812 he responded to his country's call and served through that war with honor. His children were nine in number, six sons and three daughters; death called him away while he was living on his home farm in this county.

Jacob Stetler passed his youthful days on his father's farm in Montgomery county, and there received his education in the schools near by. About 1830 he married Rosannah Sharets, who was born in Virginia about 1810. Her father, John Sharets, was also a native of that state, and crossed the mountains from there and settled in Montgomery county, Ohio, during its early history, and became prominent among the early pioneers. During the 'forties he moved to Mercer county, where he bought a farm and passed the remainder of his life. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Lutheran church. After his marriage Jacob Stetler and his wife lived on a farm in Montgomery county until 1835, when they moved to Mercer county, their possessions being $50 in cash and an ax. Arriving in Mercer county, Jacob Stetler entered eighty acres of government land, which was all forest, and, until he could build a house, they lived in Van Wert county. With rare courage he set resolutely to work to build a cabin and to clear away the giants of the forest. After many days of hard toil and many privations he could rejoice in seeing fine fields of grain waving with each gentle breeze instead of the great trees which but recently stood there as if in defiance of man. This farm he afterward greatly improved and erected good buildings on. His family consisted of twelve children: Emeline, the deceased wife of John Tickle, of Ohio City (see sketch of Ernst A. Tickle); Alfred, deceased; Rachael, the deceased wife of George Detmer, of Van Wert, Ohio; a deceased infant daughter; Nelson and Reuben, who died in infancy; Thompson, a prosperous farmer of Black Creek township; Amanda, widow of Charles Brandt, of Willshire; Mahala, who died when fourteen years old; Willis Lafayette, the subject of our sketch; Noah, a prosperous farmer of Black Creek township; and two infants, deceased. Both parents were prominent members of the Lutheran church, while in politics the father was a stanch democrat, and held several local offices. Fraternally he was a member of the Willshire Masonic lodge; and death called him away in November, 1873, after having spent a good and useful life, honored by all. His parents survived him ten years.

Willis L. Stetler has lived all his life on the old homestead, and now owns it. He received his education in the public schools of the neighborhood, and on February 3, 1874, was united in marriage to Catherine Horn, who was born in Coshocton county August 21, 1853, and when quite young came to this county with her parents, Michael and Margaret (Albert) Horn, the latter of whom is now Mrs. Andress (see her sketch on another page). After his marriage Mr. Stetler brought his young wife to the old homestead, where his mother lives with them. Here nine children have come to bless their home, viz: Iona, who died in infancy; Clara, born August 8, 1877; Bessie May, who died when two years old; Eliza Belle, who died in infancy; Thomas Dillon, born February 26, 1884; Hattie, born May 10, 1887; Hila Maud, born November 15, 1888; an infant son, deceased; and Margaret Florence, born April 8, 1895. Mr. Stetler is recognized as one of the leading farmers of his community. In all matters that concern the welfare of the community he takes great interest, is progressive in all his ideas, and is a liberal giver to all worthy causes. He is a democrat, and both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church.

NOAH STETLER.—Among the many prominent and progressive farmers of Black Creek township, Noah Stetler must be mentioned as among the foremost. He was born in this country, April 25, 1850, his parents being Jacob and Rosannah (Sharets) Stetler. The father was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, and further mention is made of him in the preceding sketch, to which the reader is referred.

When a boy, Noah Stetler attended school in a log school-house with puncheon seats, which was located not far from his home. When not in school he worked industriously on his father's farm, and on April 18, 1872, married Eliza, the daughter of Michael and Margaret (Albert) Horn, which lady was born in Coshocton county, September 1, 1851. Her father was born March 2, 1814, and her grandmother Horn lived to be 109 years old (see sketch of wife of Jefferson Andress). After his marriage the young and ambitious couple lived for eleven years on the oid Stetler homestead, a half of which he owned. In 1883 he traded for a part of the present farm, and later purchased 120 acres more. This was all woodland, and he had to perform the same kind of work and undergo some of the hardships of the pioneer's life in this region. Both came from families used to hard work and the privations incident to clearing away the forests in a new country, and he set resolutely to work, nothing daunted. Finally he converted his woodland into a fine farm, and has since continued to improve it, and now has all but eighteen acres under a high state of cultivation. He raises a great deal of stock, and of a fine grade are the cattle that graze on his meadows. He is one of the substantial farmers of the township and is ever foremost in all measures for the advancement of the welfare of the neighborhood, and is liberal to all worthy causes. In politics he is a democrat, and has held several local offices. His wife is a member of the U. B. church.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stetler have been born ten children, recorded as follows: Charles Franklin, born September 16, 1873, who farms on the home place and is married to Lillie Gause; Chauncy Oliver, born February 14, 1876; Curtis Lafayette, born December 14, 1877; Margaret Rosannah, born August 12, 1881; Clayton Maynard, born September 12, 1883; Cladius Waldo, born August 9, 1885; Arminta May, born May 26, 1887; Vida Viola Edith, born February 16, 1889; George Clark, August 27, 1891; and Leah Laverna, born July 3, 1895.

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RUFUS RANDOLPH STOBER, a successful farmer of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., November 24, 1832. He is a son of John and Mary (Ream) Stober, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, March 4, 1804, and was a son of Adam Stober, a native of Germany, who was married in his native country, came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he followed farming. Adam was the father of three children, viz: Mrs. Margaret Roup, deceased; John, the father of the subject, and Adam, deceased. He was a democrat in politics and a Lutheran in religion.

John Stober was reared on his father's farm, and learned the tanner's trade, which he followed for years. In 1826 he married Mary Ream, a daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Stitzer) Ream, and to their marriage there were born ten children: James Crawford, formerly of Richland county, now deceased; Luke Ream, deceased, formerly of California; Rufus Randolph, the subject; Roderick David, deceased; William Foster, an invalid, living with Malin Hill; John Adam, a farmer, of Richland county; Susan Elizabeth, deceased wife of Lorin Ferrel; an infant daughter, deceased; Margaret, widow of Curtis Cline, of Richland county, and Henry, the latter deceased.

Miss Mary Ream was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1807, of German ancestry. Early in her life she was a member of the Presbyterian church, but later united with the United Brethren church. She died in January, 1873. After marriage John Stober and his wife lived in Pennsylvania until 1843, when they removed to Richland county, Ohio, and there Mr. Stober followed his trade. In 1870 he went to Illinois, and lived there two years, his wife dying there during that time, and he then returned to Richland county, Ohio, and himself died in the spring of 1883. He was a democrat in politics during his early life, but when the republican party was formed he became a republican, and remained a member of that party the rest of his life. He was a member of the United Brethren church and a good-hearted, quiet-working man.

Rufus Randolph Stober was born on the farm in Lancaster county, Pa., and he was there reared and educated, his education being, however, completed in Richland county, Ohio. On September 15, 1855, he married Miss Elizabeth Duffield, a native of Franklin county, Pa., born in July, 1832, and to them there were born three children, as follows: Jessie May, deceased; Jennie D., wife of W. W. Shock, an insurance agent of Rockford, and Mary Agnes, wife of W. B. Hill, of Black Creek township. Mrs. Stober was a member of the United Brethren church, died January 3, 1873, and was buried in full communion with that faith, of which she had been a sincere adherent since her early womanhood.

In October, 1862, Mr. Stober enlisted in company C, Twentieth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served nine months. He was in the Vicksburg campaign, but his first engagement was at Raymond, Miss.; was in the battle of Champion Hills, and he was also in the battle of Black River. He was discharged in July, 1863. He had located in Black Creek township, Mercer county, in 1861, and had bought a farm, partly cleared, upon which he lived six years. Then, in 1867 or 1868, he went to Richland county, remaining there until the fall of 1868, when he went to Jackson county, Ill., where he bought a farm and followed husbandry thereon four years. In 1872 he returned to Ohio, locating in Mercer county, where in 1874 he purchased his present farm, which was then uncleared, but which he now has cleared and improved, making of it a fine farm. September 15, 1874, Mr. Stober married for his second wife Sarah Ann Pifer, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Kimmell) Pifer, and to this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Roderick William, who was born January 3, 1877, and died at the age of five years; Louie Grace, born November 18, 1881; John A. Logan, born June 16, 1886, and Ruby Ream, born October 17, 1887. The mother of these children was born in Mercer county, July 6, 1846.

After his marriage Mr. Stober located on his present farm, and about 1883 built his present house. In 1889 he erected a large barn, and his farm and buildings will compare favorably with almost any in the township. In politics he is a republican; in religion he is a member of the United Brethren church, of which he has been a trustee for a number of years. He has also served as superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is a public-spirited man and progressive citizen. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and they are both among the most highly respected citizens of the county.

In this connection it is proper to devote a brief space to the life of John Pifer, father of

Mr. Stober's second wife. He was a son of John and Charlotte (Harner) Pifer, and was born in Pennsylvania, August 25, 1811, of German ancestors. He was reared in his native state on a farm, and in 1839, his parents having previously removed to Richland county, Ohio, Mr. Pifer, in company with Nathan Vantilburg and E. J. Robison, came to Mercer county. He entered 160 acres of government land, which he cleared and improved. In 1841 he married Elizabeth Kimmell, who bore him five children and died in 1850. These five children were as follows: Charlotte, wife of John Nutt, of Black Creek township; William, who died a soldier of the Union army at Nashville, Tenn., a member of the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry; Paul, deceased; Sarah Ann, wife of Rufus Randolph Stober, and Daniel, engaged in the agricultural implement business at Celina.

March 16, 1858, Mr. Pifer married Rebecca Nutt, daughter of Thomas Lacy and Ann Eliza (Robison) Nutt, and to this marriage there were born ten children, as follows: Martha Ellen, wife of Joseph Grim, living near Willshire; John Franklin, died in infancy; Summerton Francisco, engaged in the agricultural implement business at Rockford; Lewis Edwin, who is carrying on the home farm; Thomas Jacob, a dealer in farm implements of Black Creek township; Cora Alberta, who died at the age of twenty; Mary Effie, wife of Jesse Carr, of Black Creek township; Lina Etta, wife of Samuel Weddell, of Black Creek township; Eliza, living at home, and Emma Olivia, at home. The mother of these ten children was born in Dauphin county, Pa., March 17, 1837, and received her education in Pennsylvania and in Mercer county, Ohio. After his marriage Mr. Pifer located on the present home place, and carried on farming in a most successful manner. In 1856 he built a house, and he died July 13, 1880. His widow erected a good barn in 1882. Formerly he was a member of the Lutheran church, but in later life he became a Methodist. He was always an active worker in his church, and was considered one of its main pillars. At the time of his death he held the office of steward. He was always liberal in his assistance to any worthy enterprise, and especially so toward his church, aiding to erect the building in which the congregation now worships. In his earlier years he was a democrat, but after Lincoln's first nomination to the presidency he became a republican, and so remained the rest of his life. He was honored by election to various offices, and was in every way a man worthy of respect and regard. His wife was and is a member of the church, and now lives on the home farm surrounded by her family and a large circle of friends.

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DANIEL P. STOVER, one of the most prominent farmers of Black Creek township, Mercer county, a son of Moses and Sallie (Pifer) Stover, was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 10, 1852. Moses Stover was born in Pennsylvania in 1817, his father having been John Stover, of German ancestry, and his mother Sarah Stover.

John Stover was a farmer by occupation, and lived in Pennsylvania until 1829, when he emigrated to Richland county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming for a number of years. In later years he removed to Mercer county and lived with his son Moses. Religiously he was a member of the Lutheran church, and in politics a democrat. His death occurred about 1858, in Mercer county.

Moses Stover was reared on a farm, educated in Pennsylvania, and at the age of twelve years removed with his parents to Richland county. He married Sallie Pifer, a daughter of John and Charlotte (Harner) Pifer, and to them there were born seven children, as follows: Daniel P., the subject of this sketch; John Eiijah, deceased; Orciness Oliver, a farmer and carpenter of Black Creek township; an infant daughter that died; Olive, wife of William H. Parker, a farmer of Black Creek township, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; Samuel Wesley, deceased, and George W., a farmer of Black Creek township. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania, her father having been born in Holland and her mother in Pennsylvania. Her father, when but twelve years of age, ran away from home, boarded an outgoing vessel, and crossed the ocean, landing in New York, where he was practically sold to pay his passage. From New York he went to Pennsylvania, where he married, where he carried on farming for a time, and whence he removed to Richland county, Ohio. Two of his children survive him, viz: George F. Pifer, a farmer of Williams county, Ohio, and Mrs. Leah Altaffer, of Kansas.

Moses Stover, after his marriage, located in Richland county, where he lived until 1854, and then, having in 1850 made a trip to Mercer county, and bought eighty acres of land of the government and forty acres of private parties, none of which was cleared, with the small exception of five acres, he removed to this land, built a log cabin, and in 1854 located on this Mercer county farm. In 1871 he erected a neat, pleasant house on the eighty-acre tract, where his son now lives, and here he passed the remainder of his days, dying January 26, 1886. As a democrat he was elected trustee of his township, and served six years, and also served as a member of the school board a number of years. In public affairs he always took a deep interest, and always performed his share of labor and lent his share of influence toward the upbuilding of the community in every way. As a member of the Methodist Episcopal church he acted as class leader for a number of years, and held other offices in the church. His wife was also a member of the Methodist church, and died February 4, 1887.

Daniel P. Stover, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm, educated in the common schools, and on July 3, 1873, married Clara Jane Skinner, a daughter of Willets and Elizabeth (Swineford) Skinner, for fuller mention of whom the reader is referred to the biography of Willets Skinner on another page. To the marriage of Daniel P. and Clara Jane Stover, there have been born the following children : Bertha Orilla, born September 27, 1874, and now the wife of Charles Clouse, of Black Creek township; Clarence Wesley, born December 16, 1876, and who is now attending school with the view of fitting himself for a teacher; Mary Lauretta, born October 31, 1877, and who married Elza Huffman, of Black Creek township; James Oliver, born January 18, 1880; Curtis M., born January 3, 1882; Julia Charlotte, born March 29, 1886; Carroll Clifford, born March 18, 1890, and Ora Sylvester, who died at the age of thirteen months and fourteen days. The mother of these children was born in Ashland county, September 15, 1852, and was educated in Mercer county, Ohio, and in Indiana. She was married in Mercer county to the subject of this sketch. In religious matters she is a member of the radical branch of the United Brethren church, and in every way a thoroughly good woman.

From the time of his marriage until the present time Daniel P. Stover has lived upon his present place. In the fall of 1894 he erected a neat, commodious house, having previously erected a large, fine barn. As a democrat he has held several minor offices and has always taken great interest in political affairs. As a member of the radical wing of the United Brethren church, he has served for a number of years as superintendent of the Sunday-school. In every way Mr. Stover is a good and useful citizen, and holds the esteem of his fellow-men to a high degree.

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WILLIAM COOPER STUBBS, M. D., of Celina, Ohio, was born in Butler county, Ohio, September 15, 1861. He is a son of Joseph and Esther (Cooper) Stubbs, both natives of Preble county, Ohio, the former having been born in 1834 and the latter in 1836. The Stubbs family originated in England, the founders thereof in this country coming over the sea at a very early date, and locating at Philadelphia, Pa. Afterward they removed to South Carolina, whence they came to Ohio, and were among the earliest pioneers of Preble county. The farm upon which Joseph Stubbs now lives was entered by his grandfather, and purchased by him, and has the distinction of having been deeded but twice, a rare thing for any piece of land, entered so long ago. The family is quite a numerous one in this country. At a re-union of the family held at West Elkton in 1886, there were 1,200 relatives in attendance, and nine states were represented. The parents still reside on the old homestead in Preble county. Three children were born to them, two of whom, the subject of this sketch and a sister, reached mature years. The sister is Elizabeth, wife of Otto Ferst, a farmer of Preble county.

William Cooper Stubbs was reared on his father's farm, and was educated, first, in the common schools, and then in the high schools of West Elkton. In the fall of 1879 he entered Otterbein university, and graduated from that institution in 1885. In the spring of 1884, while still in college, he began reading medicine, and in the fall of 1886 he attended Pulte Homeopathic college at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated in 1888, with honor, receiving honorable mention. He then located at Lewisburg, Preble county, in the spring of 1888, and on September 1, 1894, entered the Hahnemann Medical college, where he took a post-graduate course, receiving a diploma from that institution. While in this latter college he took a special course in the treatment of the nose and throat, and for seven months was first assistant in the nose and throat department of the college.

On March 28, 1895, Dr. Stubbs located permanently in Celina and has there been in the active practice of his profession ever since, meeting with gratifiying success. He is the only homeopathic physician in Celina, or in fact in Mercer county, and his practice extends into every township in the county—a remarkable fact, when it is considered that the doctor has been there only about one year. While he engages in the general practice of medicine, yet he gives special attention to the nose and throat. He is a member of the Montgomery County Homeopathic Medical society.

Dr. Stubbs was married April 12, 1888, to Miss Ida M. Zeller, of Lewisburg, Preble county, a daughter of A. P. and Maria Zeller. To their marriage two children have been born, viz: Elmer and Carroll. The doctor is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is in good standing, as well as being in high standing among his fellow-men. He resides one block east of the city hall, on Livingston street, and has his office at his residence. The doctor and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a republican.

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AARON T. SUTTON, one of the most prominent citizens of Dublin township, Mercer county, a successful farmer and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born in Warren county, Ohio, August 27, 1841. He is a son of Reeder Elmore and Mary (Thompson) Sutton, the former of whom was born in Warren county, December 28, 1813, and was a son of David Sutton, a native of Pennsylvania, but of Dutch descent.

David Sutton married Anna Snook, and to them there were born two children—Reeder, father of the subject of this sketch, and Elizabeth, wife of Reuben Butler, of Clermont county, both of whom are now deceased. David Sutton at an early day was brought by his parents down the Ohio in a flatboat and landed at the mouth of the Miami river, up which they traveled in a canoe made of a hollow sycamore log. The father of David Sutton was also named David, was a soldier under Gen. Anthony Wayne, and was one of those that came through the northwestern part of Ohio with that general, passing through Shanes Crossing. In Paulding county he led his regiment through the swamp, going on in advance, which was considered a violation of military rules. Wayne and his command would not go into the swamp, but Col. Sutton and his regiment did not hesitate, for which act of daring and apparent insubordination Gen. Wayne had him taken to Chillicothe to be tried by court martial, but on arriving there his regiment formed a hollow square with Col. Sutton in the center and rescued him from his guards. For his bravery in the war he was breveted brigadier general. His home was in Deerfield, and there he passed the remainder of his life, always filling some office to which his fellow-citizens had elected him. He had previously served in the Revolutionary war and had a warrant for 160 acres of land in Warren county.

Reeder Sutton was reared on a farm in Warren county, and there learned the trade of carpenter, which he followed for years. About 1836 he married Mary Thompson, a daughter of Aaron and Hannah (Rude) Thompson, by whom he had seven children: Catherine, wife of John Snider, of Illinois; David, a member of and a corporal in company A, Fourth Ohio cavalry, served in the army over three years, and died in Andersonville prison, August 27, 1864, the number of his grave being 7,034; Aaron, the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, wife of William Arstingstall, of Hamilton county; Hannah, wife of Clarke Riker; John, of Kansas, and Dorcas, wife of William Morris, of Marion, Ohio. Mary Thompson was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1811. Aaron Thompson, her father, was a soldier in the war of 1812–15, and received a land warrant which Reeder Sutton afterward bought. He was one of the founders of Sycamore Christian church, in Syms township, Hamilton county, Ohio. His family consisted of twelve children, of which Mary, who married Reeder Sutton, was the third in order of birth. Two of his children still live, as follows: Mrs. Cynthia Cameron, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Margaret Guston, of Anderson, Ind. All of the twelve children are very pious, as were their parents. After his marriage Reeder Sutton lived in Warren county until 1843, making his living by following his trade, that of a carpenter. In the last mentioned year he removed to Hamilton county and there bought ninety-six acres of land, partially cleared, upon which he lived until some time during the war, when he purchased another piece of land and lived upon this until his death. He met with great success financially, and at one time owned over 200 acres of land, some of which cost over $100 per acre. In politics he was a republican and for several years served as township clerk. His first wife died in 1884, and in 1887 he married Sarah Little. His own death occurred April 8, 1892, he being a member of the Christian church, and a highly respected and honored man.

Aaron T. Sutton, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm in Hamilton county, and on May 24, 1866, he was married to Harriet Baltzell, a daughter of Alexander and Priscilla (Steward) Baltzell. Aaron T. Sutton and his wife Harriet were the parents of seven children, as follows: Mattie, wife of Okey Faulkner, a farmer and teacher of Cavett, Van Wert county; Wilbur, born April 12, 1869, and died February 1, 1884; Mary, wife of Lewis Linton, a farmer of Cavett; Ellen, an artist living at home; David, Charles and Alice. Harriet Baltzell was born on a farm in Hamilton county, December 3, 1843, and was educated and married there. For a full outline of her family history the reader is referred to the biographical sketch of J. B. Tingley.

Aaron T. Sutton had a most unusual war experience. He enlisted in company A, Eighty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and served three years, until the close of the war. Following are the names of some of the battles in which he was engaged—Arkansas Post, Chickasaw Bayou, Black River, Grand Gulf, Big Sandy Creek, Champion Hills, the entire Vicksburg campaign; Carrion Crows, Nachitoches, Atchafalaya Bayou, and Pleasant Hills, April 8, 1864, where he was taken prisoner, and whence he was taken to the stockade at Tyler, Tex., and there held until July 12, 1864. He was then taken to the stockade at Hempstead, Tex., and held there until December 15, 1864, when he was paroled and sent to New Orleans, and thence to Natchez, where he was exchanged. Twice during the time he was a prisoner he attempted to effect his escape, the first time getting away from the stockade 182 miles before he was captured, and the other time 180 miles. The date of his exchange at Natchez was January 15, 1865, and he then re-joined his regiment, and was with it in the battle of Blakley, Fla., the last battle of the war. From this battle field he went to Mobile, thence by steamboat to Galveston, thence to Cairo, and thence by rail to Camp Dennison, where he was discharged about July 27, 1865. He served all through the war as corporal and was brave and dutiful, performing every duty as it presented itself to be performed. He is now a member of Dolph Gray Post, No. 329, G. A. R., and is filling the office of post commander for the third term.

Arriving home from the war he followed farming three years after his marriage, and in 1869, removing to Mercer county, he purchased thirty-four acres of land. Later he purchased twenty-five acres, and still later twenty-two acres, his first purchase having on it a log house only, and all of it being but partially cleared. Now he has a good farm under a high state of cultivation, is a general farmer and stock raiser, and has been unusually successful. In politics he is a republican and has held the office of township trustee for one year. He is one of the most public-spirited citizens and an honored member of the Christian church in Hamilton county, and would be a member of the same denominational church in Mercer county were there one within reach. He is one of the best of men in every respect, highly respected by comrades of the Grand Army and neighbors alike.

In closing this sketch of the life of Mr. Sutton it is proper to note that John and Henry Baltzell, uncles of his wife, were in the same regiment with his great-grandfather, and that her great-grandfather, Crepps, owned 200 acres of land where Philadelphia now stands. Also that her father's oldest brother, John C. Baltzell, lived to be ninety-three years old.

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JOHN A. SWARTZ, a substantial farmer, an honored citizen, and an ex-soldier of the Civil war, descends from sterling Dutch stock, and was born January 24, 1842, in Falls township, Muskingum county, Ohio. He is a son of Asbury and Sarah (Elder) Swartz, who removed to Mercer county when he was between six and seven years old. Having received a limited education he was reared a farmer and was married February 11, 1864, in Recovery township, Mercer county, Ohio, to Mary Noland, who was born December 16, 1844, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Downs) Noland. Mr. Swartz enlisted January 31, 1865, in Recovery township, and was enrolled at Cold Water, as a private soldier, in company D, One Hundred and Ninety-third regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Alexander Gable, his enlistment being for one year or during the war. He was honorably discharged, on account of the war having closed, August 4, 1865, at Winchester, Va. While he enlisted late, yet he saw hard service in the Shenandoah valley, being on a hard march from Hall Station, Va., to Stevenson Station, a forced march, the troops suffering greatly. Serving six months and four days, he was sick only two weeks in hospital, otherwise being always prompt in the discharge of every duty.

The war having ended, he returned to Recovery township and settled on 160 acres of land in the woods. By hard work and industry he succeeded in clearing up his farm, building at first a log cabin. By degrees he improved his farm and at length erected a good frame house, and other substantial buildings, and he now has 152 acres in Recovery township, the railroad having cut off a few acres, and also 160 acres in Washington township, thus owning 312 acres in all. To Mr. and Mrs. Swartz there have been born six children, as follows: Sarah C., Savilda A., William H., Rachael A., Ettie M., and Clarence A. In their religious faith and belief Mr. and Mrs. Swartz are members of the New Light church, a branch of the Christian church, and as a republican Mr. Swartz has held the office of supervisor and has been a member of the school board for twelve years. Perceiving the value and the necessity of education, Mr. Swartz has always been in favor of good schools, and has given his children the best eeucation possible under the circumstances in which he is situated, more than which no man can do. His son, William H. Swartz, was for a time a teacher, but is now a practicing physician. Rachael A. Swartz has also taught school in Mercer county, with unusual success. Mr. Swartz is a member of McDaniel post, No. 181, G. A. R. of Fort Recovery, and is in good standing.

Asbury Swartz, father of the subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and when a boy came with his father, Jacob, to Perry county, Ohio. He married in Muskingum county, and his children were as follows: John A., William E., Francis A., Louisa, Mary K., Almeda, Minerva, and Le Roy. Asbury Swartz moved to Mercer county, Ohio, in 1848, settling in the woods one mile north of Macedon. Selling this place he removed to the vicinity of Erastus, on eighty acres of land in the woods. This farm he cleared up and improved, and by industry and thrift became able to buy more land, and at length owned 240 acres of good land. Besides being a successful farmer he was also a plasterer, and worked at this trade also. He enlisted early in the great struggle for the preservation of the Union for three years or during the war; but after serving three months as drum major of his regiment, he was discharged on account of disability. He was a strong Union man, a republican in politics, and had two sons in the war, viz: John A., the subject of this sketch, and William, who died at Camp Chase of lung fever, at the beginning of the struggle. Asbury Swartz died November 12, 1895, at the age of seventy-five. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, an enterprising citizen, and an honest and benevolent man.

Thomas Noland, father of Mrs. Swartz, was born in Coshocton county, and was a son of Pierce Noland. He was a well educated man and became a school teacher and farmer. Locating in Mercer county in 1845, he taught school and died in the county in 1854, at the age of thirty-six. His children are William and Catherine, and he was a man of much intelligence and highly honorable character. John A. Swartz is a man of excellent character and is well known throughout Mercer county, in which he stands high as a straightforward and honorable man in all his dealings. He was postmaster at Ferner for twelve years, and his family is one of great respectability and much intelligence.

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JOHN P. SYMONS, M. D., an eminent physician and surgeon of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Ashland county, May 8, 1859, a son of John and Margaret (Patterson) Symons, natives of Scotland.

John Symons, the father of our subject, was reared in the highlands of Scotland, learned the tailoring trade, and when about twenty-five years of age came to America and located in Savannah, Ashland county, Ohio, where he followed his trade for a number of years and then engaged in farming. After settling in Ohio he married Miss Margaret Patterson, who was born near Edinburg, Scotland, a daughter of John Patterson, who married a Miss Ramsay. Mrs. John Patterson died in Scotland when her daughter, Margaret, was but twelve years of age, and the latter was brought to America by her father. To the union of John and Margaret Symons were born the following children: Two that died in infancy; Helen, wife of B. F. Lorimer, a farmer of Great Bend, Kans; Margaret, who died in early life; James, a mechanic; Mary, wife of J. M. Sawhill, of Ontario, Ohio; William M., harness-maker of Rockford; and Dr. John P., our subject. The father of this family, although an unassuming man and domestic in his tastes, was one who kept thoroughly posted in history and the current events of the day, and was an omniverous reader. He gave his children every educational advantage in his power, and he himself achieved some distinction as a scholar, although chiefly self-taught. He continued to follow the vocation of farming until near the close of his life, in 1873, at the age of sixty-five years—his widow surviving until 1882, when she died at about the same age.

Dr. John P. Symons, our subject, was reared on the home farm in Ashland county and attended the district and select schools of his neighborhood until sixteen years of age, when he began teaching school in the winter, while in the spring and fall he attended the academy at Savannah, Ohio, until he had completed the entire course, after which he devoted the whole of his attention to teaching the village schools. During the last two years of his career as a pedagogue he studied medicine under the preceptorage of Dr. David H. Crowell, of Savannah, and during the winter of 1884–85 attended the Western Reserve Medical college at Cleveland; he then resumed teaching, which he continued for three years, maintaining his medical studies during this period, and then, in the winter of 1888–89, again attended the Western Reserve Medical college, from which he gradiated in the spring of the latter year, and in June located in Rockford for the practice of his profession.

In 1893–94 the doctor passed through a course of study at the New York Post-graduate and Medical college and hospital, where he gave especial attention to disorders of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He has built up an extensive practice in Rockford and vicinity, and has been phenomenally successful in his treatment of the disorders last mentioned, while as a general practitioner he stands in the fore rank of the profession.

Dr. Symons was united in matrimony December 12, 1893, with Miss Nellie G. Robinson, a native of Rockford and a daughter of David H. and Rebecca (Borchers) Robinson. The doctor and wife are members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P., while socially both are highly esteemed by the entire community of Rockford.

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CHARLES B. THOMPSON, proprietor of the Thompson tile works and saw-mill, in the village of Mercer, Mercer county, was born in Preble county, Ohio, September 3, 1853, and is a son of Robert and Margaret (Auter) Thompson, both deceased and supposed to have been natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Robert Thompson, father of our subject, was a wheelwright by trade, but in the latter years of his life became a farmer in Preble county, Ohio, of which county he was a pioneer, clearing away his land and wresting from the wilderness what was afterward as fine a farm as there was in the township, and this he cultivated until his death in 1860. He was a man of domestic tastes, and in politics was an old-line whig. His widow survived her husband until 1865, when she too passed away, leaving our subject an orphan at about twelve years of age. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were ten in number, of whom eight reached maturity, viz: Martha, wife of T. A. Beggs, of Decatur county, Ind.; Moses, a hardware clerk in Eaton, Preble county, Ohio; Robert Milton, a farmer of Preble county; Alice E., wife of J. M. Voss, of Wayne county, Ind.; Elvira, wife of C. C. Barclay, of Moberly, Randolph county, Mo.; Charles B., our subject; Frank A., of Decatur county, Ind.; and Francis M., twin of Frank A., residing in Decatur county, Ind.

Charles B. Thompson, with whose name this biographical record opens, was reared on the home farm until the death of his mother, and then began the task of making a living for himself by working at farm labor, at which he continued until seventeen years old, when he was employed in the machine shops of the railroad company both at Saint Charles and Moberly, Mo., four years, after which he returned to Ohio and farmed three years, and then worked a year in a planing-mill at El Dorado, Ohio. In 1880 he organized the firm of Thompson & Graham at Mercer, beginning with a steam saw-mill, which they alone operated till 1884, when they added a small tile factory, from which they turned out tile up to twelve inches caliber, and reaching an output of about $2,000 per annum, with a force of six or seven men employed in the two lines of business. October 18, 1893, the firm dissolved, this dissolution being caused by the destruction, for the third time, of the entire establishment by fire. Mr. Graham being unable financially to reimburse his loss, Mr. Thompson succeeded to the sole ownership of the plant, and with indefatigable enterprise re-erected it on an enlarged scale. He now turns out all sizes of tile, of most superior quality, up to twenty inches in diameter, and the product reaches a value of about $3,000 per annum. The factory and shedding cover a space of 30 x 200 feet, in one end of which is a saw-mill, which is principally given over to custom work. After beginning this business Mr. Thompson was for four years associated with J. F. Disher in the grain trade, but he now devotes his whole attention to his tile factory and saw-mill.

Mr. Thompson was united in wedlock in March, 1881, with Miss Ella J. Mastin, who was born in Lynn, Ind., and was a daughter of C. J. Mastin, now deceased. This lady died in September, 1890, at the early age of thirty-two years, leaving her husband and four small children—Mable, Ruth, Ethel and Ruby—to deplore her untimely loss. In politics Mr. Thompson is a democrat, has been for many years a member of the school board, and is at present its clerk; fraternally he is a member of Rockford lodge, No. 750, I. O. O. F. Mr. Thompson has been a wide-awake, progressive and live business man ever since his residence in Mercer county, has realized his fortune solely through his own industry and business capability, and by his strict integrity has won a large number of friends throughout the county, by whom he is highly esteemed for his intrinsic worth and business ability.

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JAMES FREDERICK TIMMONDS, a retired business man of Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, was born in Dayton, Montgomery county, Ohio, April 16, 1837, and was but one year-old when brought to Mercer county by his parents, George W. and Catharine (Boyer) Timmonds, the father at that time having a canal contract.

George W. Timmonds, father of our subject, was a tailor by trade, and, after fulfilling the terms of his canal contract, settled in Saint Mary's (then in Mercer county), and opened a tailoring establishment that, in its day, became very popular. In 1846, Mr. Timmonds was elected by the democratic party sheriff of Mercer county, which election caused his removal to Celina. He filled his office so acceptably to the people of the county that, at the expiration of his term, he was re-elected sheriff, serving, in all, four years. In 1850 Mr. Timmonds removed to Twelve Mile Creek, where he purchased a saw-mill for the purpose of turning out material for the plank road then being constructed from Saint Mary's to Fort Wayne, Ind., and on its completion returned to Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, to find that there had been not a whit of his popularity lost, for in 1862 he was again elected sheriff and re-elected in 1864. At the expiration of his office, in 1866, he removed to the farm, known as the Lingee, where he followed the peaceful pursuit of agriculture until death, in 1869, in his sixty-third year. His widow survived until August 21, 1893, when she died in her eighty-first year. Mr. and Mrs. Timmonds were the parents of five sons and five daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters are still living. Mr. Timmonds was a substantial, useful and enterprising citizen, whose loss was deeply deplored by a host of friends, who sincerely respected him, and Mrs. Timmonds largely shared the respect paid her husband.

J. F. Timmonds, the subject of this memoir, was reared in Saint Mary's and in Celina, and was well educated in the common schools of both places. In October, 1861, seeing that the Civil war had developed into a stern reality that was not to be easily overcome, he decided, on reaching this conclusion, to take a part in defense of his country's flag, and enlisted in company D, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and served for the lengthened period of four years and two months with the army of the Cumberland, being mustered out at San Antonio, Tex., in December, 1865, with the rank of color sergeant. Returning to Mercer county, he remained with his father until the latter's death; then managed the farm until 1875, when he came to reside in Celina, where he entered into the lumber business, which he so successfully conducted that he was enabled to retire permanently from business in February, 1893.

In politics Mr. Timmonds is a democrat, and in 1886 was elected sheriff, and, as his father had done, filled the office so acceptably, that his re-election took place in 1888 and again in 1890. In 1894 he was elected township treasurer, and the same year was elected a member of the board of county infirmary directors. He has also served in many of the minor offices, such as treasurer of Celina four years, and township treasurer four years, and in every position faithfully performed his functions—no word of calumny ever having been breathed against his fair fame.

The marriage of Mr. Timmonds took place in Celina, June 28, 1882, to Miss Mary C. Loague, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, September 18, 1848, a daughter of the late Michael Loague, whose wife had died when their daughter (Mrs. Timmonds) was but five years of age. To the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Timmonds two children have been born —Charley J., June 26, 1883, died April 28, 1889, and Edith, born May 3, 1891. Mr. Timmonds is a respected member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and as a citizen few stand as high in the esteem of the people of Celina and county of Mercer as J. F. Timmonds. In her religious belief Mrs. Timmonds is a Presbyterian.

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JOHN BEARS TINGLEY, a progressive and prominent farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Hamilton county, eleven miles from Cincinnati, April 15, 1825. He is a son of William and Eliza (Conkling) Tingley, the former of whom was born in Delaware county, N. Y., in 1803. The father of William Tingley was a native of New York and was a farmer and weaver by occupation. His family consisted of five children, now all deceased. William Tingley was reared on a farm, educated in New York and came to Ohio with his father. He carried on farming and was also a school-teacher, one of the first in Ohio and the first at Williamsburg, Clermont conuty. William's father bought a farm and followed farming and weaving for a living. He lived upon his farm until his death. He was a member of the Christian or Disciples' church, as was also his wife, who died on the farm in Clermont county. After the lapse of several years, but yet while Wlliam Tingeley was a young man, he went to Hamilton county, where he followed farming and teaching, and married Eliza Conkling, who was born in Hamilton county. To them there were born the following children: Elizabeth, widow of Mr. Powell, and living on the banks of the Ohio river; John Bears, the subject of this sketch; Jonathan, a retail grocer of Cincinnati; Samuel, killed in a mine in California, by the caving in of the mine; Annie, deceased wife of Thomas Aikens, of Hamilton county; William Vinton, a farmer of the same county, and Albert, a carpenter of Hamilton county. After his marriage William Tingley lived on his farm in Hamilton county and there taught school and carried on his farming operations as long as he was able to do so. He was a democrat in politics, and held the office of justice of the peace for a number of years. Both he and his wife were members of the Swedenborg church, she dying in 1877, and he in 1892.

John B. Tingley was reared on his father's farm in Hamilton county. He was educated while at home in the public schools, and at the age of twenty-one began working for himself. In 1847 he enlisted in company C, First United States infantry, at Newport, Ky., and went to Mexico, arriving there, by way of New Orleans, in March, of that year. From New Orleans he was transported on shipboard to Brazos and thence to Lebos Island, where was then the army of Gen. Scott. After remaining there severel weeks he went by ship to Vera Cruz and participated in the attack on that city. After the surrender of Vera Cruz the regiment in which Mr. Tingley was a soldier was stationed there as a garrison, and remained until the fall of 1848. He was then taken ill and was sent home via New Orleans, arriving home in the winter of 1848–49.

From the time of his arrival home until 1852 he worked upon the farm and then he went to California, where he remained five years, returning in July, 1857. The following December, on the 8th of the month, he married Miss Martha Jane Baltzell, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, October 18, 1834. She is a daughter of Jacob A. and Priscilla (Steward) Baltzell, the former of whom was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in July, 1808, and was a son of Peter and Saville (Crepps) Baltzell. Peter Baltzell was a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer. He was an early settler in Ohio, and one of the typical pioneers of the state. His wife, Saville Crepps, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., and was one of the children that strewed flowers in front of Washington and his troops on their triumphal march through that city.

After their marriage Peter Baltzell and his wife, Saville, removed to Hamilton county, Ohio, entered land and lived thereon during the rest of his days. They were the parents of six children, as follows: John, who served in the war of 1812; George; Henry; Rebecca, wife of Snider Felter; Louisa, wife of Hugh Moore, and Jacob Alexander. The latter-named son of Peter Baltzell was reared a farmer in Hamilton county, and was married to Priscilla Steward, who was born in Hamilton county, February 8, 1808, and was a daughter of John and Nancy Clark Steward. To Jacob Alexander and his wife, Priscilla, there were born the following children: Phillip deceased; Samuel, a hardware merchant of Ohio City, Ohio; Martha J., wife of the subject of this sketch; Nathan, of Liberty township, Van Wert county; Eliza, and Sylvia, both of whom died infancy; Mary Ann, who died when six years of age; Harriet, wife of Aaron Sutton, a farmer of Dublin township; Alexander, and Lloyd, the latter two dying in infancy. John Steward was a wealthy land owner, who early in life settled in Hamilton county, Ohio. For some years he served as surveyor of that county.

Jacob A. Baltzell and his wife for some years lived on the Baltzell homestead. In politics he was a democrat, and for a number of years held the office of township trustee. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church, and he held several of the offices of his church. In 1874 he removed to Shasta, Van Wert county, and there lived retired until his death, which occurred August 2, 1881, after which his wife made her home with Mrs. Tingley until her death, which occurred July 27, 1887.

John Bears Tingley and his wife are the parents of the following children: Arthur, who died in infancy; Samuel, who died when five months old; Jacob Alexander, a farmer of Union township, whose wife was Miss Amanda Archer; Hattie, wife of Stephen Clay, a farmer of Union township; William B., a teacher of Mercer county; Nathan, who married Miss Mary Foster and lives in Union township; Eliza, who died when eighteen months old; Walter and Marietta, both of whom are in school at Rockford, Ohio. After his marriage Mr. Tingley lived on rented land in Hamilton county for two years, and in April, 1860, he removed to Mercer county. Just before removing to Mercer county he sold a farm in

Missouri, which he had purchased with a land warrant given him for his services in the Mexican war, and in August, 1860, he purchased the farm upon which he at present lives. It consisted at the time of eighty acres, of which only a few acres were cleared and improved. Here he lived and continued to improve his farm until February, 1865, when he enlisted in company D, One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until after the war had closed. He was present at the surrender of Gen. Lee, April 9, 1865, and though not in any severe battles, yet he came near losing his life through exposure.

Returning home after being honorably discharged Mr. Tingley resumed farming, and was also to some extent engaged in stock raising. Politically he is a democrat, and has held several minor offices. He is a member of the Christian Union denomination, which has about 20,000 members in the United States. He is in high standing in his church, and has held the office of elder several times. His wife is also a member of the Christian Union church. His present house he erected in 1874, and his barn in 1881. His farm of 213 acres is in a good state of cultivation, and is a credit to its owner in every way. Mr. Tingley is one of the most public-spirited citizens of his township, and is looked upon by all as an exceptionally progressive and upright man.

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FRANK L. TOU VELLE, treasurer of Mercer county, Ohio, and one of the most popular citizens of the county, was born in Oswego, Labette county, Kans., March 13, 1870. He is a son of Theodore P. Tou Velle, ex-sheriff of Mercer county, one of the most prominent citizens of Celina.

Frank L. Tou Velle, when his parents returned to Celina from Kansas, was five years old, and since that time he has continuously lived in Celina. He received his preliminary education in the public schools of Celina, graduating from the union schools in 1888. In 1885 he went into the county treasurer's office, first as a deputy under S. A. Nickerson, working during vacation. After leaving school he was regularly employed by Treasurer Nickerson, and served through that gentleman's two terms of office, covering four years. In November, 1892, he was elected treasurer by the democratic party, and took charge of the office in September, 1893, being then the youngest county officer in the state of Ohio. His nomination was secured over that of five gentlemen, all good, honorable and prominent citizens, which was it itself a great honor, to say nothing of his election. Such was the satisfaction that he gave to the people that in in 1894 he was re-nominated and re-elected with no opposition, as the opposing candidate withdrew. All of this shows in a remarkable manner the popularity of young Mr. Tou Velle.

Theodore Parker Tou Velle, ex-sheriff of Mercer county, and a prominent citizen of Celina, was born near Steubenville, Ohio, January 16, 1839, and was one of a pair of twins, the brother being Shelby N. Tou Velle, born January 17, 1839. George W. and Mary (Hall) Tou Velle were the parents of these children. The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Robert Tou Velle, was born in Paris, France, the orthography of the name indicating the French origin of the family. Robert Tou Velle emigrated to America with a portion of his family in 1760, settling in Baltimore, Md. His son, Robert, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Baltimore in 1770, and married Elizabeth Martin, soon afterward moving to Frederick county, Md., and it was here that his son, George W. Tou Velle, was born in February, 1806. With his parents he removed to Pennsylvania, and in

1830 he married Mary Hall, near Wynesburg, Greene county, that state.

Miss Mary Hall was born near Matinsburg, Va. (now W. Va.), in 1808. Samuel Witherington, her maternal grandfather, came from England about 1730, and settled in Virginia, where he owned a large landed estate. Thomas J. Hall, her paternal grandfather, came from Scotland during the Revolutionary war period, and settled in Maryland. George W. Tou Velle removed to Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1830, and in 1847 to Mercer county, locating first at Macedon. In 1865 he moved his family to Celina. Although exempt by reason of his age from military duty, yet he enlisted during the war of the Rebellion in an Ohio regiment and served nearly two years. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing he was wounded in the hand, and was discharged from the army in 1863, having contracted a disease from which she died in Celina, April 24, 1879.

In the spring of 1868 Theodore P. Tou Velle removed to Oswego, Kans., removing thence to Independence, Kans., in which city he served as marshal for five years. While in Kansas he served as deputy United States marshal, and as such officer he had many thrilling experiences, hunting horse thieves and desperadoes of various kinds, in Kansas and the Indian nation. In 1875 he began an extended trip through Colorado, California, New Mexico and other western states, returning, in 1876, to Celina, where he engaged in the stock business. In 1883 he was elected as a democratic sheriff of Mercer county and was re-elected in 1885. Since leaving the office of sheriff in 1887, he has not been engaged in active business.

In the war he served two and a half years as a member of company I, Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was a good and faithful soldier. Mr. Tou Velle was married January 11, 1863, near Fort Recovery, to Mary E. Myres, who was born at Fort Recovery September 9, 1845, and who is a daughter of George Myres. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tou Velle there have been born three children as follows: Savella R., Charles A., and Frank L. Charles A. was born November 1, 1869, and died September 22, 1890; Miss Savella A. was educated in music at the Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass., and is one of the finest and most finished musicians and one of the best instructors in this art in Celina. Frank L., the youngest, is now serving his second term as treasurer of the county. His biographical sketch has already been presented.

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**MOSES TOWNSEND**, a prominent farmer of Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born March 11, 1823, in Bucks county, Pa. He is a son of Jonathan and Ann (Fell) Townsend. The great-great-grandfather of the subject was born in Bucks county, Pa., is supposed to have been named John, and his son, Joseph Townsend, was born on the same old Townsend farm in Bucks county, Pa., previous to the Revolutionary war, and Joseph Townsend married Elizabeth Dillon, who was born in the same township, and had two children—John, born May 31, 1769, and died in January, 1846; and Mary, who was born August 26, 1770, married a Mr. Fell, and died February 27, 1839. Joseph died in 1811. Upon the farm on which Joseph located at that early day were born the three generation of his descendants mentioned in this biographical sketch. His son, John Townsend, the grandfather of the subject, removed to Ohio in 1832 and settled in what is now Mahoning county. There he purchased land which lay in Goshen township, cleared up his farm and died upon it well up in years. He married Rebecca

Shaw, of Bucks county, Pa., born May 7, 1765, and died April 30, 1846, the mother of six children, five of whom grew to mature years, viz: Sarah, who married James Bradshaw; Aaron; Jonathan; Joseph; Elizabeth, who was married to Charles Betts, and Moses.

Jonathan Townsend, the father of the subject, was the third child of the family, and was born on the old homestead in Pennsylvania February 26, 1795. In the spring of 1832 he preceded his father to Ohio, and purchased land in Goshen township, Mahoning county. There he spent the remainder of his life, dying August 24, 1844. In religious belief he was a Quaker and was for many years active in religious work and in the anti-slavery movement. He had married, April 11, 1822, Ann Fell, who was born July 20, 1796, and died December 30, 1870. Their family consisted of nine children, as follows: Moses; Smith, of Center township; William, who died in 1894, from the effects of wounds received in the service of his country during the late Civil war; Dillon, deceased; Martha, deceased wife of William Kean; Joseph, who died in 1848; Samuel, of Atwater, Ohio; Edith, wife of William Stratton, of Mahoning county, Ohio; and Sarah, of Mahoning county.

Moses Townsend came to Ohio when he was nine years of age. His education was received in the common school, and he was reared a farmer. In 1850 he settled in Mercer county upon eighty acres of land in section No. 10, Center township, cleared up his farm, made improvements upon it and resided thereon until 1876, when he purchased his present farm of forty acres, which he has cleared and greatly improved. Though educated only in the common school yet he was so diligent in the pursuit of knowledge that he became a teacher and taught his first term of school in Berlin township, Mahoning county, in 1846; he taught his next term, in 1851, in Neptune, Ohio. From October, 1853, to July, 1854, he was in Iowa following the occupation of land surveyor. The mathematics necessary to understand that business he studied out for himself without the aid of a teacher. From 1854 to 1857 he taught winter terms in district No. 1, in Center township, and in 1863-4 he again taught in Neptune, Ohio. Still later he taught two terms in Center township. In 1862 he enlisted in the service of his country, becoming a member of company I, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the expiration of his term of enlistment, ten months in all. He was with Gen. Sherman in Mississippi and Tennessee, and in this connection it may be mentioned that in his class of pupils in 1854 there were twenty-two young men, seventeen of whom served in the Union army.

Mr. Townsend from his boyhood up to 1877 was a supporter of the principles of the republican party, but in the year last mentioned he became a member of the greenback party, with which he affiliated until the people's party was organized, since which time he has been a member of this new party. In its councils he has taken an active part, and has been sent as delegate to its county and state conventions. He is a member of Drury post, No. 372, G. A. R., of Neptune, Ohio. and is a most useful member of that body. In religious matters he was reared a Quaker, and still adheres to the doctrines of this denomination. In all things he is liberal in his views, and aids all churches financially and morally, though not strictly a member of any church organization.

Mr. Townsend was married, in 1848, to Ellen Harris, daughter of Jacob Harris, of Washington township, Stark county, Ohio. She died in the year 1877, leaving one child, William Walter Townsend, a farmer of Center township. Mr. Townsend married, for his second wife, Eleanor D. Sturgeon, daughter of Thomas Sturgeon, of Auglaize county, Ohio, by whom he has no children. He is a man in whom all that know him place the utmost confidence, and his life is one that is unusually happy and useful to his fellow-men.

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**SMITH TOWNSEND**, son of Jonathan and Ann (Fell) Townsend, and grandson of John, and great-grandson of Joseph Townsend, whose biography appears above, was born on the old homestead in Bedminster township, Bucks county, Penn., September 14, 1824, and came with his parents to Mahoning county, Ohio. He was reared in Goshen township on his father's farm, and received such education as could be obtained in the schools of the township. At the age of seventeen years he was apprenticed to learn the trade of blacksmith. After he had served his time he established himself in the business at Ellsworth Center, Ohio, which he conducted for only a few years. In 1852 he came to Mercer county and purchased 120 acres in section No. 10, Center township. This land he cleared, and made on it all the improvements, and added forty acres. In early life he was a whig, but joined the republican party in 1856, and has always taken an active interest in his party affairs in his township, having filled the offices of township treasurer and trustee. In 1864 he joined company K, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served four months, doing guard duty in Kentucky, and was in one large engagement in Maryland. He is a member of Drury post, No. 372, G. A. R., of Neptune.

The marriage of Mr. Townsend took place October 31, 1846, to Miss Sidney, daughter of Isaac and Alice Garwood, of Columbiana county, Ohio, but a native of New Jersey. She died May 12, 1885, the mother of nine children, viz: John A., of Saint Mary's, Ohio; Martha A., deceased wife of C. S. Mauk; Jonathan, of Durango, Colo.; Eva, deceased; Howard K., at home; Alice, wife of Dr. LeRoy Pence, of Spencerville, Ohio; Mary B., deceased wife of W. B. Hover; Smith J., deceased, and Edith, wife of Dr. P. P. Mauk. Mr. Townsend married, for his second wife, Maria D., daughter of David and Elizabeth Tomans.

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**CAPT. JAMES RILEY** was one of the first and most active pioneers of western Ohio. He was the fourth child and second son of Asher and Rebecca (Sage) Riley and was born in Middletown, Conn., October 27, 1777. When fifteen years of age he determined to go to sea that he might visit foreign countries. His parents reluctantly consented to his shipping as cabin boy on a sloop bound to the West Indies. Ambitious to gain distinction, he lost no opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the art of navigation, both theoretical and practical, and at the age of twenty had risen from cabin boy to master of a sailing ship. In this capacity he made voyages to all climes usually visited by American ships, traversed almost every sea, traveled by land through many of the empires of the world, and mastered many foreign languages.

Returning, between voyages, to Middletown, Conn., to visit his parents, he in January, 1802, there married Phœbe Miller, daughter of Hosea Miller, a true patriot and minute man of Revolutionary fame. Of this marriage were born three sons—James Watson, Horatio Sprague and William Willshire; and two daughters—Amelia Ann., who became the wife of Dr. William Murdock, of Urbana, Ohio, and Phœbe, who was the wife of John Jay Beach, of Mansfield, Ohio. For several years Capt. Riley had charge of the cargoes as well as of the vessels he sailed, and was most prosperous, but in January, 1808, taking shelter in Belle Isle, in the Bay of Biscay, from some English men of war, his ship, the Two Marys, of New York, was seized by the French, and under the memorable "Milan Decree of December 17, 1807," both ship and valuable cargo were confiscated. This misfortune and loss of property was, in 1815, followed by one to him still more severe, but which proved a source of knowledge and benefaction to the world at large. As master and supercargo of the brig Commerce, of Hartford, Conn., Capt. Riley proceeded to sea from the mouth of the Connecticut river, May 6, 1815, bound for New Orleans, where he discharged his cargo, took on another, consisting of tobacco and flour, for Gibraltar, which was landed at the latter port August 9, and took from there a partial cargo of brandies and wines, intending to complete the cargo with salt at the Cape de Verde islands. Very heavy fogs prevailed during this trip, which was begun on August 23, and on the 28th the darkness seemed, if possible, to increase, and the strong sea and high wind increased, and soon after 10 P. M. the ship struck with violence the reefs off Cape Bajador, Africa. The crew landed without loss of life, were next day taken captives by a wandering tribe of Arabs, sold by them to Moorish merchantmen, and carried by these latter through the desert of Sahara, where for more than two months they suffered the hardships of slaves under such a people and such a clime. The history of the journeyings and observations of Capt. Riley and his men, as described by him in "Riley's Narrative," made known for the first time to the readers the geographical features of that country and the life and customs of its people. On reaching Mogadore, Riley and four of his crew were redeemed by William Willshire, the American consul there, and when strong enough to bear the journey, returned to the United States and to their families, who had mourned them as dead.

Dissuaded from further ventures at sea, we find him, in 1821, located with his family at the rapids of the Saint Mary's river, Ohio, at a point where he subsequently laid out a town which he named Willshire, in honor of the friend who had redeemed him from the Arabs. Under government contract he, with his eldest son, James Watson Riley, surveyed and laid out in counties and townships all the northwestern portion of Ohio. They built mills, made roads, and in all possible ways, with lavish purse and hands, aided in improving this "New West." In 1823-24 Capt. Riley represented Darke and Shelby counties in the state legislature. Among other wise acts, he framed and introduced the bill which laid the foundation of Ohio's public-school system.

In 1825, broken in health and longing again for the sea, he moved his family to Brooklyn, N. Y., and went on a trading vessel to the West Indies. Later he resumed his commercial relations with the African free ports, with France and with Spain, and died at sea March 13, 1840.

James Watson Riley, son and eldest child of Capt. Riley and Phœbe (Miller) Riley, was born in Middletown, Conn., February 20, 1804. At the age of nineteen years, he, with his father, surveyed northwestern Ohio. He laid out the towns of Celina, the county seat of Mercer county, Van Wert, the county seat of Van Wert county, Paulding, the county seat of Paulding county, and Willshire in Van Wert county, and was part proprietor of each of these towns. Before reaching his majority he was appointed clerk of the courts of Mercer county, Saint Mary's, his home, at that time being the county seat. This position he held for upward of twenty years, resigning it in 1841 to take charge of the land office, to which he had, without solicitation, been appointed.

In September, 1827, he had married Miss Susan Ellis, of Alexander, N. Y., a woman remarkable for her amiable disposition and for her christian character. Through a long life she endeared herself to all who came within her beneficent influence. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley was ever open to those in need of help and of comfort. Beside the six children of their marriage, six orphan children were adopted and tenderly cared for by them.

In 1843 James W. Riley was elected to the Ohio legislature, and subsequently was appointed to a position in the state auditor's office, but resigned the latter to return to Celina and devote his energies to the development of that section. The republican party nominated him for congress, but the district being overwhelmingly democratic, he was defeated, though he reduced the democratic majority by more than one half. To give his younger children better educational advantages he moved, in 1853, to Sandusky city and became the attorney for the Sandusky, Mansfield & Newark railroad. Later he removed to Toledo, Ohio, where he was thrown from a buggy and received spinal injuries, from which he never fully recovered. His death occurred in Celina, January 1, 1870. His life was one of activity and enterprise in multiform directions and capacities, and his name and works are inseparably interwoven with the history of northwestern Ohio. His widow and six children survived him. Of these the eldest, William Willshire Riley, was a very successful physician in Judsonia, Ark., from which place he was elected to the state senate; Calvin Erastus, a short sketch of whom is given below; Amelia Ann, now deceased, who was the wife of Capt. William McMurray, who died in Andersonville prison during the late Civil war; James Watson, Jr., who enlisted in 1862 as a Berdan sharpshooter, was soon transferred to the First Independent New York sharpshooters, company Eighth, and was two years and two months in active service, and at the battle of the Wilderness he received a ball in his left wrist, making the amputation of the fore-arm necessary, and was for this disability honorably discharged. In 1876 he was elected mayor of Celina, served two years in that capacity, and was for six years justice of the peace. Susan, daughter of James W. Riley, is the wife of Hon. E. M. Ashley, of Denver, Colo., who was one of the vice-presidents of the board of lady managers of the Columbian exposition, and the first president of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs; Mahala is the wife of Judge A. J. Hodder, of Boston, Mass., and an active member of the Industrial and Educational club of that city.

Calvin E. Riley, son of James W. and grandson of Capt. James Riley, was born in Saint Mary's, Ohio, October 9, 1830. In early life he developed that magnanimity of character that ever marks the enterprising citizen and public benefactor. April 11, 1854, he was married to Miss Gabrilla Brandon, of Celina, Ohio. Together these two founded a home that included and lovingly cared for not only the five sons and two daughters of their own, but was ever open to the needy and unfortunate, many of whom shared also of their love and bounty, and received there that practical knowledge that fitted them for useful citizenship, for during these years, as miller, merchant and farmer, success ever crowned Mr. Riley's efforts. In 1885 Mrs. Riley died of heart disease, and in 1886 Mr. Riley married Mrs. Susan A. Harris, daughter of Guy Shaw, of Alexander, N. Y. She enjoys the distinction of being a direct descendant of a family noted for loyalty in defense of their country, her grandfather having been an officer in the Continental army and her father serving in the war of 1812. Mrs. Riley is actively associated with all forms of work which make for the advancement of women, and her assistance in further rearing and directing the education of the children of Mr. Riley, and her own son, Robert, who became a member of the family, has been invaluable. In 1888 Mr. Riley moved from his farm near Celina to the latter place, and shortly after entered as a partner in the banking house of Godfrey & Milligan, that merged into the Commercial Bank, of which Mr. Riley is now the president. He is also extensively engaged in the development of the oil territory of Auglaize and Mercer counties, and in all public enterprises has been and still is an active, liberal and philanthropic citizen. Of Mr. Riley's children, the eldest two, Willshire and Fanny, are deceased; the surviving are Calvin Willshire, Robert Ellsworth, James Zura, Ashley Melville, and Grace Lucinda.

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F. B. TRENARY, an early settler of Mercer county, Ohio, and a prominent farmer, was born in Miami county, March 4, 1836. He is a son of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Handel) Trenary, both of whom were Virginians. They married in their native State and about 1834 emigrated to Ohio, locating in Piqua. Mr. Trenary was by trade a blacksmith, and after arriving in Piqua followed his trade to the extent of work that came in, and at other times did any kind of work his hands found to do. He rented a farm and carried on farming along with his blacksmithing and odd jobs of other kinds of labor. In this way he made his living until 1837, in which year he removed to Celina, where he became blacksmith for the public works that were then being carried on there. Living in this way until 1844 he then bought a tract of land containing forty acres, upon which a log cabin had previously been erected, and of which a few acres had been cleared. Here he worked for years, adding other acres to his original purchase, until at length he owned a farm of 200 acres of fine farming land, and thus by his untiring industry became a prominent and wealthy farmer for the day and age in which he lived. He was a man unusually strong in his convictions of what was right. When he had arrived at a conclusion nothing could move him, or shake his resolution. He was a democrat in his political convictions and was an active participant in his party's work. He was a man of great public spirit and took a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the public good. He served as a justice of the peace for a number of years, and held other minor offices of the township in which he lived. Both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church, and stood high in all religious and social circles. His death occurred in 1860, his wife surviving him until 1866. Their children were five in number, as follows: Thomas, who died in Georgia; John, who died in Jefferson township, leaving a wife and three children; F. B., the subject of this sketch; Nancy, deceased; and Adeline, wife of Christian Fanger, a farmer of Jefferson township.

F. B. Trenary, the subject, was reared on his father's farm helping him to clear off the timber, and to get the farm under a fair state of cultivation, and working in and about the blacksmith shop. He remained at home until 1862, when he was drafted into the army and served ten months. He entered camp at Mansfield, was sent into the western department of the army, and served in Arkansas and other western states until after the surrender of Vicksburg. Then being honorably discharged, he returned to his home and resumed farming. He was married in December, 1868, and settled down on the old homestead, on which he has ever since lived. To his share of the estate he has added until he now owns 340 acres of land, a large portion of which he has assisted to clear. He now has about 300 acres cleared, ditched and underdrained, and all in a high state of cultivation. His land is in three distinct farms, each of which has a house, barn and other out-buildings, necessary for the carrying on of the work of a well regulated farm. The homestead upon which he himself lives is two miles west of the city of Celina, and is a very desirable home. The other two farms are occupied by tenants. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, steadily grading up his stock and thereby improving the quality of the breed.

Mr. Trenary was married, first, to Miss Catherine Kumpf, a daughter of George and Catherine Kumpf, both of Germany. She was born in Mercer county and became the mother of four children, viz: Lucy, wife of William Andrews, a farmer of Jefferson township; Mary, yet single; Warren and Flora, both the latter living at home. The mother of these four children died in 1888. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was a successful school-teacher for a number of years in Mercer county, and a most worthy woman, wife and mother.

In 1892 Mr. Trenary was married to Miss Clara Elsis, who was born February 18, 1860, in Stark county, and is a daughter of Philip and Magdalena (Young) Elsis; he is a native of Germany and she of eastern Ohio. Philip Elsis came to American when he was eleven years old, in 1834, and with his parents lived for a time in Carroll county, where he was married, and whence he moved to Auglaize county, in which county he yet lives. He has been and is a prominent and successful farmer. His family consisted of eleven daughters, all of whom are living but one. By his second marriage Mr. Trenary has had no children. In his political views and affiliations he has always been a democrat and has taken an interest in party affairs. He has served as township trustee several times, as infirmary director six years, and has held other minor offices, and is in every way a straightforward and honorable man. His present wife is a member of the Lutheran church, and a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and education.

A few words should now be devoted to Mr. George Kumpf, father of Mr. Trenary's first wife. He was a native of Germany and a farmer by occupation. He came to America about 1834, bought a farm, cleared it up and made a good home for his family. His death occurred after the war. His family consisted of four daughters, viz: Mary, who married E. Dibble, a farmer; Caroline, who died single; Catherine, first wife of Mr. Trenary; and Ruth, who married Benjamin Mowery, a farmer of Mercer county, and a successful and honored citizen, as, indeed, are all the family.

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THOMAS E. UPTON, the leading merchant of Mendon, was born in Union township, Mercer county, Ohio, February 2, 1858. He is a son of Thomas and Mehetabel Upton, a brief biographical sketch of whom is appended.

Thomas E. Upton is the seventh in a family of eight children. His early boyhood and youth were spent at home attending school and in fitting himself for an active business career. At the age of fifteen he entered the college at Bourbon, Ind., where he remained two years and where he finished the education begun in the common schools. Becoming a clerk in the business house of Lawrence, Matchett & Co., in Bourbon, after finishing his educational training, he remained in that position five years, and then went to Nolin, Hardin county, Ky., where he engaged in a successful business for himself, in 1892 returning to Mendon, and establishing the business in which he has ever since been engaged. The handsome business block in which his business is conducted he erected in 1895. It is 80x90 feet in size, and is two stories high, Mr. Upton's business occupying a room 40x90 feet in dimensions. In this room he has the most complete general store imaginable, and many a town larger than Mendon is without as fine a place of business. The second story is utilized as an opera house, and many villages larger than this might well envy it its possession of so commodious and elegant a place of entertainment. To this Mr. Upton gives his personal attention, as well as to his general store.

August 17, 1882, Mr. Upton married Miss Ettie Hamilton, a daughter of Hugh and Angeline Hamilton, both residents of Union township, Mercer county, and among its oldest and most highly respected citizens. Mr. Hamilton has been an unusually successful farmer, but is not now actively engaged. He lives upon his farm and is sixty-five years of age, his wife being of the same age. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Upton there have been born four children, viz.: Thomas Hugh, Irene, Maud, and William Roscoe. August 4, 1895, the angel of death visited the home of Mr. Upton and took to her last rest Mrs. Upton, the beloved wife and mother. She was buried in full communion with the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she had been a very consistent member since her early womanhood, and in which faith she had blessed her husband and children. She was mourned and respected by all who knew her. Mr. Upton lives with his mother and family in a fine, new residence, is a member of the village council, is a democrat in politics, and is in every way a representative and highly esteemed citizen of Mercer county.

Thomas Upton, father of Thomas E. Upton, and one of the oldest residents of Union township, was born in Green county, Ky., in 1810. He is a son of Edward and Jane Upton, natives respectively of North Carolina and Virginia. At an early day they settled in Green county, Ky., but later removed to Hardin county, where they lived until their death. Thomas Upton spent his boyhood at home, attending common schools as opportunity afforded, and securing at least a fair education. For some years before he became of age he followed teaching school. At twenty-one he made a trip to New Orleans and back on a flat boat, returning to his home in Kentucky; he then, in 1832, came to Ohio, and purchased eighty acres of land from the government, which was of course unimproved. To this first purchase he added from time to time until at length he had 800 acres, and as his children became of age he gave each one eighty acres of land, far different in quality, or rather, in a far different state of cultivation, from what it was in when he made his settlement in the county of Mercer.

In 1839 he married Margaret Shepherd, a native of Hardin county, Ky., who lived but six years afterward, dying in 1845, leaving four children, viz: Cicero, deceased; Mrs. Mary Angeline Dunathan; Mrs. Quintilla Bonnefield, and Margaret Jane Lawrence. November 17, 1846, he married, in Hardin county, Ky., Mehetabel Rider, a daughter of John and Sarah (Martin) Rider, both natives of Ontario county, N. Y., and of English descent. In 1819 they removed to Hardin county, Ky., where M.. Rider had purchased 200 acres of land. Both lived on this land until their death, Mr. Rider dying in 1848, aged forty-eight, and Mrs. Rider dying in 1870, aged eighty years.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Upton, viz: Mrs. Sarah Jane Brookhart; Mrs. Jane Cisco; Mrs. Maria Severns, deceased, and Thomas E. the subject of this sketch. Of the eight children born to Thomas Upton, all lived to be married. Mr. Upton died August 10, 1888, aged seventy-eight. He served the county as commissioner, and was not only one of the oldest settlers in his township but also one of the most prominent men in his county, As will be seen from the above recital he was a very successful man, and dying left a large estate. For upward of fifty years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was a democrat and was in every way a highly esteemed citizen. Mr. Upton lives with her son, Thomas E., and is now seventy-six years of age. She is a remarkably intelligent woman and for her age has a wonderful memory. For upward of sixty years she has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a woman of fine qualities and exceedingly pleasant disposition.

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**JAMES C. VAN FLEET**, cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, February 22, 1856, a son of Joshua and Eliza Ann (Mussulman) Van Fleet, natives, respectively, of Murphysville, Ky., and the state of Pennsylvania.

James Van Fleet, of Holland descent, was the grandfather of our subject and was an early settler in the state of Kentucky, and the family have ever been famous in professional and mercantile pursuits and also in politics—some entering the ministry, some the legal profession, and others engaging in trade. Joshua Van Fleet, the father of our subject, was born in Kentucky, and there passed his boyhood days, and, being a close observer, absorbed a lesson from everything that passed under his observation, thus compensating for lost early opportunities for an education, owing to the sparseness of schools and teachers in his early days. While still a young man he came to Ohio and located at Neptune, Mercer county, where he engaged in the manufacture of mattresses, and also became and auctioneer, becoming, in the latter capacity, one of the most widely known in Mercer and surrounding counties—his services in this line being in almost constant demand.

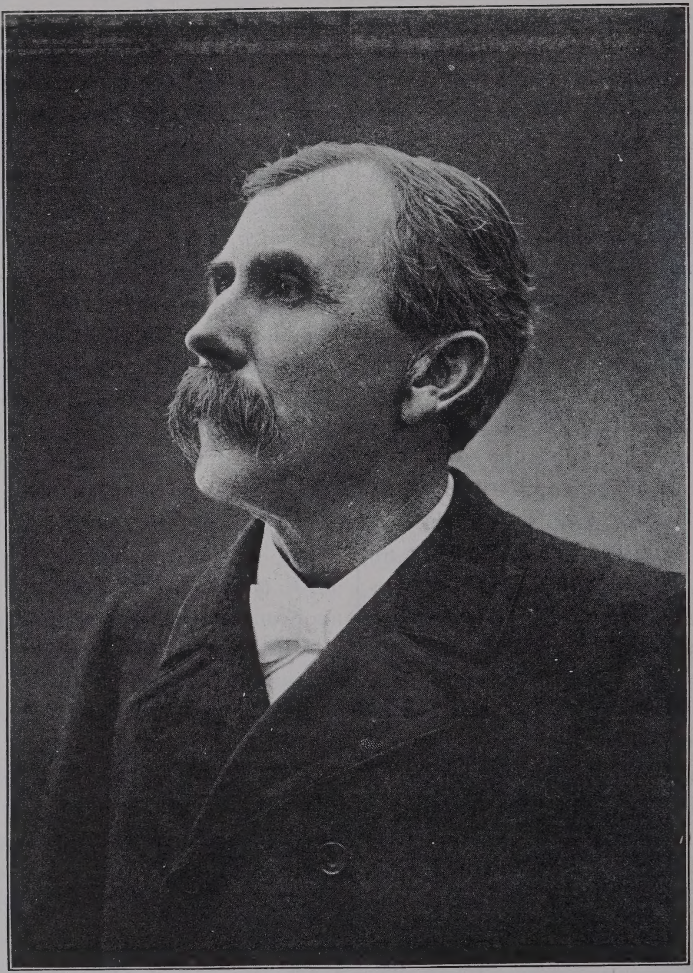
After marriage, Joshua Van Fleet removed, in 1855, to Iowa, but returned, a year later, to Mercer county, Ohio, and engaged in farming, in Union and Center townships, until 1865, when, in company with his brother-in-law, A. L. Mussulman, he removed to Shanesville and started a grocery, with which he was connected for a few years, and then engaged in several other kinds of trade on his own account, which he assiduously pursued until his death, which occurred in 1873, his widow still surviving him at the age of fifty-nine years, and being now the wife of Charles Ward, of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Van Fleet were the parents of three children, viz: James C., our subject; Amanda B., wife of J. F. Wells, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Viola, wife of W. F. Pixler, a clothing merchant of Rockford. In politics Mr. Van Fleet was one of the wheelhorses of the democratic party in his day and was invariably called upon to stump the county in its behalf during the various campaigns that took place in the years of his active life. He was a liberal, whole-souled man and ever alert to assist in doing good, and died an honored member of Shanesville lodge, No. 337, F. & A. M., of which he was a charter member, and lamented by the community at large, whom he had done so much to serve.

James C. Van Fleet, the subject proper of this memoir, was reared in Rockford, and was educated in the public schools. At the age of nineteen years he made a trip to Kansas, where he passed one summer, working as a farm laborer, and then returned to Rockford, and for some time followed painting, which trade he had learned from his father, who was an expert in that art. Next, he accepted a clerkship in the general store of J. P. Dysert, with whom he remained six years, and then made another trip to Kansas, where for a year he was engaged, in partnership with his brother-in-law, W. F. Pixler, in the dry-goods trade at Erie, Neosho county. Returning to Rockford, the two purchased the dry-goods department of J. P. Dysert's general store, and carried on the business under the firm name of Pixler & Van Fleet for nine months, when our subject sold out his interest and again followed painting for three years. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Van Fleet engaged as clerk with L. G. Schumm, of Van Wert, for several months, and in May, 1888, accepted his present position of cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Rockford, which he has since filled with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the bank officials and the bank's patrons. Mr. Van Fleet is one of the most progressive young business men of Rockford. He was one of the original stockholders in the building and loan association of the village, and has here erected three dwelling houses. He is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., and, as a republican, is a member of the town council.

Mr. Van Fleet was joined in wedlock February 15, 1880, with Miss Melvina A. Madden. This lady was reared by Mr. Bevington (whose biography appears on another page). Her father died in the Civil war, and her mother when Mrs. Van Fleet was a mere child. To this happy marriage have been born seven children, viz: Edwin Clarence, Grace, Bessie, Charlie M., Nora, LaDayt L. and Warren. Mr. and Mrs. Van Fleet are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Van Fleet is a steward, and no family than theirs stands higher in the society of Rockford or the township, or enjoys a greater degree of respect.

G J. C. WINTERMUTE, M. D., one of the leading members of the medical fraternity of Celina, and senior member of the well-known firm of Wintermute & Hattery, was born in Licking county, Ohio, July 22, 1841. He is a son of Arason and Virenda (Wayland) Wintermute, the former of whom was a native of Fayette county, Pa., born in 1809, and the latter of Madison county, Va., born in 1807. The grandparents of Dr. Wintermute, on both sides of his family, settled in Muskingum county, Ohio, at an early date, on adjoining farms. It was in that county the parents of the doctor were married, in 1828, but in 1832 they removed to Licking county, where they resided the rest of their lives. In 1883 his mother visited the doctor in Celina, and on her way home she fell ill at Columbus, was taken to the home of her daughter in Licking county, and there died September 2 of the same year. In 1889 his father visited him at Celina, and on his way home also fell ill at Columbus, was taken to the home of his daughter in Licking county, and there died on October 17, the same year. To this venerable couple there were born twelve children, four of whom died in infancy, eight reached mature years, and seven are living at the present time.

Dr. Wintermute was reared on the farm of his father, attending as he could the public schools until 1860. He then entered the Wesleyan university, remaining there until 1862, in the meantime teaching school three terms. In this way he earned the money needed to pay his expenses. On May 26, 1862, together with other students, Dr. Wintermute enlisted in the Federal army, joining company C, Eighty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was mustered in at Camp Chase, Ohio, on June 5, following, serving until his discharge, on September 28, 1862. During the succeeding winter he taught school; in April, 1863, he was



J. H. Wintermute M.D.

MRS. G J. C WINTERMUTE.

appointed to a position in the commissary department, and was commissary of the railroad department, with headquarters at Nashville, until October, 1865, during which period he spent some time in Georgia and Alabama.

The winter of 1865-66 he spent at home in Ohio, and in the spring of 1866 he went to Howard county, Mo., where he purchased a farm and began farming. He remained there thus engaged until the fall of 1870, and then engaged in mercantile business in a mining town near his farm, in partnership with a capitalist and physician, he having charge of the business as manager. He remained in the store there two years. The physician-partner kept his office and library in the rear of the store, and, as business was never very lively, Mr. Wintermute had plenty of time to study, and so began reading medical books in order to pass away his time. In this way he became interested in medicine, and ultimately he determined to prepare himself for the practice of the profession. He continued in the study of medicine with his physician-partner in business as his preceptor for three years. In the winter of 1874 he took his first course of lectures in the Missouri Medical college at St. Louis, and in 1875 he attended the Cincinnati college of Medicine and Surgery, from which he graduated the same year. He immediately returned to Howard county, Mo., in order to settle up his business affairs there, continuing there, however, a year, practicing his profession as opportunity offered. In 1876 he sold his farm, settled up his business, and returned to Ohio. After attending the Centennial exposition at Philadelphia, he located at Lewis Center, Delaware county, Ohio, in August, 1876, and practiced there until 1880, when he was induced by friends to remove to London, Madison county, Ohio. A brief stay there, however, was sufficient to convince him that London was not a place suited to him, so he sought another location. After a period of a few weeks spent in visiting his home and other points, on November 10, 1880, he moved to Celina, where he became permanently located, entering at once into active practice in the city. In the spring of 1892 he attended the Post Graduate school and hospital of New York city.

The doctor is largely interested in a window-glass manufactory at Dunkirk, Ind., he being president of the company. He was made a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical association, and was a member of the Mercer county Medical society. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, is a knight templar, and is a member of Mount Vernon commandery, No. 1, of Columbus, Ohio. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Dr. Wintermute was married in Covington, Ky., October 5, 1880, to Mary Ella Darrah, who was born near Hannibal, Mo., September 4, 1862, and is a daughter of Rev. James A. Darrah, a deceased Presbyterian minister. To this marriage of Dr. Wintermute with Miss Darrah there have been born three children, as follows: Georgia, born July 20, 1883; Leta, born October 18, 1885; and Katharine, born February 7, 1888.

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JAMES HARNER, a prominent farmer of Center township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, January 26, 1819. He is a son of Michael and Hannah (Roebuck) Harner. His paternal grandfather, Michael Harner, was a sailor by occupation, and was a native of Germany. For some time after he left the sea he lived in Bedford county, Pa., but later removed to Ohio, and is supposed to have died in Richland county. His wife, also a native of Germany, died in Richland county at the advanced age of ninety-five years. Michael Harner and his wife were the parents of the following children: Henry, John, Michael, William, Charlotte, Susan and Polly.

Michael Harner, the father of the subject, was born in Bedford county, Pa., in 1794. He learned the trade of saddler, and when a young man, in company with two others, came to Ohio, locating in Fayette county. In the spring of 1819 he removed to Mercer county, with an ax, a grub hoe, and $1.50 in money, and squatted on government land one mile south of the present village of Mercer, on what is now the Green farm, and there raised a crop the following summer. Having erected a cabin on the land, he brought his family to his home in the wilderness in the following fall, and remained upon this land one year. Then he removed to Twelve Mile Creek, and squatted upon the land now known as the S. B. Collins farm, in Union township, and there made sufficient money to enter eighty acres of government land, which is now the homestead of the subject of this sketch, in Center township. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres more land, which was also in Center township, and upon this land he lived until his death, which occurred in 1870. At the time of his death he owned 160 acres, and had given three eighty-acre farms, and two forty-acre farms, to his children.

In politics he was a whig in early life, but later became a republican. In religion he was a member of the United Brethren church, and served as steward and class leader. To his marriage with Hannah Roebuck, who was a daughter of James Roebuck, there were born the following children: James, the subject of this sketch; William, deceased; Benjamin, of Center township; Rual, supposed to have died in Andersonville prison; Jane, wife of Elihu Davis; Michael, who died from exposure during his military service in the late Civil war, his death occurring in hospital at Nashville, Tenn., and his remains being buried in the National cemetery at Nashville; and Susan, wife of Lewis Shaub, of Wayne county, Ohio.

James Harner, the subject, was reared upon the homestead in Center township. The education he received was such as was then afforded by the public schools. When twenty-seven years of age, with a capital of $5, he settled upon his present farm, then a wilderness, but now a well improved farm, to which he has added forty acres. In his earlier days Mr. Harner was more or less associated with the Indians, of whom he has many pleasant recollections, especially of Chief Shane, after whom Shanes Crossing was named. Mr. Harner's father was familiar with the language of the Indians, and spoke it fluently. James Harner has served as justice of the peace two terms, and as township clerk and constable. For forty years he has been a member of the United Brethren church, and has during that time always taken an active part in its work, having been steward and class leader in the church to which he belongs.

Mr. Harner married Susan Hartzog, daughter of Christian Hartzog, a native of Germany, who settled in Pennsylvania and later removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, from which county he still later removed to Mercer county, locating in Black Creek township, where he died. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Harner there have been born eight children, four sons and four daughters, only two of whom grew to mature years, viz: Rual, who married Maggie Webb, by whom he had two children, and is now himself deceased, and Hannah C., wife of L. W. Houts, of Center township. Such is the brief record of Mr. Harner's life, which has been well spent in doing good to his fellow-man, and in honoring the name of a long line of respectable ancestry, and is well deserving of a place in this work.

HENRY VANTILBURG, now a retired business man and farmer of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Jefferson county, January 8, 1821, a son of Henry and Jane (Shaw) Vantilburg, natives of Princeton, N. J., and of genuine Dutch descent, the great-grandfather having come from Holland. This immigrant reared a family in New Jersey, and of his sons, two—John and Henry—grew to maturity. John Vantilburg, the elder of these two, came to Ohio and settled in Warren county, and from him has descended the numerous family bearing his name and now scattered through the counties of Warren, Butler, Montgomery and Darke, Ohio, and Jay county, Ind., all of whom have made reputable names, either in business or public life.

Henry Vantilburg, the grandfather of our subject, was one of the pioneers of Jefferson county, Ohio, and from him descended most of the family bearing the name of Vantilburg in the northwestern part of Ohio at the present day. One of the sons of this gentleman was a lieutenant in the war of 1812, and several others reached prominent positions in professional and political careers.

Henry Vantilburg, son of Henry Vantilburg above mentioned and father of our subject, was reared on a farm in Jefferson county, Ohio, was married there and reared a family of six children. He later removed to that part of Richland county now known as Ashland county, where he cleared up from the woods a farm of 160 acres, on which he died at the age of eighty-five years, his ancestors having also reached a great longevity, his father having lived until ninety-five years old, and his grandfather until the patriarchal age of 105 years. Mrs. Jane (Shaw) Vantilburg, the mother of our subject, also reached advanced years, dying at the age of eighty-four. She was the mother of the following-named children: Julia, deceased wife of Charles Riley; Jane, deceased wife of Ezekial Robinson; Nathan, a deceased farmer of Mercer county; Matilda, deceased wife of William Worley, of Illinois; Mary, deceased wife of H. F. Holbrook; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of William Goudy, of Fulton county, Ill.; Sarah, deceased wife of Samuel Shannon, and Sainaiett, deceased wife of A. C. Goudy and mother of Frank Goudy, attorney, of Denver, Colo.

Henry Vantilburg, our subject, was reared in Ashland county, Ohio, from the age of three months until about twenty-eight years old, when he came, in 1849, to Mercer county. He had received a good academic education and had taught school two or three terms in Ashland county and also taught two or three winters after coming to Shanesville (now Rockford), Mercer county. Here, however, he devoted his chief attention to farming, ditching and plank-road building, and in the fall of 1849 cut the first ditch in the county for the purpose of draining his own land, and the result was so satisfactory that his neighbors all followed his example; in the spring of 1869 he introduced tile draining, the result being that this part of Mercer county, which was then one vast swamp, is now the garden spot of the state.

After Mr. Vantilburg had been about four years in Mercer county he purchased the first stock of general merchandise, of any considerable amount, that had been placed in the township, and from 1853 until 1863 carried on a successful trade; then, owing to failing health, he sold his stock, but three or four years later, in partnership with D. H. Robinson, re-purchased the same establishment and co-operated together for fourteen years, when Mr. Vantilburg again disposed of his interest and for five years carried on a grocery business, after which he retired to private life.

During his long mercantile career, Mr. Vantilburg was also engaged in agricultural pursuits, having begun, in 1849, with 176 acres in sections Nos. 7 and 18, in Dublin township, to which he added thirty acres in section No. 18; in 1859, he purchased seventy-six additional acres in section No. 17, same township, where his homested is located, and in 1863 purchased twenty-five acres to the north, a part of which he has laid off in towns lots, and on which part of the village of Rockford now stands. In 1888 he erected a fine brick residence on his farm, which is one of the best cared for and best cultivated in the county and is the pride of the neighborhood. Mr. Vantilburg also owns a tract of 160 acres in Dublin township in section No. 20, and he has cleared up in the county a total of 326 acres of his own property. In conjunction with his old friend, David Work, Mr. Vantilburg was largely instrumental in securing to Rockford the railroad line, but during this effort Mr. Work died and the task was left in the hands of Vantilburg alone—but his determination was indomitable and he succeeded.

In his political affiliations Mr. Vantilburg was first a democrat, but in 1855 changed his politics and became identified with the newly organized free-soil or republican party. He has filled all the township offices, and among them that of member of the school board for twenty-five years—and during his incumbency of this position the present fine school-building of Rockford was erected. He has always been liberal in his aid to the churches and schools within a radius of eight miles or more from Rockford, and no public work of any merit has gone by without his hearty support.

The marriage of Mr. Vantilburg took place September 2, 1858, to Miss Mary Gill, of Bucks county, Pa., and the result of this happy union was the birth of Flora J., wife of C. C. Zimmerman, a miller of Manchester, Ohio; Orlando, farming on the homestead; Oliver C., married to Minnie Hardesty and farming on the home place; Carrie, wife of William Henley, of Ohio City, and agent of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railway company; Orrin, a printer, and Olin, at home. The lamented death of Mrs. Vantilburg occurred December 29, 1895, she dying firm in the faith of the Presbyterian church and her remains being interred in the Rockford cemetery.

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LUTHER VANTILBURG, a prominent and successful farmer of Black Creek township, was born on the farm upon which he now lives, September 28, 1850. He is a son of Nathan and Nancy (Figley) Vantilburg, the former of whom was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in January, 1816.

Nathan Vantilburg was reared on his father's farm, and in 1839 removed to Mercer county, where he entered 160 acres of land—that upon which the subject of this sketch now lives. This land he cleared and improved, first erecting a cabin for the reception of his future wife, whom he married in 1840 in Ashland county, and who was Nancy Figley. She was a daugeter of Jacob Figley, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in 1817. To their marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Henry, who died at the age of two years; two boys, that died in infancy unnamed; Sarah Jane, wife of James Williams, of Black Creek township; an infant that died unnamed; Luther, the subject of this sketch, and Hulbert, who lives on the homestead.

Having married in 1840, as stated above, Mr. Vantilburg returned to Mercer county, moved into his rude log cabin, and began the hard and serious work of clearing his land, and there he passed the remainder of his days, dying November 15, 1880. Politically he was a democrat, served one term as county commissioner, several terms as township trustee, and also in other minor offices. He was an able man, prominent in many ways, liberal in the use of his money, public spirited and enterprising. Religiously he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was very regular in attendance, but in manner and demeanor was a very quiet man. He was a member of the farmers' grange of this county, and was alway interested in whatever tended to promote agriculture and other departments of industry and labor. His wife's death occurred September 4, 1873.

Luther Vantilburg was reared on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools, in district No. 7. On the 1st of March, 1874, he married Telitha Jane Rutledge, a daughter of William and Euphema (Dysert) Rutledge. To this marriage there were born five children, as follows: Alma, born November 4, 1876; William Nathan, born December 16, 1878; Nellie, born October 12, 1880; Pleasant, born May 4, 1882, and Blaine, born January 17, 1889. The mother of these children was born in Mercer county, January 12, 1858. A full account of the genealogy of her family appears in connection with the biography of her father, William Rutledge, in a succeeding paragraph. She was educated in Dublin township and early in life united with the United Brethren church. Later she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

After his marriage Luther Vantilburg located on his present farm, and in 1883 built his present dwelling house. He has himself made all the improvements he now has upon it. At the time of his settlement thereon it was only partly cleared; the rest of the clearing he has done himself. He is a general farmer, but has also to a greater or less extent been engaged in raising, and in buying and selling stock. His life has been a success in every particular. Politically he is a republican, and has voted the republican ticket ever since the election of James A. Garfield to the presidency in 1880. He takes an active interest in the welfare of the county, is a member of the township board of education, and is a wide-awake, public-spirited man. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, a leader in the community, and in all respects a high-toned, much esteemed citizen of Mercer county.

William Rutledge, father of Mrs. Luther Vantilburg, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, January 19, 1834, a son of Luther and Ruth (Matthews) Rutledge, William the father of Luther, great-grandfather of Mrs. Vantilburg, was born in Ireland, was a son of John Rutledge, and a brother of Gov. Rutledge of Virginia. William, the great-grandfather, was married in Ireland to a Scotch lady, Eleanor Dugrase, and soon afterward came to America and settled near Baltimore, Md., and was killed while defending that city against an attack of the British.

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JEREMIAH VIAN.—This sketch is of a prominent family, some of whom have been early pioneers in several different regions in which they have lived, and many of them have gained honor and fame in the wars of their country, and have always been noted for their uprightness, ability, progressiveness, and good will to all men. The founder of this family in this country was John Vian, who came to America a soldier in the army of King George III during the Revolution, and was taken prisoner; he then decided to adopt America as his home, and refused to return when the remnant of the English army returned to their island home. He settled in Maryland and married Catherine Root, a native of Germany, and to them four children were born, named Hannah, the deceased wife of a Mr. O'Brien; Polly, the deceased wife of Mr. Howell; both of these were wealthy slave owners in Maryland; Katie, the wife of a noble in Ireland, and William, a short time after whose birth the father died. The mother married a second time, accepting for her husband Jacob Swales, a carpenter, and they were the parents of three children, viz: Abraham, Sarah and Mrs. Motes. About 1816, the parents came to Knox county, Ohio, where they lived until their death.

William, the youngest son of John Vian, was born in Frederick county, Md., September 1, 1796, there passed his boyhood days, and at the age of twenty-two came with his mother to Knox county, Ohio, and entered 160 acres of government land, which he cleared and converted into a fine farm. In 1828, he married Jane, a daughter of John and Priscilla Perkins, who was born in Tuscarawas county, September 6, 1802. Her father was of English parentage and served in the American army in the Revolutionary war, and in the early history of Ohio, then known as the Northwest territory, he came across the mountains and became a very early settler on the eastern part of the now state, and underwent the many privations and hardships that the early settlers suffered, when they were not only in constant fear of hostile Indians, but still more of renegade white men, with Simon Girty at their head. Her step-father, John Carter, drove a pack-saddle team during the Revolutionary war and was one of the earliest prospectors in Kentucky. The wife's father, John Perkins, also served his country in the war of 1812.

After his marriage, William Vian took his young wife to his farm, which he, with fortitude and much labor, had made for himself in Knox county; there they lived and prospered until their death, the father dying in 1879, and the mother, who was a member of the Baptist church, two years later. Mr. Vian was a prominent and influential citizen and a democrat in politics, and one of those very rare men who will not hold an office, even when it is offered to them. The children of William Vian and wife were fourteen in number, and are recorded as follows: Mary, who who died in 1852, and was the wife of William W. Downs; John, of Mercer county, Ohio, who was killed while serving his country in the battle near Nashville, Tenn., in 1865, and who was a member of the Ninety-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and had served three years and re-enlisted; Hannah, the wife of John Hoover, of Knox county; Enos, a farmer living in DeKalb county, Ind., and who served his country for two years in an Indiana regiment; William, deceased, who farmed in Wisconsin; Jeremiah, the subject of our sketch; Rebecca, the wife of Theodore Eels, of Michigan; Ira, a farmer of Kansas; James, deceased; Sarah Jane, married to James McMurray, of Kansas; Abner, who died in infancy; Benjamin Franklin, who lives on the old homestead in Knox county, Ohio; Amanda Ellen, the wife of A. Wood, of Clay county, Kans., and who served in the late war; Elijah, now living in Oklahoma, and who, at the age of sixteen years entered the army as a volunteer and served for three years.

Jeremiah, the fourth son and the subject of our sketch, was born in Knox county, April 18, 1829, there passed his boyhood days, and received a good education in the neighboring schools. He learned both the carpenter's and blacksmith's trade, and taught school for two terms near his home, and two terms in Mercer county after his removal here. In Amity, Knox county, on November 16, 1851, he married Clarissa, who was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Smith) Grub, and who was born in Knox county, March 15, 1832.

Her parents were of Dutch descent and Dunkards in religion, and were early settlers in Knox county.

One year after their marriage Mr. Vian moved to Mercer county upon a farm which his father had entered for him in 1841. He set resolutely to work to clear his land, but misfortune came to him, and after two weeks' work he was injured and obliged to go about on crutches for a year. Though thus discouraged, he did not give up, and finally he succeeded in clearing his farm, and building a home, but not till after many hardships and trials. In 1860-61 he taught school near his home, and in this home the following children were born to them: Christianna, wife of Earnest A. Tickle, whose sketch may be found on another page; John S., farming on his father's farm; Mary Jane, the wife of Charles Sell of Black Creek township; Louisa Ellen, married to John W. Wise; William Ezra, who died when five years old; Sarah Ellen, who died at three years of age, and William Curtis, who lived until his thirteenth year, February 9, 1865. The good wife died a member of the United Brethren church.

On February 19, 1866, Mr. Vian was married, by Rev. James C. Clemons, to Mary, who was a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Hurless) Alexander, and who was born in Harrison county, October 7, 1826. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1799, and died in 1865; he was a school-teacher by occupation and a very prominent citizen. In politics he was a whig until the republican party was organized, when he became a very stanch supporter of its doctrines. He held the office of constable, and township trustee, and also was intrusted with other offices by his fellow-citizens. He and his wife belonged to the Wesleyan church, and were strongly opposed to slavery. Nancy Hurless, a native of Virginia, was born June 27, 1802, and was seven years old when she came to Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio. Her brothers and sisters were eight in number, viz: Richard, a farmer living in Iowa; Elizabeth, who died in August, 1894, and was the wife of John Heath; John, a farmer and teacher, living in Kansas; Isaac, deceased, who lived in Van Wert, and was United States attorney by appointment of President Harrison, and was colonel of Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and whose eldestest daughter, Ella married Rev. Dr. W. H. Boole, of Brooklyn; Charity, who died when four years old; Samuel, a farmer, living in Missouri, and who served as sergeant for three years in the Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry; George, of Willshire township, a teacher, who, at his country's call, enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry; and Susan, who died in 1879, and was the wife of Edward Johnson, of Decatur, Ind. By his second wife Mr. Vian was the father of two children, Samuel Alexander, born December 6, 1868, and died March 20, 1888, and an infant son, who died February 7, 1871.

Mr. Vian was converted under the ministrations of Rev. Michael Johnson, on February 22, 1861, in Mercer county, joined the United Brethren church on that day, and was baptized in the Saint Mary's river, in Van Wert county, on October 27, 1861. He remained a faithful and active working layman in the church until October 15, 1870, when he was licensed to exhort; January 13, 1875, he was licensed to preach, and received the annual conference license August 29, 1877. He was ordained elder September 11, 1881, at Centenary, Ohio, by J. J. Glosbrenner, bishop, and on June 9, 1889, was appointed to the Geneva circuit, and served until the close of the conference year.

At the division of the church at York, Pa., in the year 1889, he adhered firmly to the constitution of 1841, and the confession of faith of 1815. In the fall of 1889 he was appointed to the Greenville circuit. He has been one of the examiners of the annual conference, and has married a number of persons, and held all the different offices of the church to which he belongs. During all this activity in church work he has carried on farming, and is considered one of the best and most progressive farmers in the township. He avails himself of all the modern machinery for farming and readily adopts new ideas for the improvement of the crops as for improving his stock. In all respects he is a progressive man, and is foremost among petitioners for all improvements and good roads, bridges, etc. He has helped to build a number of bridges and all the churches in the township. He takes particular interest in the schools, morally and educationally, and does his part to keep the schools abreast with the times. He is very charitable and has helped to raise twelve orphan children—one from the age of six weeks till eighteen years of age; several of them were converted in his own home.

Politically he affiliates with the prohibition party. Before the war he held the office of constable and recently was a candidate for county treasurer on the ticket of his party, receiving the largest number of votes ever received by any candidate of that party in the county. He has never sued any one and has never turned a stranger or beggar away from his door. He is pre-eminently a good man, loved, respected and trusted by all. In all charitable causes that will help the coming of his Master's kingdom, he is interested. He is a great Bible reader, and has read the Bible through by course twenty-one times.

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S. J. VINING, justice of the peace, and a successful school-teacher of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Randolph county, Ind., March 22, 1864, and is a son of Robert M. and Sarah (Stout) Vining. Robert was the son of Samuel and Polly (Miller) Vining, the former of whom was born in the state of New York in 1802, of English ancestry. Samuel Vining was also a farmer, and in 1827 married Polly Miller, of Delaware county, Ohio, who was of Irish parentage. From the time of his marriage Samuel Vining lived in Delaware county on a farm until about 1839, when he removed his family to Darke county in wagons, that being before the days of railroads in this part of the state. There he purchased a farm, upon which he lived and labored faithfully, improving it and making it a comfortable home for his family. He was all his life prominently identified with agricultural interests, and though usually successful in his business enterprises, yet at one time lost his entire fortune through the dishonesty of superior contractors in a canal enterprise. Being highly esteemed as a citizen, he was intrusted by his fellow-citizens with office, being elected township trustee by the democratic party, to which he adhered through his life. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church, so long as they lived. His death occurred June 6, 1879, she dying in 1882. Her parents came from Ireland to the United States in their youth, and had born to them six children. The father was a farmer of Delaware county, and a very prominent citizen.

Robert M. Vining was born in Delaware county, Ohio, September 10, 1835, and was four years of age when his parents removed to Darke county, where he was educated in the district school, the school-house being the little log one common in pioneer times. In his youth, beside attending the district school, he performed such labor as he was able to perform, on his father's farm, and later learned the cooper's trade. At this trade he worked eight years in Darke county, and in 1862 was married to Sarah A. Stout, daughter of John and Susanna (Schafer) Stout, of Darke county. To this marriage there were born six children, as follows: Mary I., wife of Irwin Michael, a farmer of Darke county, Ohio; Samuel J., the subject of this sketch; Annie, wife of William Detroe, of Mercer county; Margaret J., wife of William Kuhn, of Mercer county; William, deceased, and an infant, that died unnamed. Sarah A. Stout, the wife of Robert M. Vining, was born in Darke county, Ohio, December 25, 1835, was a member of the United Brethren church, and died March 8, 1875. October 20, 1876, Mr. Vining was married to Lucetta Hoke, daughter of John and Lucinda (Strait) Hoke, and to this marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Haskell; Dora, wife of William C. Beam, of Mendon, Ohio; Irwin, Hila, Clarence, Floyd, Goldie and Earl. The mother of these children was born in Cincinnati in March, 1859. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Perry county, Ohio. Mrs. Vining is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. After his marriage Mr. Vining settled on a farm in Indiana, returning to Darke county, Ohio, seven years later, where he carried on farming until 1879. He then purchased his present home in Black Creek township, a farm which he has put in a splendid state of cultivation. Politically he is a democrat. He is a most successful farmer, and is also a public-spirited citizens.

Samuel J. Vining, the subject of this sketch, was born in Randolph county, Ind., March 22, 1864, and was reared upon a farm. During two years he was a student in the high school, and afterward attended the Portland, Ind., normal school, where he completed his education. Previously to this, however, he had tanght school and has been engaged in teaching, ever since finishing his studies, in Black Creek township. On February 8, 1887, he married Sarah Adeline Ellsworth, daughter of John and Susan (Brewer) Ellsworth, and to this marriage there have been born three children, as follows: Vernon Ellsworth, born January 16, 1887; Valley Echo, born November 29, 1889, and Leo Heath, born October 24, 1892. Sarah Adeline Ellsworth was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, December 16, 1868, her father being a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Auglaize county, Ohio, the latter having been born in 1850. John Ellsworth, father of Mrs. Samuel Vining, was a physician by profession, practicing in Decatur, Ind., and in Kossuth, Ohio. He served three years in the late war with the rank of corporal, was a faithful soldier, and died May 19, 1868, from stomach trouble received in the army. His widow married Dr. Girard Bailey in 1872, to whom she bore one child, Arthur, February 1, 1873. Dr. Bailey reared Mrs. Vining, to whom he gave a father's love, as though she were his own child. Mrs. Bailey, the mother of Mrs. Vining, died October 2, 1891.

Samuel J. Vining, in 1890, purchased his present farm and moved upon it and has ever since carried on farming in connection with school-teaching. Politically he is a democrat, and by his party friends was elected in April, 1894, to the office of justice of the peace. In 1895 he erected a fine, neat residence on his farm, and is now as comfortably situated as any man need desire to be. He is one of the progressive, liberal, public-spirited citizens of Black Creek township, taking great interest in public affairs. At the present time he is a candidate for election to the office of county clerk, having been nominated in April.

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WAGERS BROS.—This leading grocery and provision firm of Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, was established in 1883, and is composed of J. D. and R. J. Wagers, whose family history will be found in the paragraphs which follow.

John Wagers, the grandfather of the gentlemen named above, was born in Baltimore county, Md., July 2, 1806, of English and Irish descent. In 1818 he came to Ohio with his parents, who settled in Harrison county, where he was reared to manhood and was married, March 18, 1830, to Miss Anna Johnson, a native of Harrison county, born in July, 1808, and being the first white child born in Stock township. In 1837 Mr. Wagers moved his little family to Van Wert county and entered 320 acres of land in Willshire township. There he underwent all the hardships of pioneer life, moving into his first cabin before it had even been furnished with a floor; this was afterward made of puncheons and the door of the same, while the chimney was constructed of mud and sticks and was known as a "cat and stick" chimney; his mill and market were at Piqua, a long distance off, and reached by trails through the forest. But he wrested a good farm from the woods, lived on it fifty-five years, became wealthy, and gave each of his children a good start in life. These children were eight in number, viz: Rachael, deceased wife of John Tindall, of Indiana; Joseph Johnson, father of our subjects; Mary, wife of James Nieford, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Joshua, also of Van Wert county; Catherine, widow of David Wolfe, of Van Wert county; Eliza, who died in early childhood; John, residing on the old Van Wert county homestead, and Davis, who who died while serving in the late Civil war. The father of this family lived until February 16, 1892, when he died on his farm at the extreme age of eighty-five years seven months and twenty-one days, having been a member of the Baptist church since 1866. His wife is still living at the great age of eighty-eight years, much respected by the young.

Joseph J. Wagers, father of the gentlemen who constitute the firm of Wagers Bros., was born in Harrison county, Ohio, November 13, 1832, was reared on the home farm in Van Wert county, received a very good education in the public schools of his neighborhood, and during the winter season followed the vocation of teacher for a number of years. He married Miss Ruth Ann Wolfe, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 8, 1832, a daughter of Robert and Rachael (Schriver) Wolfe. This union was blessed by the birth of three children, as follows: Amos W., November 13, 1856, a farmer of Adams county, Ind.; John D., December 8, 1858, and Robert J., January 3, 1861. Mr. Wagers was a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, and, but for his untimely death, which occurred on his farm in Van Wert county, November 16, 1861, would beyond all doubt have made himself felt in the public affairs of the county. His widow survived him until October 9, 1879, when she, too, was called to her final rest, missed and mourned by the entire community.

John D. and Robert J. Wagers were both early inured to the toil and hardships of farm life, at which their nerves were well braced and their sinews strengthened. They received good common-school educations, and in 1881 began business together as successors to Jesse Harmon in a general store at Abanaka, Van Wert county, Ohio, and this they conducted for one year, and a year still later came to Rockford, Mercer county, and established their present business, beginning on a small scale and increasing their stock with their growing trade—an example of business prudence beyond commendation. Success followed good management, and they now carry as full and as well selected a stock of staple and fancy groceries, provisions, queensware, glassware, and other miscellaneous articles usually found in establishments of the kind in many of the more pretentious cities. Suave, accommodating, progressive, of sound business judgment and straightforward in all their transactions, they have won a well deserved position among the best business men of the county.

November 28, 1886, John D. Wagers was united in marriage with Mrs. Alma C. Whitley, widow of George Whitley and daughter of Samuel F. and Harriet (Lehman) Fisk. Mr. Fisk was a native of Claremont, N. H., born January 9, 1817, was a paper-maker by trade, but for many years also followed farming. About the year 1841 he came to Ohio and located in Dayton, where he met Miss Lehman, whom he married March 20, 1842. Several years after marriage they removed to Saint Mary's, Auglaize county, where Mr. Fisk followed farming until his death, February 22, 1864, from supposed poisoning, while serving as wagon-master in the late Civil war—his remains being interred at Barboursville, Knox county, Ky. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Fisk removed, in 1867, to Rockford, then Shanes Crossing, and was there engaged in the millinery business for twenty years. She had borne her husband six children, who were named as follows: Frances, wife of Joseph Wise, in the employ of the Dayton & Michigan railroad shops, at Troy, Ohio: Wilbur, in the wholesale liquor business at Lima; Eliza J., wife of George Myers, a carpenter of Lima; Mary A., wife of Emanuel Crist, of Lima, a contractor; Alma, the wife of John D. Wagers, our subject; and George, a clerk at Lima. The parents of Mrs. Fisk were David and Elizabeth (Brandenburg) Lehman, of Frederick county, Md. David Lehman came to Ohio in 1805 and located at Dayton, and eleven years later Elizabeth Brandenburg came with her parents, who also located in Dayton, then a small town. David and Elizabeth were married in 1817, the union resulting in the birth of seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, deceased wife of George Gilbert, of Dayton; Catherine, widow of Addison Fisk, of Saint Mary's, Auglaize county; Harriet, widow of Samuel F. Fisk; Mary, widow of Spencer Wells, of Dayton; George, a retired contractor of Chicago, Ill.; David, deceased, and Sarah, wife of Benjamin Sortman, of Dayton, Ohio. The Lehman family were of German descent, and the parents of Mrs. Fisk died at the ages of sixty-five and forty-nine years, respectively, members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Robert J. Wagers was married July 4, 1883, to Miss Mary E. Baxter, a daughter of James and Harriet (Manley) Baxter, and a native of Van Wert county, and this union has been blessed by the birth of four children, as follows: Merl, April 25, 1884; Grace, August 28, 1885; Ruth, May 1, 1892, and Naomi, August 18, 1894. The parents of Mrs. Robert J. Wagers were natives of Allen county, Ohio, and descend from two of the oldest and most highly respected families in the Buckeye state. James Baxter was early left an orphan and adopted farming as his life-calling. When a young man he moved to Van Wert county, where he married and where he died June 20, 1878, at the age of fifty-two years, having been preceded to the grave by his wife, who died April 8, 1875, aged forty-eight years. They had born to them a family of six children, as follows: Alva S., of Van Wert county; Mary E., wife of Robert J. Wagers, our subject; Milton, deceased; Clara, wife of E. E. Pence, of Van Wert county; Andrew R., of Decatur, Ind., and Ira S., of Van Wert county, Ohio.

In politics John D. Wagers is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, K. of P.; in religion he and wife are most devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Wagers are also pious members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Robert J. Wagers is likewise a republican. Socially both families stand in the front rank with the best citizens of Rockford and vicinity, and it may be safely averred that no two business men in the county enjoy a larger share of the confidence and patronage of the public than do the Wager Bros., of Rockford.

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REUBEN WAGNER, one of the most successful farmers of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of Jacob S. and Julia Ann (Bader) Wagner, and was born in Fairfield county, November 19, 1854. Jacob S. Wagner, born in the same county in 1823, was a son of Ulrich Wagner, a native of Germany, was married in his native country about 1820, emigrated to the United States, and settled in Fairfield county, where he entered land and there passed the remainder of his life. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and the parents of three children, as follows: Jacob S., father of the subject; Susan, deceased wife of Jacob Crider, and John, who died in Fairfield county.

Jacob S. Wagner received his education in Fairfield county, principally in the German language, and in 1845 married Julia Ann Bader, a daughter of Samuel Bader and his wife, both natives of Germany, and who were married in their native country. They came to this country in 1819, entering land in Fairfield county, and living there the rest of their lives. They were both members of the Reform church, active in religious and all good work, and highly respected by all. Mr. Bader as a democrat served as township treasurer for some years, and died in 1870. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Henry, who lived in Illinois, now deceased; Samuel, a farmer of Marion county, Ohio; Solomon, ex-county treasurer of Fairfield, a retired farmer, and now dealing in grain in Lancaster, Ohio; Mary, wife of a Mr. Bontley, of Nebraska; Daniel, of Marion county, Ohio; Nicholas, deceased; Julia A., mother of the subject of this sketch; Frederick, deceased; Rosa, wife of John Hawks, a lawyer and minister of the Evangelical association, of Richland county; Sophia, of Tiffin, Ohio; Jenny, wife of Eli Loose, a farmer and preacher of Tiffin, Ohio, and Anna, deceased.

Julia Ann Bader, wife of Jacob S. Wagner, was born in Fairfield county, May 19, 1826, where she was educated and where she was married. She was a member of the Evangelical association, and died January 24, 1892. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: David, who died at the age of three years years; Samuel, of Fairfield county; Anna, wife of S. H. Weaver, a carpenter of Hopewell township; Emma, deceased wife of Joseph Loose, of Fairfield county; Reuben, the subject of this sketch; Ella, wife of S. A. Miller, of Fairfield county; Noah, a farmer of Fairfield county; Ada, who died at the age of three years, and Elmer, of Fairfield county. Jacob S. Wagner soon after his marriage located on the farm which his father had entered, and continued there to reside until his death. Politically he was a democrat, and religiously a member of the Evangelical association. He was a trustee of his church, a liberal, public-spirited and prominent citizen. His death occurred September 10, 1873, and his loss was felt by all, not only by his immediate family, but also by the community at large.

Reuben Wagner received a good English education in Fairfield county. May 10, 1877, he married Clara Miller, a daughter of Emanuel and Maria (Shaffer) Miller, and to this marriage there were born three children, as follows: Clarence, born August 11, 1878, and died at the age of eleven months; Alma, born September 11, 1879, and Archie C., born July 13, 1884. Clara Miller, wife of the subject, was born in Fairfield county, July 1, 1857, as was her father, Emanuel, who was a son of John and Susan Miller, natives of Germany, and he was born March 24, 1827. John and Susan Miller were the parents of four children, viz: Emanuel, Joseph, of Fairfield county; Joshua, of the same county, and Betsy (Mrs. John Femen).

Emanuel Miller, father of Mrs. Wagner, married Maria Shaffer, whose parents, early settlers in Fairfield county, were natives of Pennsylvania, and were Samuel and Susan (Arnold) Shaffer. They were the parents of the following children: Isaiah, of Licking county; Jefferson, and Ambrose, both of Fairfield county; Clara, wife of the subject; Lady, wife of Adam Haynes, a stock dealer of Indiana; Ida, wife of Daniel Goss, of Fairfield county; Susan, wife of Adam Wagner; Araminta, deceased, and Alonzo, of Fairfield county. Emanuel and Maria Miller lived for some time in Fairfield county, and Mr. Miller at the present time keeps a grocery store and is postmaster at Dumontville, where Mrs. Miller died September 11, 1879. Mr. Miller then married Mrs. Catherine (Weekly) Raudabaugh, his present wife. Mr. Miller is a republican in politics, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his wife, and he is a good citizen in every respect.

From the time of his marriage Reuben Wagner lived on the home farm with his mother for two years, and in 1879 removed to Mercer county, where several months previously he had purchased an improved farm of forty acres. Upon this he lived until 1887, when he sold and purchased his present farm of sixty acres, which was at that time all woods, with the exception of a few acres. This farm he has cleared, cultivated, and in every way improved, until at the present time he has a very good and valuable piece of property. In 1887 he erected a fine barn, and he is carrying on general farming, stock raising, and buys and feeds stock for the market. Politically Mr. Wagner is a democrat, and has held the offices of township trustee three years, of constable three years, and other local offices besides. Of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which both he and his wife are members, he is a trustee, and both are very zealous in the performance of their religious duties. He was a charter member of Enterprise lodge, No. 5,130, F. M. B. A., in which he held the offices of president and secretary, and in which he was held in high esteem. He is a most progressive citizen, and enjoys the good will and friendship of the community at large to an unusual degree.

WILLIAM H. WARRICK, a prominent farmer of Black Creek township, was born June 13, 1843, and is a son of Charles and Lydia (Bellisfield) Warrick, natives of Northampton county, Pa. His father was born about 1811 and was of German descent.

Charles Warrick was reared a farmer and learned the trade of carpenter, at both of which callings he worked during his entire life. He was married in Pennsylvania to Lydia Bellisfield about 1839. She was a daughter of Abraham Bellisfield, a prominent man in his day. Charles and Lydia Warrick became the parents of twelve children, as follows: Melinda, widow of Noah Springer, of Paulding county; William H., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, deceased wife of John R. Williams, of Black Creek township; Ella Etta, deceased; Mary, deceased wife of Edward Pomeroy; Elfina, deceased wife of A. J. Dellinger, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Benjamin F., who died at the age of five years; Charles, who died at the age of twelve years; Lorinda, deceased; Lydia, wife of Thomas Sell of Van Wert county; Emma, deceased; Amos, of Black Creek township, and Lillie, who died at the age of six. The mother of these children was born in 1821 and died in 1869. Charles Warrick, for some time after his marriage lived in Pennsylvania; but on March 5, 1855 he reached Mercer county, Ohio, and here for several years he worked at his trade. In 1866 he bought a farm and lived upon it, at the same time still carrying on his trade until his death, which occurred in 1879. Mr. Warrick was one of the best of men, kind to his family, a good neighbor, and always ready to aid those in need. He was a democrat in politics and a member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife. Daniel Warrick, a brother of Charles, is still living in Pennsylvania.

William H. Warrick was reared on a farm, and at the same time learned the carpenter trade. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the close of the war. He saw much hard marching and fighting, and himself suffered from rebel bullets. He was in the battle of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, the Atlanta campaign, and the battle of Nashville. At the battle of Lookout Mountain he was wounded in the left leg, and was in consequence in the hospital three months and was one month at home. Rejoining his regiment he was then in active service until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Salisbury, N. C., June 26, 1865.

Returning home from the war, Mr. Warrick again began farming and working at his trade, which he continued until his marriage, May 2, 1872, to Miss Mary J. Smalley, daughter of Richard and Lydia (Lash) Smalley. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Alvesta, who died in January, 1889, at the age of fifteen years; Martha, Frank, Lorin, Laura, Mary and Nellie. Miss Mary J. Smalley was born in Ashland county, Ohio, August 17, 1848, and removed with her parents to Mercer county in 1865. After his marriage Mr. Warrick moved to his present farm, which he had purchased in 1869. At the time of his removal thereto there were only ten acres cleared. The first house in which he lived on this farm was a log cabin he himself erected, and in this he lived until the fall of 1883, when he erected his present frame dwelling. To this improvement he added, in 1893, a fine large barn. He has now a good farm, well improved with comfortable buildings, and as attractive a home as any man need desire.

In politics Mr. Warrick is a republican, and has served as township clerk for four years, as treasurer six years, and has held other minor offices. He is in every way a public-spirited citizen, well worthy of the honors he has received. His industry and energy have acquired for him a competence, as is shown by the fact that at ten years of age he began to take care of himself, receiving, to begin with, the munificent sum of one dollar and a half per month for his wages. From this, however, he has succeeded in steadily increasing his income, and adding to his property until, at the present time, he is one of the independent farmers of his county, and is everywhere looked upon as a successful man. His wife's father, Richard Smalley, is still living and carrying on his farming operations in Black Creek township, and is a thoroughgoing, industrious and honest man.

JONAS WEIST, a prominent farmer of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Fairfield county, December 3, 1841, and is a son of Samuel and Lydia (Meisse) Weist. Samuel Weist was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1819, and was a son of Jacob and Catherine (Hatchler) Weist, the former of whom was born in the same county, but whose father came from Germany. Jacob and Catherine Weist were the parents of six sons and five daughters, one of the latter of whom still survives. Mrs. Lucetta Goss, of Jay county, Ind. Jacob Weist was one of the early settlers of Fairfield county, locating there when Samuel was a small boy. First he was a member of the Lutheran church, and later of the Evangelical association. During bis earlier life he was a democrat, but when the southern states undertook to overthrow the government, he became a republican, and remained such the rest of his life.

Samuel Weist was educated in Fairfield county, and was married, about 1839, to Lydia Meisse, a daughter of Pennsylvania parents, and was born in that state in 1824. She was a member of the Evangelical association, and still lives with her youngest daughter. She was the mother of the following children: Mary, wife of David Black, of Jay county, Ind.; Jonas, the subject of this sketch; Gabriel, who served three years during the war in company K, Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry; Henry, who died from exposure in the war, after serving three years in company K, Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry; Sarah Jane, wife of Jacob Hensel, of Fairfield county; Catherine, who died in girlhood; and Matilda, wife of Isaiah Miller, of Licking county. Samuel Weist took an active part in the affairs of the Evangelical association, holding offices at different times in his church. Politically he was a republican from the time of the war, and held the office of township trustee two terms. He was an unusually progressive farmer and public-spirted man, and at his death in January, 1891, he was missed and mourned by family and many friends.

Jonas Weist was brought up and educated in Fairfield county, and on August 20, 1861, was married to Catherine Crider, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Lorish) Crider, and to them there were born seven children, as follows: Lanassa, born June 27, 1863, and now the wife of Samuel Hays, of Dublin township, and mother of two children, Maud and Bert; Laura, born November 1, 1864, and died November 1, 1865; Willis, a farmer of Dublin township, who was born October 1, 1866, and who married Emma Clutter, the result being two children, Nellie and Glenn; Willis has a farm of eighty acres; Charles, born November 22, 1873, and now a photographer of Payne, Paulding county; Clarence, born June 22, 1877, a student at the Ohio university, of Columbus, Ohio; and three that died in infancy. Catherine Crider was born in Fairfield county, July 6, 1841, and died May 8, 1880. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Jonas Weist lived for eight years on a farm in Fairfield county after his marriage, and in March, 1868, removed to Mercer county, purchasing his present farm at that time, which then, with the exception of a few acres, was entirely covered over with timber. He has since then added eighty acres to his original purchase, and now has 160 acres, 120 acres of which are under a high state of cultivation. His second marriage occurred February 8, 1882, to Sarah Nuding, a daughter of Frederick and Barbara (Engle) Nuding. She was born in Hocking county September 27, 1846, and removed with her parents to Mercer county. The names of her brothers and sisters may be found in the biographical sketch of Joseph Nuding, elsewhere in these pages. Mr. Weist has followed farming successfully all his life. As a member of the Methodist Episcopal church he has held the office of class leader twenty-one years, and has also filled all the offices of his church. Politically he was formerly a republican, but of late years he has been a populist. He is one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of the county, and as such enjoys the confidence and esteem of all, even of those who differ from him in either their political or religious views, as all recognize the necessity of toleration in these modern days of changing opinion, all that is required by the public generally being that a man honestly entertain the views he professes to entertain.

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HENRY F. WELLMANN, one of the substantial farmers of Recovery township, Mercer county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Civil war, was born in Hanover, Germany, July 15, 1839. He is a son of Claus H. and Mary (Evris) Wellmann, the former of whom was born in Germany, was a farmer, and the father of seven children, as follows: Mary, Engle M., Louisa, Elizabeth, William, Frederick and Henry F., the latter being the subject of this sketch. Claus H. Wellmann was a member of the Lutheran church and lived to the great age of ninety years. He served his country in its wars against Napoleon, was captured by the French, and was with the French on the famous campaign to Moscow, but was back in the Prussian army in the decisive battle of Waterloo. Of his children four came to the United States, viz: Engle M., who died in Baltimore; William, Frederick and Henry F.

Henry F. Wellmann was well educated in the schools of his native land, and came to the United States in 1856, when about seventeen years of age. He embarked at Bremen in the sailing vessel, Roland, and after a voyage of six weeks and two days landed in Baltimore, Md., October 2, 1856. He began to learn the cabinet-maker's trade, but found that he had not sufficient means to complete it, and after six weeks started to Cincinnati, Ohio, on foot. But when he had proceeded three miles on his way, he found work on a farm, and later in an iron mine. Later, returning to Baltimore, he went to work in a shipyard, but on August 1, 1857, he again started for Cincinnati, and, reaching there, learned the cooper's trade. In Cinncinnati he made an attempt to enlist in the service of the government of the United States, as a member of the Twenty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, April 17, 1861, the regiment being Fremont's body guard; but as the quota of the regiment was filled when he offered his services, he was not accepted. Then going to Indiana, he worked on a farm near Rising Sun, Ohio county, for three months, and then enlisted, July 24, 1861, for one year, in the Second Indiana independent battery. One-year men not being wanted, he changed his enlistment to three years, or during the war. He served his full term, until September 4, 1864, was mustered out of service at Fort Smith, Ark,. and was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Ind., with the rest of the battery. He participated in many battles, skirmishes, and foraging expeditions, marched in all as much as 3,500 miles, through the states of Arkansas, Kansas, the Indian territory, and Mississippi. He was always an active and faithful soldier, always ready for duty, which he performed with cheerfulness, and was sick in hospital only six weeks during his period of enlistment. Through exposure he suffered greatly from rheumatism, from which he suffers even down to the present time, and also lost the hearing of his right ear.

The war being over he returned to Cincinnati, and there until 1878 labored at anything he could find to do, and in the latter year engaged in the wholesale liquor business, and continued thus engaged for eleven years. On December 21, 1865, he was married to Louisa Muthert, who was born in Hanover, Germany, February 2, 1835. To Mr. and Mrs. Wellmann there have been born four children, as follows: William H., Ella L., Edward H., and Amelia M. In 1878 Mr. Wellmann moved to his present farm, having at different times purchased 334 acres, before he settled down on his land. By thrift and industry he has greatly improved his farm and his condition in life, has erected a good frame house and barn and other buildings, and has added to his landed estate until now he owns 454 acres, all improved. He is an extensive breeder and raiser of Poland China hogs, also short-horn cattle. He was among the first to advocate the building of pikes in Mercer county, and to him is due principally the good system of pikes now in the county, and has himself paid over $2,000 for pike improvements. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wellmann are Lutherans in their religious belief, and in politics Mr. Wellmann is a democrat. Fraternally he is a member of Cincinnati lodge, No. 335, I. O. O. F., is a member of the encampment, and also of the A. P. A. Mr. Wellmann has been township trustee three terms, and a like number of terms a member of the school board. Mr. Wellmann is a member of Harrod McDaniel post, No. 181, G. A. R., is a self-made man, and has acquired his property through his own exertions.

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MRS. MARGARET WELLS, widow of Justice Wells, and daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Boyer) Caigins, was born in Miami county, Ohio, September 19, 1821. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and her mother in Virginia. Jonathan Caigins' father was named Thomas, and he was born in Ireland.

Jonathan Caigins was reared on a farm, was educated in Pennsylvania, and when young followed the occupation of a lumberman, hewing timber for a living. He removed to Miami county while the Indians still lived there, and while they were still at war with the early pioneer settlers. He frequently had to go to the fort at Troy for protection against them. There he married Elizabeth Boyer, a daughter of Lewis and Rosanna Boyer, and to their marriage there were born ten children, as follows: Minerva, deceased wife of Joseph Baltzell, of Mercer county, who is also deceased; Mary, deceased wife of Andrew Clawson, also deceased; Rosanna, widow of Cyrus Decker, of Dublin township; Lewis and James, both deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Alexander Irick of Delphos; Margaret, the subject of this sketch; Catherine, deceased wife of John Blackwell, formerly of California, also deceased; Harriet, widow of Elijah Hooks, of Wisconsin, and Charlotte, deceased wife of Michael Burns, of Illinois. Lewis Boyer, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Wells, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving as one of Washington's body-guard. He went to Dayton, Ohio, previous to the election of Gen. Harrison to the presidency, there met the general and was honored by being placed on a white horse and permitted to ride along with Harrison's escort with Washington's trappings on his person, he being at the time the only one living that had served under Washington as body-guard. After his marriage the father of Mrs. Wells lived in Miami county until 1828, removing then to Mercer county and buying there sixty acres of land from a Mr. Roebuck, and upon this land he lived until his death. Politically he was an old-line whig and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Wells was married, first, in February, 1838, to Ishmael Roebuck, a brother of Branson Roebuck, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. Ishmael Roebuck was born in Fayette county in September, 1810. To Ishmael and Margaret Roebuck there were born six children, as follows: Mary, who died at eleven years of age; Jasper, who died in Mercer county; Harriet, who died at six years; Harrison, who died when eleven years old; Eliza Jane, wife of S. N. Dysert, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume, and Ellen, deceased wife of George Dysert. Mr. Roebuck was a whig in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife, after their marriage, located on sixty acres of land which he purchased, entering 300 acres more, and there he lived the rest of his life, dying in 1852. In December, 1853, his widow married Justice Wells, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, August 23, 1826, and to this second murriage there were born three children, as follows: James Franklin, a clerk in Cleveland, Ohio; Martha, living at home, and Florence, wife of David Archer, a carpenter of Rockford.

Justice Wells was a democrat in politics, and a good, kind-hearted, liberal-minded man. He died in June, 1893. Mrs. Wells is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having united with that denomination more than fifty years ago. She is one of the good women, whom every body loves, is in fact one of the mothers in Israel, and is known all over the township in which she lives as Aunt Peggy. She is one of the pioneers of the land, and is as widely known as any other of the pioneers, of whom there are now not many left, and their numbers are steadily diminishing every year, to the sorrowing regret of the survivors.

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CHARLES P. WENZLAU, assistant cashier of the Citizens' bank, of Celina, was born in New Bremen, Auglaize county, Ohio, July 14, 1857. He is a son of Christopher and Wilhelmina (Fritz) Wenzlau, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former having been born in Hanover, the latter in Bavaria. They came to the United States before they were married, and located at New Bremen, where they resided the rest of their lives. Wilhelmina Wenzlau died in 1874, and her husband in 1880. They were among the best people in New Bremen, took great care in the bringing up of their family, and died with the respect of the entire community in which they lived.

Charles P. Wenzlau was reared in New Bremen, and attended the public schools of that place until he reached his eleventh year, being educated in both English and German. At the age last mentioned he became a clerk in the store of Augustus Fanger, of Celina, with whom he remained one year. He then entered the general store of E. U. Shepard, of Celina, with whom he remained four years. In 1877 he began his career in the banking business by entering the Commercial bank, of Celina, in which he was general book-keeper, and remained with that financial institution eight years. In 1885 he purchased one-fourth interest in the Citizens' bank, of Celina, and succeeded as a partner in the bank to R. G. Blake, deceased.

Mr. Wenzlau was married September 9, 1885, to Miss Eugenia Smith, of Tippecanoe City, Miami, county, Ohio, by whom he has had two children, viz: Russell S. and C. Norman, aged respectively seven years and eight months. Mr. Wenzlau is a member of the German Lutheran church, and stands high not only in his church, but also in business and social circles. When he left home, at the age of eleven years, he had only the clothes upon his back. Since then he has made his own way in the world, has acquired a comfortable competence by means of innate industry, honesty and determination, and is in every proper sense of the word a self-made man. It is such men as Mr. Wenzlau who sustain and build up the institutions of the country, and upon whom the future continued existence of the institutions of the republic must depend. He is a democrat in his political affiliations.

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**FRANK WESTGERDES**, senior member of the firm of B. Westgerdes & Bro., dealers in hardware, stoves, tinware, oils, brushes, iron and wooden force pumps, etc., also in fine liquors, cigars and tobacco, was born August 19, 1867. He is a son of George Westgerdes, who was born in Germany in 1805.

George Westgerdes was reared upon a farm in his native country and came to the United States while yet a young man, landing in Baltimore, with but very little money, and going direct to Mercer county, locating in Marion township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, which he cleared up from the woods. He was married twice, and by his first wife had the following children: Henry, Mary, Catherine and John. The mother of these children died in 1860, and he married, for his second wife, Mrs. Mary A. Moeller, a widow with four children, as follows: Anthony, Elizabeth, Katie and Frederick. To the marriage of Mr. Westgerdes and Mrs. Moeller were born the following children: Frances Justinia, wife of William Hinders; Frank, the subject of this sketch; and Barney, whose biographical sketch appears in a paragraph at the close of this sketch. All of these children are living. George Westgerdes died in Marion township in 1875, at his death leaving his family in comfortable circumstances. He was a strong democrat in politics, and a faithful member of the Catholic church, of which he served as secretary for some time. He was a very liberal man, genial in disposition, and at his death left hosts of friends. His wife is a member of Saint John's Roman Catholic church, and is at present living with her son Frank. She was born in Germany, and came to the United States with her parents when she was seven years old. The family landed in Baltimore, Md., whence they traveled to Piqua, Ohio, by means of wagons. There the father left his family and went on to Marion township, where he purchased government land, upon which he soon afterward located. Previous to Mrs. Westgerdes' marriage with Mr. Moeller her name was Mary A. Leistenschneider.

Frank Westgerdes, the subject of this sketch, was born in Marion township, on his father's farm. Receiving his education in the country schools, he remained on the farm until he was twenty years of age, when he moved to Saint John, and there lived with his mother, who had previously retired to that place. When twenty-two years of age he was elected justice of the peace, which office he filled three years, and in 1890 he built in Saint John or Maria Stein, and engaged in general merchandising. At the present time he is postmaster at Maria Stein, notary public and township clerk, and he is a director of the Maria Stein Gas company. In all the positions he has filled he has given general satisfaction.

Barney Westgerdes, brother of Frank, was born October 17, 1869, in Marion township, Mercer county, and lived on the farm until his twenty-second year, when he went to Celina and there learned the tinner's trade. Returning to Maria Stein, he purchased the interest of Mr. Moeller, who was then a partner of his brother Frank, and has since continued in business with his brother under the firm name of B. Westgerdes & Bro., as given at the beginning of this sketch. He is a democrat in politics, and a member of the Saint John Catholic church. Both the brothers of the subject are yet unmarried.

REV. CORNELIUS BROWN WHITLEY, deceased, one of the pioneers of Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Charleston, W. Va., September 7, 1817, and was a son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Brown) Whitley, who were descended from an old Virginia family of English descent, and were the parents of three children, including, beside our subject, a daughter and a son. The daughter became the wife of George Missinger, of Lawrence county, Ohio, bore her husband three children, and then passed to the Beyond; the brother of our subject, George, was one of the solid farmers of Lawrence county, Ohio, was a pious member of the Baptist church, and at his decease left a large family.

C. Brown Whitley, our subject, was reared in his native town until about fourteen years of age, when he came to Mercer county, Ohio, with his father, his mother having then been deceased some few years. Within two weeks after his arrival, the father also was called away by death, and thus our subject was left an orphan among strangers; but he soon found a friend in William Elliott and an employer in David Majors, with the latter of whom he learned blacksmithing, and then removed to Shanesville, where he established a blacksmith shop of his own. He took much interest in public affairs, and was captain of the home guards for several years. He was a member of the first council of Shanesville, was mayor of the village for nearly fourteen years, and filled nearly all the minor village and township offices, and for about eleven years, prior to 1857, was the village postmaster. He took great interest in educational work, and was always attentive to the needs of the schools. He kept pace with, if not in advance of, the progress of the times, and was always imbued with high and noble aims, to which much is due to the educational, moral and social, as well as spiritual advancement of the village.

October 15, 1845, Mr. Whitley was converted to Christ at Zanesville, and in 1848 united with the Miami conference, United Brethren church, and traveled the circuit six years; in 1853, the Auglaize conference was organized, and he became a charter member; September 16, 1854, he was ordained a minister by the conference last named. The first work assigned him by this conference was the Auglaize mission, which covered a large territory, extending north to Paulding county and southeast to Auglaize through Allen, Van Wert and Mercer counties. In 1857, up to which time since his ordination he had devoted but part of his time to church work, he relinquished all things else and devoted his entire time and attention to his holy calling. His early work was fraught with much hardship and exposure, but he was one of the most devout and zealous workers that ever entered upon so arduous a field of labor. He traveled horseback over his vast territory through all kinds of weather, frigid or torrid, inclement or fair, shrinking never from the call of duty. He was known throughout northwestern Ohio and eastern Indiana—probably as well as any other clergyman that ever served the church—both as pastor and for many years as presiding elder. He preached over 500 funeral sermons and solemnized over 500 marriages. As a funeral orator he was greatly in favor and was called to officiate at burials all over this part of the country, as he was of a most sympathetic nature and could enter into the feelings of the afflicted ones with heartfelt earnestness and sincerity. He was, however, a man of strong convictions, and stood by them to the last. He would deplore a wrong act, but not condemn the wrong-doer; although he would upbraid the sinful and oppose their acts, he still held the esteem and friendship of them all. He bitterly fought the saloon element, but was admired, nevertheless, by all who trafficked in intoxicants—and so it was with all grades of sinners throughout his extensive circuit.

The Rev. Cornelius Brown Whitley was united in matrimony in Shanesville with Miss Rosannah Moore, a daughter of Joel F. Moore, who came from the state of New York to Mercer county, Ohio, in 1836. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Whitley was blessed with six children, who, in order of birth, were named as follows: Mary, wife of J. V. Sidenbender, of Rockford, Ohio; Phebe, who died at the age of nine years; Joel M., a resident of Wiiconsin; George W., who was engaged in the harness business, at Rockford, Ohio, but who died, leaving his widow with one child; Elizabeth, now Mrs. J. P. Ehret, a prominent grocery merchant of Rockford, and Cornelius Byron, the leading tonsorial artist of the same place. The life of the father of this family was made of one long song of thanksgiving and praise. He was always a happy man, and his greatest enjoyment, aside from teaching the lessons of the gospel of Christ, was in the performance of kind deeds to those in distress, his sympathetic nature being without limit and his generosity boundless. This really great and good man was called to his reward November 29, 1891, and his widow was summoned to share his blessed estate August 14, 1895, at the age of seventy-six years and eleven months.

Cornelius Byron Whitley, the youngest child of the reverend gentleman whose biography has just been given to our readers, was born in Shanesville, now Rockford, Ohio, November 3, 1850, and was reared and educated in his native village. During his boyhood he assisted his father at blacksmithing, and from the age of seventeen years until twenty-one was employed in harness-making. He then learned the tonsorial art, and is to-day the most popular barber in Rockford. He is active in his efforts to promote the public good, is a stanch republican, is a member of Shanes lodge, No. 293, Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed all the chairs, and which he represented in the grand lodge in May, 1884. July 1, 1877, he married Miss Minerva Lynch, who was born in Michigan, June 2, 1859, a daughter of William and Susan Lynch. This happy union has been crowned by the birth of six children, named as follows: Dallas, William F., Eva B., James G. B., Hoyt and Paul O.—the last named deceased. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, are most respectable members of Rockford society, and reside in a neat, modern dwelling, which Mr. Whitley erected in 1888.

AUGUST C. WIESER, an energetic and successful business man of Cold Water, Mercer county, Ohio, where he owns and operates a grist mill, was born in Hilmitzen, Germany, September 6, 1848. His parents were Frank and Sophia (Caurbaum) Wieser.

Frank Wieser was a tailor by trade and emigrated to the United States in 1852, landing in Galveston, Tex., where he remained one and a quarter years. He then removed to Fryburg, Auglaize county, Ohio, where he remained three years. From Fryburg he removed to Saint Mary's, in the same county, and remained there until 1872, when he finally removed to Detroit, where he lived the rest of his life, dying at the age of fifty-nine. In 1840 he was married to Sophia Caurbaum, by whom he had seven children, all of whom are living, as follows: Henry, married to Mary Daysinger, and engaged in running a saw-mill at Saint Mary's; Machtalina, married to John Martz, a blacksmith and wagon-maker at Cold Water; August C., the subject of this sketch; George, living near Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio; Charles, married to Louise Marvelius, coal and wood dealer in Detroit; Lawrence

B., married to Kate Stacher and living in Ottawa, Putnam county; and Lucinda, married to Joseph Brinkle, and also living in Ottawa, Putnam county.

August C. Wieser came to the United States with his parents when he was four years of age. From that time until he was fourteen he obtained his education in the common schools. At the latter age he began working in a grist and flouring-mill at Saint Mary's, Auglaize county, where he remained until 1879, when he located at Cold Water, and there ran a grist-mill for three years. For the next seven years he was similarly engaged at Fort Recovery, and then he returned to Cold Water, where he has ever since remained. Mr. Wieser was married November 24, 1872, to Malinda Marvelius, daughter of Henry and Machtalina (Nangle) Marvelius. Her father was a baker by trade, and died when she was twenty-three years old, his wife dying two years later. Henry and Machtalina Marvelius were the parents of the following-named children: Elizabeth, who married Charles Garnett, and now lives at Saint Mary's; Malinda, wife of the subject of this sketch; William, married, and living in Indiana; Henry, who died when yet young; Polly, who married Edward Decker, and lives at Saint Mary's; Katy, died when eight years of age; Louise, who married Charles Wieser, of Detroit; Minnie, who married John Popp, of Lima, Ohio; Froeda, single, and living with Mr. and Mrs. Popp; and Charles, who married Rowena Bean, who is a general merchant of Cold Water. Mr. and Mrs. Wieser are the parents of three children, as follows: Gustavus J., born March 11, 1873, educated at the public schools of Cold Water, and at Saint Mary's institute, at Dayton, Ohio, is now assisting his father in the mill and as secretary of the building and loan association in Cold Water; Gertrude, born February 23, 1875, educated at Minster, graduated in music and is a teacher of superior ability; Edward, born July 14, 1880, and is now attending school in Cold Water.

Mr. Wieser is a very prominent democrat, and is faithful to his party's interests, laboring with great assiduity for its success. He is a man of good and strong character, and has the confidence of the community to a remarkable degree. He has held many of the minor offices within his party's gift, and has filled them well. He is a member of the democratic executive committee, and is secretary of the building and loan association in Cold Water. In all things Mr. Wieser's ambition is to do whatever he finds to do in a manner which will reflect credit upon his name, even when the secret motives of the heart are laid open to the scrutinizing gaze of the world.

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ALLEN G. WILEY, one of the old-time, solid and leading farmers of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Jeffersonville, Fayette county, Ohio, July 28, 1828, a son of Robert and Rhoda (Wood) Wiley, natives, respectively, of Pendleton county, Va., and Fayette county, Ohio. The great-grandfather of Mr. Wiley was a native of Ireland, was an early settler in Virginia and was a farmer; William and Elizabeth (Benson) Wiley, grandparents of our subject, came from Virginia, lived some years in Fayette county, Ohio, and later removed to Illinois, where the grandfather died, whild also engaged in farming.

Robert Wiley, the father of our subject, was but six years of age when brought to Ohio by his parents, was reared to farming in Fayette county, and there married Miss Rhoda Wood, daughter of Joel and Elizabeth (Miller) Wood, of English and Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. In the spring of 1835 Mr. Wiley came to Mercer county and rented a farm for two years, and then purchased eighty acres of slightly improved land in section No. 22, Dublin township, which land he fenced and ditched, added thirty-nine acres to it, made it a comfortable home, and cultivated it until 1858, when he was elected, by the democratic party, sheriff of the county, the duties of which office he performed so satisfactorily that the public re-elected him to succeed himself; but, just prior to the termination of his second term, his death took place, November 22, 1862, his wife having died July 22 of the same year.

Robert Wiley had been one of the leading politicians of his county for years prior to his death, and had served as township trustee and as member of the school board for many years. He had also been very successful in his business affairs, and beside his home farm in section No. 22, purchased eighty acres in section No. 27, which he later gave to Allen G., our subject; he also owned 240 acres in Liberty township, a part of which he gave to his children, and owned 320 in Saint Joseph county, Ind. He took an active interest in everything pertaining to the public welfare, particularly in good roads, and built some of the old ones. For several years he kept a tavern on the old plank road at his own house, and entertained many a weary traveler. He was an ardent friend of church and school, and liberal in his contributions to the establishment and maintenance of both. He was a man of strong character, and, although beginning life a poor renter, became one of the most solid and influential men of the county, being sustained in all his efforts by his faithful and devoted wife, who was a lady of rare merits and superior judgment. To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wiley were born ten children, as follows: Joel A., a farmer of Saint Joseph county, Ind.; William H., a soldier in the Mexican war and a farmer who died in Iowa; Allen G., our subject; Narcissa, wife of William Frysinger, of Plymouth, Marshall county, Ind.; Andrew J., who was a large land holder and miner, and was killed by the Indians in Senora, Mexico, in 1872; Margaret J., deceased wife of John Burns, of Iowa; Delinda, deceased wife of Alford Kiggins, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Irene, wife of Elijah Street, of Rockford; Mary, wife of John Lockhart, of Middlepoint, Van Wert county, and James K. P., who served through the Civil war in the Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and is now a resident of Williams county, Ohio.

Allen G. Wiley, our subject, was reared on his father's farm in Dublin township, Mercer county, Onio, was educated in the subscription schools, and at the age of twenty-one years began his business career by operating a threshing machine and farming for three years, after which he devoted his time and attention exclusively to farming and stock raising, and in November, 1852, settled on eighty acres of his present farm, which then had about ten acres fenced and some of the small timber and underbrush cleared off. He erected a hewn-log two-story house, 18½x20 feet, this being then considered to be one of the finest residences of the neighborhood; this building, a few years later, he weather-boarded and plastered and made his home until 1876, when he erected his present modern frame two-story dwelling, 32x39 feet. He has also on his place two good barns for stock and grain, the main one being 33x60 feet. He has taken especial interest in the improvement of the live stock of Mercer county, and for years has kept thoroughbred Durham cattle and Berkshire hogs, being one of the first to introduce them; he was also one of the first to introduce tile drainage, and he has now about 4,000 rods laid on his farm of 200 acres, eighty acres of which lie in Hopewell township.

Allen G. Wiley was united in marriage, March 11, 1852, with Miss Rachael E. Deal, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 1, 1832, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Buck) Deal. Of the nine children that blessed this union, two died in infancy; the seven that reached maturity were named as follows: Sarah, deceased wife of B. McChristy; Emma F., wife of Daniel Fisher; Ellen R., married to Hiram Clutter, all of Dublin township; Lucinda B., now Mrs. Levi Rutledge, of Black Creek township; Mahala C., wife of Rev. William E. Street, a minister of the United Brethren church, of Champaign county; Anna M., wife of David Robinson, of Dublin township, Mercer county, and John A., who married Miss Lola Tickle, and has his home with his father.

John and Elizabeth Deal, the parents of Mrs. Allen C. Wiley, came to Mercer county in 1837, and rented a farm in the southern part for several years, and then purchased 160 acres in section No. 28, Dublin township, on which they located in April, 1848, but, sad to relate, Mr. Deal here died on the 29th day of May following, at the age of fifty-five years. He was a native of the Keystone state and a son of Frederick and Elizabeth Deal, of German descent, and was of a quiet, domestic disposition; his widow survived until about 1868, when she was called away at seventy-one years of age. They were the parents of ten children, viz: Priscilla, Catherine and Anna, deceased; Leonard, in Iowa; Elias and Maria, deceased; Leah, wife of Milton Hays, of Dublin township; Rachel E., now Mrs. Allen G. Wiley, and John and Ezra, deceased. Both parents of this family died in the faith of the Lutheran church. The maternal grandmother of Mrs. Wiley died in Mercer county, in 1854, at the extremely advanced age of ninety-four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley are devoted members of the United Brethren church, of which he has been a trustee for many years, and to the support of which both have been very liberal in their contributions; they have given their children all good opportunities for schooling, and Mr. Wiley has seen to it that they all have had a good start in life. In politics Mr. Wiley is a democrat and has served as township trustee for several years, also as appraiser of his township, and has long been, and still is, a member of the school board. As an early comer to Dublin township, he still has a vivid recollection of the Indians that infested the county in his childhood days, and remembers when deer and other game were as plentiful as the sheep of his bucolic neighbors. He has grown up with and aided materially in the progress of the county, and his name stands among the foremost of the respectable, substantial and enterprising citizens of the county and township.

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J H. K. WINDKER, one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Butler township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Hanover, Germany, September 2, 1838. He is a son of John H. and Elizabeth (Bruns) Windker, both natives of Germany. In their native country they were married; there they lived until three of their children were born, and in 1848 emigrated to the United States, many thousands of Germans coming to this country at that time, on account of the discontent and sense of oppression which had long possessed the minds of the people. He and his family landed at New Orleans and traveled on steamboats up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, arriving in this latter city in December. Mr. Windker, when he arrived in this country was a poor man, and had to do whatever came to his hand. During the four years he lived in Cincinnati there was much sickness in his family, and three of his children died, together with their mother. One of these three children had been born in Cincinnati; the others were born in Germany.

John H. Windker left Cincinnati about 1852, and removed to Mercer county, where he purchased forty acres of land covered over with heavy timber. His first work was to erect a log cabin for his family to live in, while he began the hard labor of clearing up the farm. He had married in Cincinnati, after the death of his first wife, so that, upon coming to his farm in Mercer county, his family consisted of himself, his wife and the subject of this sketch, who was the eldest child. After he had cleared a part of his farm, and had made considerable substantial improvements, he sold out to the subject, and lived with him the rest of his life. He was a democrat in politics, but cared not for public life or official station. But little is known of the family of the subject's mother, except that three of her brothers and sisters came to the United States. The names of the four children born to Mr. Windker's first marriage were as follows: J. H. K., the subject of this sketch; Bernard, Hardman and Catherine. The mother was a devoted and devout member of the Catholic church. To the second marriage of Mr. Windker no children were born. The second wife died, and Mr. Windker himself died later, February 22, 1893. All the family were devoted members of the Catholic church.

J. H. K. Windker was ten years old when he was brought to this country. He had attended school in Germany, and after arriving in Cincinnati he also attended school, so that he received a good education in both English and German. While living in Cincinnati he was a clerk in a grocery store for a time, and was also engaged in the same line for some time in Tennessee. After reaching Mercer county he assisted his father very materially to clear and improve the farm, and not long afterward took full charge of affairs, his father having become old and desiring rest from his labors. In 1861 he was married, but still continued to live on the home farm, to manage affairs, and support his mother, or, rather, step-mother and father. He then bought a piece of land adjoining his father's farm, and afterward sold all but eighty acres, upon which he now lives. But besides this he has accumulated property to such an extent that he now owns 200 acres. On arriving in Mercer county there were about ten acres cleared, but now he has 145 acres cleared, ditched and underdrained, and all in a high state of cultivation. He has also erected a commodious dwelling house, a large barn, and such other out-buildings as are necessary to a well conducted and well regulated farm. His home lies three and a half miles southwest of Cold Water, and is a most comfortable home. Here he carries on general farming, and raises sufficient stock for the benefit of the farm, grading up as rapidly as possible, and improving the breeds.

In politics Mr. Windker is a democrat, and he has always taken a deep interest in public affairs. He has served as township trustee several terms, and also as member of the school board, filling the offices of clerk and also of president. He married Gertrude Lemartz, a native of Germany, born May 3, 1838. She came to the United States with her parents, John H. and Catherine (Engles) Lemartz, and at first located in Cincinnati. In the old country Mr. Lemartz was a manufacturer of cloth, but when he reached Cincinnati he kept a saloon for a time, and in 1849 removed to Mercer county, bought a piece of land, and cleared it up from the woods. He died December 14, 1895, and was the owner of two farms. His wife died about 1877. They had a family o eight children, only two of whom are now liv ing, viz: Gertrude, wife of the subject, and Catherine, wife of H. Saalman, a prominent farmer and township trustee.

Mr. Windker, by his marriage to Miss Gertrude Lemartz, has had born to him eight children, viz: Elizabeth, wife of Barnett Dues, an enterprising farmer, who also runs a saw-mill and a threshing machine; Catherine, wife of John G. Vogades, a farmer; Henry and Gertrude, at home; Mary, living in Celina; Pauline, married William Dues, and died September 4, 1894, leaving one son, William; Harmon died young, and Annie is at home. The entire family are members of the Catholic church, and stand high in the estimation of all their neighbors and friends.

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JOSEPH WOLFE, a successful farmer and teacher of Dublin township, Mercer county, Ohio, was born in Van Wert county, March 28, 1858. He is a son of George and Mary Jane (Williams) Wolfe, a full sketch of the former of whom occurs in that part of this volume devoted to Van Wert county. Joseph Wolfe was reared on the farm and was educated in the common schools of Van Wert county. He taught one term of school, when he was twenty-one years of age, in Hoaglin township, and his second term in Elgin, Van Wert county. After completing this term of school he went to the Normal school at Ada, which he attended two terms, then taught two terms in Allen county, and from that time on he taught every year in Jennings township until he removed to Mercer county, in 1888. During vacation seasons he worked at home on the farm, and on November 24, 1886, he married Miss Florence Elizabeth Purdy, a daughter of Ephraim and Susan (Grey) Purdy. To this marriage there have been born two children, Mabel and Maud.

Mr. Wolfe's wife was born in Van Wert county, November 8, 1864, and there she was educated and lived until her marriage. Her father was an early settler in Van Wert county, having located there thirty-nine years ago, and still lives in that county. After his marriage the subject of this sketch located in Jennings township, where he lived until his removal to his present place, which he had purchased one year before. This farm he has improved, and at the same time has constantly been engaged in teaching school in the proper season, having taught his home school for four years last past. He taught one term in Black Creek township and two terms in Dublin township. He is looked upon as a leader among men and is progressive both as a farmer and as a teacher. He is a democrat in politics and has held the office of township clerk two terms. He carries on general farming and raises stock to some extent. Mr. Wolfe is one of the self-made, progressive, public-spirited citizens of Mercer county. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church, and is a most excellent woman, kind-hearted, and a good neighbor and warm-hearted friend.

* * *

WILLIAM NEWCOMB YOUNG, one of the most substantial farmers of Dublin township, Mercer county, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, December 16, 1826. He is a son of John and Hannah (Newcomb) Young, the former of whom was born in Delaware about 1800, and whose father, John Young, was of Irish descent, and was the second of three children: James, who was a fine carriage-maker of Brown county, Ohio; John, the father of the subject; and Catherine, now Mrs. Kiser of Brown county. The mother of these three children, Catherine Young, died, and the father then married Hannah Wilhelm, by whom he became the father of eight children, six sons and two daughters. About 1806 he removed to Clinton county, Ohio, bought a farm and there lived the rest of his life, and to see the fourth generation of his descendants gather around him. He was an old-line whig, a member of the church and a prominent citizen.

John Young, father of the subject, was reared in Clinton county, and, about 1825, married Hannah Newcomb, a daughter of William and Anna (Pangburn) Newcomb. To this marriage there were born the following children: William Newcomb, the subject of this sketch; Mary Elizabeth, wife of James H. Pierce, of Grant county, Ind.; Catherine, wife of Joseph Walker, of Illinois; John, who enlisted in company B, Fortieth Ohio volunteer infantry, served all through the war and died soon after its close from disease contracted in the service; Eleazer, a farmer of Clinton county; Ann, widow of Charles Summers, of Clinton county; James Levi, who enlisted in company B, Fortieth Ohio volunteer infantry, at the beginning of the war, was captured and taken to Libby prison, where he was confined ten months, was at last exchanged and taken to Saint Louis, where he died from the effects of starvation in Libby, weighing when released ninety-six pounds, as against 194 pounds when he was captured; Emeline, wife of Joseph Cox, of Adams county, Ohio; Rebecca, widow of Lewis Hobson, who died from disease contracted in the service; Hannah, wife of Frank Easter, of Adams county; Susan J., wife of Samuel Jones, of Grant county, Ind. Hannah Newcomb was born in Brown county, Ohio, in 1804. Her father, William Newcomb, was born in Pittsburg, in 1777, removed to Brown county, and thence emigrated to Clinton county, where he followed farming and teaching and also the calling of a preacher for the Methodist Episcopal church, and lived to be almost 100 years old. In the war of 1812 he served as a marine. In politics he was an old-line whig. John Young bought land in Clinton county and lived there the rest of his days, dying in 1865. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church, and both were active in its support. She died about 1880.

William N. Young was reared in Clinton county on the farm, and on December 10, 1848, married Mary E. Criswell, a daughter of John and Nancy (Rude) Criswell, and to their marriage there were born the following children: John, working in the glass factory at Marion, Ind.; George, of Paulding county; Sarah, wife of Lewis Nunery, of Saint Mary's, Ohio; Eleazer, died in infancy; Hannah Elizabeth, now Mrs. Jonas Gilbert, of Grant county, Ind.; Emma J., wife of David Black, of Hopewell township, Mercer county, Ohio; Charles, in glass works at Marion, Ind.; Rebecca Ann, wife of Alvin Secoy, of Paulding county, Ohio; Levi, on the home farm, and Laura B., wife of Edwin Felver, of Scott, Van Wert county, Ohio. Mary E. Criswell was born in Clinton county, Ohio, April 5, 1830. Her parents were both natives of Ohio, and her mother died when Mary E. was but seven years of age, she being in consequence reared outside the family. She had one brother, Abel, older than herself, and one sister, Margaret, younger, both deceased.

In 1849 Mr. Young removed from Clinton county to Randolph county, where he engaged in farming and worked in a mill until 1855, when he returned to Clinton county, and in 1865 removed to Mercer county, where the spring before he had purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he has lived ever since. Of this land there was not any portion cleared and he has since then cleared it up, improved it, and added to it until at the present time he has 125 acres of excellent land in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Young is considered one of the substantial citizens of the county. He is a democrat in politics, has held some of the local offices, such as member of the school board, and is strongly in favor of good schools. Both he and his wife are members of the Society of Friends, and well illustrate in their lives the tenets of that religious body, the principal one of practical value being peace on earth and good will to men. Mr. Young is one of the leaders in church work and holds the office of elder. For forty years he has been a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity, having first united with Stickney lodge at New Antioch. After removing to Mercer county he became one of the charter members of Rockford lodge, No. 790, I. O. O. F., and has held all the chairs. He is a general farmer and stock raiser, and in financial matters unusually successful, and is looked upon by all as a good and useful man.

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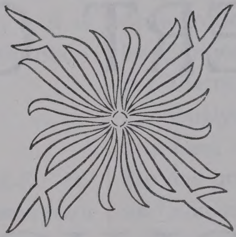
JOHN PATTERSON YOUNGER, ex-marshal of the city of Celina, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, April 13, 1851. He is a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Swift) Younger, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Fairfield county, Ohio. They were married in Muskingum county, Ohio, and removed to Mercer county in 1861, locating in Union township, where Mr. Younger followed farming until his death, which was caused, in 1876, by an accident he met with while loading logs. His wife's death preceded his, she dying in 1875. To them were born eight children, of whom six are living, and of the eight the subject of this sketch is the youngest.

John Patterson Younger was reared on his father's farm and secured a good common-school education. In 1885 he left the farm and purchased property in Celina, where he has since resided. In Celina he engaged in teaming and in various other occupations until April, 1894, when he was elected marshal of the city, a position which he held until April, 1896. Mr. Younger has always been a republican in politics, and was first a candidate for city marshal in 1892, but was then defeated. But in that election he received a great deal of encouragement, for he reduced the regular democratic majority of 200 down to forty-five, coming within that number of votes of election. For this reason he was again a candidate in 1894, when he succeeded in overcoming the democratic majority altogether, and was elected by a majority of 149. His administration of the affairs of the office of marshal has been eminently satisfactory, alike to political friends and foes, as well as to the public generally. He has proved to be a vigilant, painstaking and efficient guardian of the peace, using excellent judgment as well as due severity in the handling of violators of the law, for judgment is sometimes, if not always, as essential in a marshal as in a magistrate.

Mr. Younger was married July 4, 1876, to Miss Maggie Mosier, who was born in Mercer county, and is a daughter of John M. Mosier, of Jefferson township. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Younger there have been born five children, as follows: Thomas Jefferson, Frank Willshire, Perry LeRoy, Samuel and Leona. Mrs. Younger is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a man of energy, stability and courage.

# VAN WERT COUNTY

## OHIO.



# VAN WERT COUNTY.

JACOB F. ACKOM, of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Marion county, Ohio, April 29, 1841. His father, Peter Ackom, was born near Darmstadt, Germany, was a tailor by trade, and was a soldier in the German army, attaining the rank of captain. While in the army he married Margaret Rudle, who bore him seven children, six of whom are still living, viz: Jacob F., Mary, Catherine, Peter, Margaret and Elizabeth. In 1834 Mr. Ackom came to America and located in Marion county, Ohio, on fifty-one acres of land, which he sold in 1859, and then came to Van Wert county and bought 110 acres, of which eighty acres are in Harrison township and thirty acres in Pleasant township. This land he improved and cultivated until his death, which occurred in 1868, at the age of sixty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Ackom were members of the German Reform church, in which he was an elder, and in politics he was a democrat.

Jacob F. Ackom was about eighteen years of age when he came to Van Wert county with his father. May 15, 1862, he married Miss Rebecca Baxter, daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Suddeth) Baxter, who are both now deceased. He enlisted, first, in an independent company, state guards, and was mustered into the United States service at Camp Cleveland, Ohio, in May, 1864, for the term of 100 days, but served until honorably discharged in September, 1864, as commissary sergeant. On his return home he resumed his trade as carpenter, and for four years lived in Van Wert. He bought his present farm in 1870. It then comprised sixteen acres only, but he has since increased it to fifty-four acres, and improved it with substantial buildings, constructed with his own hands. In 1869, also, he engaged in the undertaking business, which he successfully conducted for sixteen years. He has also devoted considerable attention to the insurance business, and for two terms has been a director in the Farmers' Mutual Aid association of Van Wert county.

The union of Mr. Ackom with Rebecca Baxter has been blessed with four children, viz: Rosecranz S., John J. (who died at the age of two years), Nettie A. and Dora, wife of John Snyder, of Harrison township. The eldest, Rosecranz S., has been school-teacher for seven years. He married Eliza Pruden, who has borne him five children. Mr. and Mrs. Ackom are members of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Ackom is a republican. He is a member of Capper post, G. A. R., of Convoy, and for two terms held the position of quartermaster, and is also a member of the grange, of which he has served as master for four years. He and his devoted wife are greatly respected by the citizens of Harrison and adjoining townships, not only for their intelligence and morality, but for their patriotism, which was made manifest by the young wife when her newly-made husband volunteered to aid in the suppression of the Rebellion. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Ackom—Elias Suddeth—lived to the remarkable age of 113 years, dying in Harrison county, Ohio, and his eleven children also attained an extraordinary longevity.

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JOSEPH AGLER, the subject of this biography, is an enterprising farmer of Liberty township, and one of the substantial citizens of the community in which he resides, he is of German descent paternally, and from his mother he inherits the characteristics of the English. His great-grandfather came to America from England in colonial times, and settled in Pennsylvania, but afterward returned to the old country, where his death occurred. William Agler, grandfather of Joseph, was born in England, but early came to America, settling in one of the eastern states, where he was living at the breaking out of the war of the Revolution, in which struggle he took part, serving seven years. After remaining in Pennsylvania until his marriage with Miss Mary Fox, he immigrated to Stark county, Ohio, being one of the pioneers that led the van of civilization into that part of the Buckeye state. William Agler entered 160 acres of land, made a fine farm, and was one of the substantial men of the community which he assisted in founding; he and wife both died in the county of Stark.

Conrad Agler, son of William Agler and father of the subject of this biography, was a Pennsylvanian by birth and a farmer by occupation. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Wagner, daughter of Valentine Wagner, became the mother of the following children in the order named: Mary, Ann, Matilda, Katie, Valentine, William, Jane, John, Charlotte, Sarah, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Minerva. After a residence of a few years in Stark county, Conrad and Margaret Agler, about the year 1841, moved to the county of Van Wert, and purchased a farm in Liberty township. Mr. and Mrs. Agler were devout members of the Lutheran church and in politics he was an old-line whig.

Joseph Agler was born in Stark county, Ohio, August 1, 1835. He was reared to agriculture, has given his attention to the same all his life, and is now a prominent farmer of the township of Liberty, Van Wert county. His life has been one of great activity, and he has never known what it was to eat the bread of idleness. The improvements upon his place, all of which are in first-class condition, bespeak for its owner a thorough knowledge of farming, and he is a true believer in the dignity of his calling. Mr. Agler, was married October 17, 1856, to Susan Neiford, daughter of George and Mary (Swank) Neiford, and to this union the following children in the order named have been born; Conrad, died at the age of twenty-two; Charity, wife of George Johnson; Nancy, wife of Alonzo Smith; Willis, who married Ida Walters. The sons, Isaac and Frank, are also married, the former to Louisa Voltz and the latter to Ida F. Humrickhouse. The parents of Mrs. Agler were born and married in Pennsylvania, and in an early day moved to Stark county, Ohio, thence the county of Van Wert, where they resided until death parted them from this world for a better place. Mrs. Agler's parents were believers of the Dunkard church, of which they were members, and Mr. Neiford died leaving his wife in good surroundings, although the family of children consisted of twelve. There are eight of these living and four dead. The names of the dead sisters and brothers were Lydia, Samuel, Mahala and Johnnie; those that are living are James, who is married to Polly Wagers; Mary, to Jerry Swigart; Sallie, to Peter Putnam; Susan, to Joseph Agler, the subject of this sketch; Nancy, to David King; Elizabeth, to John Agler; William, to Maria Anders; George, to Libbie Roberts; Samuel was married to Polly Rush. In politics George Neiford, the father of Agler, was a democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Agler are glad to say they are the father and mother of seven children and grandparents of fifteen.

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JERRY AGLER, a prosperous young general merchant at Abanaka post-office, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born on his father's farm in Willshire township, April 8, 1860, and comes from a pioneer Buckeye family, his great-grandfather, Peter Agler, a native of Pennsylvania, having settled in Stark county, Ohio, in a very early day. Jeremiah Agler, a son of Peter, was also a native of the Keystone state, was still a young man when he came to Ohio with his parents and located in Stark county, where the later married Mrs. Mary Putnam, daughter of John and Betsey Putnam, also natives of Pennsylvania. In 1837, Jeremiah and his wife came to Van Wert county, which was then an unbounded wilderness, with but two or three cabins in Liberty township, where he settled and hewed out a farm from the wild woods, and became a citizen of considerable note and a hunter of great renown. He was a democrat in politics and served two terms as township trustee; in religion he believed with the United Brethren in Christ, and was a charter member of the congregation in Liberty township; his death took place in 1872, and his widow was eighty-two years old on the 14th day of February, 1895. Timothy Agler, son of Jeremiah and father of our subject, was born in Stark county, Ohio, March 3, 1834, and was reared on his father's farm. In September, 1864, he enlisted in company A, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865. His marriage took place February 8, 1855, with Elizabeth Brewer, daughter of Mathias Brewer, the result of the union being the following children: Jeremiah, Charles, Lillie, McCoy and Ira. After his marriage he settled on the farm now occupied by our subject, and here lost his wife November 25, 1893.

Jerry Agler, the subject proper of this sketch, was first married, in 1881, to Ida Moor, daughter of Isaac Moor, to which marriage one child—Roland—was born; the mother died May 29, 1883, and the second marriage of Mr. Agler took place September 18, 1885, with Cora Shaffer, daughter of L. B. and Elizabeth (King) Shaffer, of Liberty township, and this union has been blessed with three children, viz: Robby, Blanche and Carrie M. In 1886 Mr. Agler began in mercantile business at Abanaka, where he since carried on a most prosperous and remunerative trade, his stock, which has just been invoiced, amounting to over $2,400. He also owns a neat little farm of twenty-two acres in the township, and a pleasant village residence, all made through his own labor and industry. In politics Mr. Agler is a democrat, and in religion both he and wife worship with United Brethren in Christ.

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JOHN AIKEN, a well-known lumber dealer of Scott, Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Washington county, Pa., in 1830, and is a son of James Aiken, who was also a native of Washington county, and was born in 1801; the father of James, George Aiken, was born in Cork county, Ireland, and was reared a farmer; while still a young man he came to America, located in Pennsylvania, served in the war of 1812, and probably held a captain's commission. He lived through four score years, and died in Pennsylvania about the year 1840.

James Aiken was reared on the home farm in Pennsylvania, and was also instructed in the trade of carpentry, following the latter chiefly for a livelihood. About the year 1827 he married Miss Jane Scott, who was born in Washington county, Pa., in 1805, and was a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Mullen) Scott, this marriage resulting in the birth of the following children, beside John, our subject: Elizabeth, deceased wife of Samuel Kilbreth, of Washington county, Ohio; Martha, deceased wife of Henry Spence, of Jefferson county; Jane, wife of John Roberts, of Harrison county; Robert and James, both farmers of Jefferson county; Benton, a soldier, deceased; Josiah, deceased; Alexander, who died from a wound received in the late war, and Coe, who was killed in a railroad accident.

Robert Scott, father of Mrs. Jane Aiken, was also a native of Pennsylvania, of Scotch ancestry, was a farmer and was an early pioneer of Carroll county, Ohio, where he died in 1833. Mrs. Elizabeth (Mullen) Scott was also of Scottish descent and a native of the Keystone state. Mrs. Jane Aiken, a strict member of the Presbyterian church, died in 1863, in Jefferson county, Ohio, whither she had come with husband shortly after marriage. James Aiken was a strong advocate of the principles of the democratic party, was a pioneer of Jefferson county, Ohio, where he became quite prominent, and died in 1883, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which he had been a life-long member.

John Aiken, our subject, was reared in Jefferson county, Ohio, and there learned the trade of wagon-making. In 1851 he married Miss Martha J. Trainer, a native of Lancaster county and born in 1828—a daughter of John and Esther (Holmes) Trainer. To this union were born the following children: Ida, now Mrs. Edward Shefler, of Rush county, Ind.; James, a farmer of Allen county, Ind.; Martha J., wife of Wallace Beard, residing near Fort Wayne, Ind.; Mary J., married to Erastus Wilson, of Huntington county, Ind.; Annie, wife of Eli Larimer, of Fort Wayne; Edwin, in the saw-mill and lumber business at Scott, Ohio, and John H., Jr., an attorney at Fort Wayne, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Trainer, parents of Mrs. Aiken, were born near the city of Cork, Ireland, and came to America in 1823, locating on a farm in Lancaster county, Pa., whence, about 1835, they came to Ohio and first located in Jefferson county, whence they moved to Allen county, Ind., where the mother died in 1881 and the father in 1884. Their children were named as follows: William, deceased; Mary, deceased wife of John McClave, of Indiana; John, attorney of Steubenville, Ohio; Nancy, deceased wife of Abner Kelsey; Robert, deceased, and Mrs Aiken.

At the breaking out of the Civil war, our subject gave up his trade and purchased a farm in Allen county, Ind., near Fort Wayne, and for twenty-eight years, was prominently identified with the agricultural and other interests of that county. In 1890 he disposed of his property in Indiana and came to Scott, Van Wert county, Ohio, engaged in the lumber business in company with his son Edwin, and has since been doing an active and prosperous trade. In religion Mr. Aiken is a pious and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee and to the support of which he freely contributes of his means; he is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is, beside, town treasurer. He is an upright gentleman, whose integrity no one has ever disputed, and has the entire confidence and respect of his neighbors as a successful and pious man and useful citizen.

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WILLIAM ALBRIGHT, a well-known and prominent farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is descended from Dutch ancestors, his grandfather, Henry Albright, having emigrated from Holland to the United States a number of years prior to the beginning of the present century. Henry Albright was born in 1758, became a resident of the new world when a young man, settling in Pennsylvania, of which state he was a pioneer; his death occurred in 1811. John Albright, son of the above, and father of the subject, was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., in 1792, grew to manhood in his native state and at the age of nineteen entered the army and served with credit in the war of 1812. He held a captain's commission while in the army and for services rendered subsequently received from the government a land grant, which he afterward laid in Wells county, Ind., and Van Wert county, Ohio.

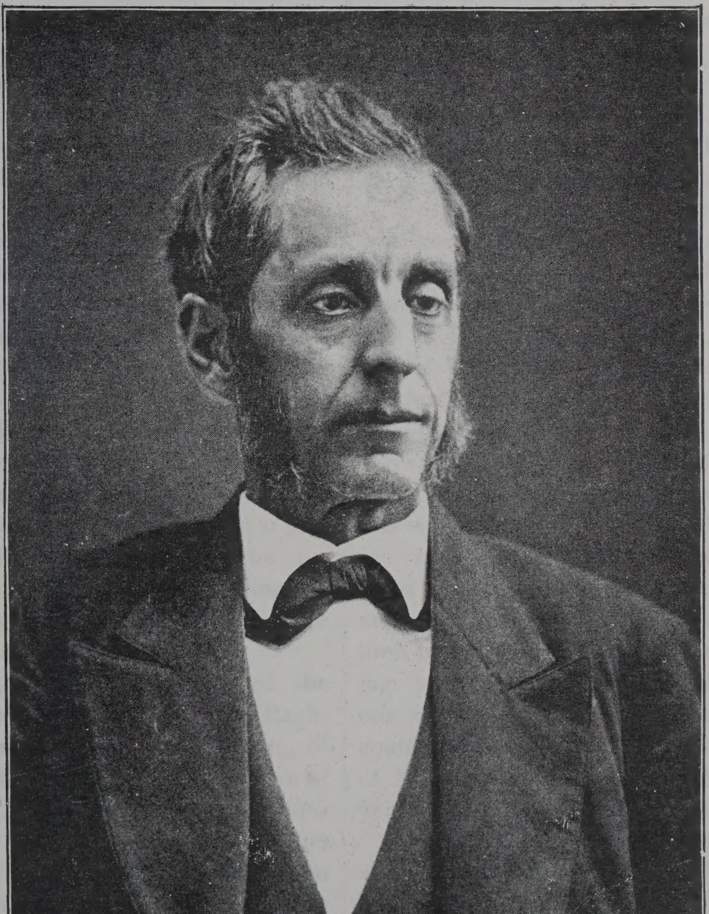
In 1859 John Albright disposed of his interest in Fairfield county, to which part of Ohio he moved about the year 1814 in company with a younger brother and sister, and came to the county of Van Wert, where he purchased a large tract of unimproved land. Many years previously he had become proficient as a veterinary surgeon, and after locating in Van Wert county followed that profession in connection with farming. He was quite successful in his business enterprises and accumulated a comfortable competence, the greater part of which consisted of real estate, which afterward increased greatly in value. He married, in 1818, Hannah, daughter of Adam Wagoner of Fairfield county, who bore him the following children in the order named: Jacob, John, George, Henry, Lena, Daniel, Isaac and Samuel. Mrs. Albright died in 1836, and later Mr. Albright entered into the marriage relation with Eliza, daughter of Daniel and Hannah Gearheart, to which union were born five children, namely: Eli, Mrs. Catherine Spencer, William, Mrs. Victorine Baltzell and Josiah S. Mrs. Hannah Albright was born about the year 1806, in Fairfield county, where her parents settled in an early day, moving there from Maryland. She was a member of the German Reform church and departed this life on the 5th day of March, 1873. Mr. Albright was also a member of the same denomination and gave liberally of his means to the support of the church and to all other causes tending to advance the moral well-being of the community. A commendable trait of Mr. Albright was his benevolence, and no one in need of assistance ever applied to him in vain. In politics he was an old-line whig, and later a republican. This excellent man was accidentally killed by the falling of a tree in January, 1861.

William Albright, whose name introduces this sketch, is a native of Ohio, born in the county of Fairfield in 1840, being the second son of John and Eliza (Gearheart) Albright, above mentioned. In his boyhood years he attended at intervals such schools as the country at that time afforded, and at the age of seventeen accompanied his parents to Van Wert county, where he assisted his father in clearing the farm and fitting the soil for cultivation. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, to which he has always given his attention, and in which his success has indeed been encouraging, he being at this time the owner of a good farm and a comfortable share of this world's goods. In 1863, in Van Wert county, Mr. Albright was united in marriage with

Martha J. Rowland, daughter of John and Ann (Marshall) Rowland—the parents early settlers of this part of the state. To Mr. and Mrs. Albright have been born the following children: Magdalene, Irene, deceased; Lovell, Victorine, deceased; William L., Ferre, Hattie and Charles. Mrs. Albright was born in Van Wert county, September 2, 1845; her father is a native of the county of Harrison, Ohio, born in the year of 1811, became a resident of the county of Van Wert in 1837, and resided here until 1869, at which time he emigrated to Kansas, where he still lives. Mr. Albright is a practical and successful farmer, a useful citizen of the community, and enjoys the respect of his fellow-man. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and stands high in the local lodge to which he belongs.

SIMEON SWINEFORD.—The record of a busy life, a successful life, must ever prove fecund in interest and profit as scanned by the student who would learn of the intrinsic essence of individuality, who would attempt an analysis of character and trace back to the fountain-head the widely diverging channels which mark the onward flow, the constantly augmentive process, if we may be permitted the phrase, of such individuality. All human achievements, all human weal or woe—in short, all things within the mental ken—are but mirrored back from the composite individuality of those who have lived. "The proper study of mankind is man," said Pope, and aside from this, in its broader sense, what base of study and information have we? In entering a memoir to one who has played well his part in life and who has ended his earthly career with a full quota of honors and tangible rewards does biography exercise its highest function, and in this connection we may well take satisfaction in adverting to the life history of this honored pioneer of the city of Van Wert.

The subject of this review was one of the best known and most prominent business men of Van Wert for a course of many years, having been intimately concerned in all that concerned the development and material prosperity of the community and having here conducted a mercantile enterprise which was representative in that line of industry. He was born in Snyder county, Pa., July 10, 1819, securing a common-school education, and in his youth being apprenticed to learn the trade of chair-making, to which he devoted his attention for a number of years in his native state. In 1839 he removed to Ashland county, Ohio, and there engaged in the business of his trade, continuing in this line of enterprise, at this point, for five years. He then located at Ashland, in Crawford county, where he secured employment as a salesman in a dry-goods store, retaining this incumbency for seven years. The year of 1852 represents the date of our subject's advent in Van Wert, and upon his arrival here he became associated with the industrial activities of the place by engaging in the chair and furniture business, in which he continued for some time, and then entered the employ of Judge A. W. Baker, with whom he remained, in a clerical capacity, until he formed a partnership with Alonzo Conant, in the mercantile business, which association continued for a number of years, after which Mr. Swineford engaged in business for himelf. Locating at the corner of Main and Washington streets, he there engaged in the grocery business and continued this enterprise most successfully for a long period of years and until the time of his death, securing a representative patronage and retaining the confidence and good will of the entire community. He was a man of scrupulous honor and integrity, was careful and conservative in his business methods, and was



S Swineford

animated by a broad spirit of humanity and charity. Distinctly individual and with strong and well defined convictions, he never swerved from the strict path of that which he considered his duty, but against him there has never been charged an unkindly deed or a disregard of the rights of others. When this honored pioneer was summoned into the life eternal, on November 30, 1874, the community mourned the loss of a valuable citizen, and an honest and noble man. To him came a full measure of success in the material affairs of life, and this none could be begrudging. He was one of the original stockholders of the First National bank of Van Wert, and for many years served as a member of its board of directors, and as vice-president.

In political adherency, Mr. Swineford was an uncompromising republican, but the extraction of his active business affairs rendered it inexpedient for him to aspire to political preferment, though it must be said that he ever manifested a signal reluctance to securing notoriety in any way, and had no desire to become a candidate for public office.

December 22, 1840, was solemnized the marriage of the honored subject to Miss Rachael Clayburg, daughter of Isaac Clayburg, of Ashland, Ohio, he having been a native of York county, Pa. Mrs. Swineford was born in that county of the old Keystone state and accompanied her father on his emigration to Ashland county, Ohio, where Mr. Clayburg attained prestige as one of the pioneer settlers and most honored citizens of that section. Mr. Mr. and Mrs. Swineford became the parents of five children, viz: Benjamin C.; Lawrence R.; Mary A.; wife of Orlando D. Swartout, of Van Wert, and Charles M., whose death occurred in infancy, and Henry, deceased. Mrs. Swineford survives her husband and lives to hold in perpetual regard and honor the memory of the one whose name she bears and who represented in his domestic life the truest virtues and the utmost devotion to those who placed dependence upon him. High upon the scroll of the honored pioneers of Van Wert will ever be inscribed the name of Simeon Swineford.

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JOHN C. ALBRIGHT, one of the wealthiest and most influential farmers of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a veteran of the late Civil war, is a son of Solomon and Margaret (Cramer) Albright, and was born in Marion county, Ohio, in 1842. Solomon was a native of Schuylkill county, Pa., born in 1809, and a boy when he came to Ohio with a brother, on whose farm in Fairfield county they lived until 1836, when he entered eighty acres and lived thereon until 1870, then sold and purchased his present farm, adjoining. His wife was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1815, a daughter of Benjamin and Margaret Cramer, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and they were married in 1834, eleven children being the result, of whom six are still living, viz: Henry H., of Michigan; John C., our subject; William and Silas, of Paulding county, Ohio; Samuel, farmer and stock raiser of Morrow county, Ohio, and Amanda, wife of James Wescott, of Marion county, Ohio.

John C. Albright was reared a farmer, and after four years of farming on his own account in Marion county came to Union township, Van Wert county, and purchased eighty acres of land, to which he has since added eighty acres, and has also bought eighty acres in Paulding county, adjoining; his home place is now one of the finest in the county, having 3,000 rods of tile drainage. December 9, 1861, Mr. Albright enlisted in company D, Eighty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. John S. Riggs, and was mustered into service at Kenton, Ohio, December 31, 1861, under James Cantwell. They left Kenton January 25, 1862, and the next day crossed the Ohio river and camped, on the 27th, at Grafton, West Va.; March 18, they left by rail, and on the 19th marched to Pittsburg and Franklin; April 10 they fought the battle of McDowell, returned to Franklin and skirmished with the enemy on the 12th. May 25, they joined Fremont's expedition through the Shenandoah valley and skirmished with Jackson's forces near Strasburg; June 1, marched through the place, thence to Woodstock and to Mount Jackson, and on the 4th reached Harrisburg; June 8 they went to Cross Keys, on the 9th fought the battle of Port Republic; on the 10th reached Harrisburg, and the 11th New Market, thence to Perryville. August 8th they went to Culpeper and fought under Gen. Sigel; from 7th to 12th went by Port Royal and Luray to Robinson's Ferry; 13th and 14th, marched to Rapahannock Station, where they took part in that battle; September 19th camped at Arlington Heights, and the 25th at Fairfax C. H.; November 5th, at Gainsville, and the 18th returned to Fairfax C. H.; thence went to Junction and Leesburg and Edwards' Ferry, and crossed the Potomac; January 25th, the following year, they went to Emmettsburg, Md., and July 1-3 participated in the battle of Gettysburg; September 29, reached Bridgeport, Ala.; October 1, reached Wauhatchie; thence marched to Missionary Ridge, when a battle was fought. November 29, was at Knoxville, Tenn.; thence went to Lookout Mountain; January 10, 1864, he started home on a furlough as a veteran, and reached Columbus, Ohio, January 21; February 26, returned to the field, reaching Bridgeport, Ala., March 3; from there went to Chattanooga, where a battle was fought; thence to Chickamauga, Resaca, Dalton, Peach Tree Creek, New Hope, Lost and Kenesaw Mountains, Atlanta and Savanah; from there crossed to South Carolina, thence to Bentonville, N. C., where their last battle was fought. Mr. Albright was wounded in the foot at the battle of Bull Run and again in the side at the battle of Gettysburg. While in Virginia he was captured, but released by his comrades in a few minutes. His marches covered a distance of 4,000 miles. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, August 1, 1865; and now receives a pension of $6 per month.

The marriage of Mr. Albright took place in 1872, to Miss Mary E. Shafer, daughter of Jacob H. and Hester A. (Cupp) Shafer, from an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family. No children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Albright, but they have adopted two—J. W. Holden and Myrtle B. Loffer. In politics Mr. Albright is a republican, and takes an active part in the success of his party. He is progressive in every department of citizenship and renowned for his practical benevolence, and holds the respect of his fellow-citizens to the fullest extent.

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HARRISON L. ALLEN, who has carried on a prosperous farm of 120 acres in Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, since 1880, was born in Erie county, Ohio, December 27, 1841. His grandfather, Samuel Allen, was of Scotch descent, was born in Connecticut, was reared a farmer, and on reaching man's estate settled near Oriskany Falls, Oneida county, N. Y., wnere his son Ransom Allen, the father of our subject, was born December 17, 1813. Ransom Allen there married Laura Reynor, moved to Erie county, Ohio, and was there engaged in farming until his death, which took place in January, 1877, his wife dying October 19, the following year.

Harrison L. Allen was born and reared in Erie county, Ohio, where he attended Milan Normal college, after which he taught school two years. April 19, 1861, he enlisted in company E, Seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, and saw service in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. At Cedar Mountain he sustained a severe flesh wound in his nether left limb, and at Chancellorsville was captured, but was soon exchanged. In the fight at Ringgold, Ga., Mr. Allen, with his regiment, took a most gallant part, thirteen out of fourteen of the officers being killed or wounded, and the slaughter of privates being in proportion. Mr. Allen was also in all the main battles of the famous Atlanta campaign, and was honorably discharged July 6, 1864. Mr. Allen found an opportunity, however, during the civil struggle, to get married, which important event took place October 17, 1863, in Erie county, Ohio, to Statira Quayle, daughter of John and Cordelia (Hollister) Quayle. Mr. Quayle was a shoemaker by trade, had long been identified with the interests of Erie county, Ohio, and on his farm his death took place in March, 1876. On this property, however, his widow still resides. He was a leading Methodist and in politics was a republican. The family of John and Cordelia (Hollister) Quayle consisted of the following children, named in order of birth: William, Ashley (deceased) Cecilia, Catherine, Sophronia, Statira, John, Charles, Francis and James, the last three deceased.

For the first four years after their marriage Mr. and Mr. Allen lived in Iroquois county, Ill., whence they returned to Erie county, Ohio, and then, in 1880, came to Van Wert county and took possession of their present farm, which has since been improved by a farm dwelling and a substantial barn. In politics Mr. Allen is a stanch republican, and in 1884 was elected a county commissioner of Van Wert and gave every satisfaction in the preformance of the duties of the office; in 1888 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the same position. Mr. Allen is an honored member of the G.A.R and he and wife are devout members of th Methodist church. The children born to Mr and Mrs. Allen are named Tad E., Earnes R., Frank and Kittie M.—Earnest R. being successful school-teacher.

FRANCIS M. ALLEN, a successfu farmer and well known citizen c Pleasant township, Van Wert county is a son of Joseph and Nancy J Allen, natives of Perry county, Ohio. Th father was born May 7, 1823, and was descended from an old English family, representatives of which settled in Virginia in an earl day, and also in Kentucky, of one or the othe of which states the subject's grandfather wa a native. Grandfather Allen spent his earl life in Virginia, and about 1820 emigrated t Ohio, settling in Perry county, where he followed the occupation of farming, and wher he also spent the remainder of his days. H married in Virginia and reared a family of si children, whose names are as follows: George James, Joseph, Sarah, Betsy and Eliza.

Joseph Allen, father of Francis M., wa reared and educated in Perry county, wher early in life, he selected agricultural pursuit as his occupation. He was united in marriag in March, 1844, to Nancy J. Stultz, daughte of David and Mary (Philson) Stultz, who bor him the following children: Nathaniel S. c Portland, Ore.; Francis M. whose name appears at the head of this sketch; Greenbur W., an attorney of Portland, Ore.; Lydia A died in childhood; Mary M. and William F who, at this time, lives on the old home far After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Allen live two years in Perry county, and in 1846 move to the county of Allen, locating on a far which he had previously purchased. It is fact worthy of note that Mr. Allen made h first trip to his purchase in Allen county on foot, and erected a small cabin in a dense forest for the reception of his young family, which came later. Mr. Allen was a man of great industry, developed a good farm, and was identified with the agricultural interests of Allen county for a period of eighteen years. Desiring more territory for his increasing family, Mr. Allen, in 1863, sold his farm and moved to the county of Van Wert and purchased a tract of land in Pleasant township, all but a few acres of which was at that time covered with a native forest. He cleared and improved this place until it ranked among the best cultivated farms in Pleasant township, or Van Wert county, and by successful management succeeded in accumulating a reasonable amount of this world's goods. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to the success of which he contributed liberally of his means, and no man in the community stood higher is the estimation of the people than he. His death, which occurred in December, 1891, was a loss not only to his family and immediate friends, but to the community in which he resided as well.

Mrs. Nancy J. Allen was born February 10, 1825, of Dutch-English ancestry, her parents being among the earliest pioneers of Perry county. She was left an orphan at the age of ten years, and afterward made her home with an uncle, George Stultz, until her marriage at the date above mentioned. She is still living, having reached the alloted age of three-score and ten years, possesses, in a reasonable degree, her faculties physical and mental, and makes her home with her son on the old homestead in Pleasant township. She is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has been for many years, and her daily life exemplifies the religion which she professes.

Francis M. Allen, second son of Joseph and Nancy J. Allen, is a native of Allen county, Ohio, and dates his birth from January 28, 1848. Like that of the majority of farmer boys his early life was uneventful, and he grew to manhood, assisting his father, and attending in the meantime the common schools of his neighborhood. On attaining his majority, he selected agriculture for his occupation and has followed the same with success and financial profit ever since. In October, 1869, he was united in marriage with Mary L. Troup, daughter of Philip and Sarah (Balyeat) Troup, of Van Wert. Mrs. Allen was born September 24, 1851, in Richland county, Ohio, was a true helpmate to her husband, a consistent member of the Baptist church, and died in October, 1875. She was the mother of three children, viz: Ida V., wife Aaron Smith, of Union township; Harriet A., deceased; and Orlin F. Mr. Allen's second marriage was solemnized, in 1886, with Eliza J. Balyeat, daughter of Aaron and Martha (Larue) Balyeat, the union being blessed with the birth of four children: Lawrence Russell, Francis Larue, Harry Earl, and Marietta. The mother of these children was born in Van Wert county, May 23, 1851. (See sketch of Balyeat family.)

In 1876, Mr. Allen purchased his present beautiful home two miles west of the city of Van Wert, where he is living the life of a successful and progressive farmer. He takes an active interest in all that pertains to the welfare of his community, and it is a compliment well deserved to class him with the representative men of the county of Van Wert. Mrs. Allen is an active member of the Baptist church, and with her husband belongs to Pleasant grange, No. 399.

William F. Allen, also a son of Joseph and Nancy J. Allen, was born in Allen county, Ohio, in November, 1860, and received his education in the common schools of the county of Van Wert, which he attended at intervals during the years of his minority. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, has always followed the farmer's vocation, and now resides on the old homestead, which he cultivates, looking after the interest of his mother in her old age. In March, 1881, he married Harriet Sidel, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Juven) Sidel, and his home is brightened by the presence of three children, Claud W., Perry J. J. and Margaret J. Mrs. Allen was born September 24, 1862, in Fairfield county, Ohio.

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RICHARD ALLINGHAM, Jr., a well-known contractor and builder of Van Wert, was born in Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, January 26, 1854. His parents, Richard and Anna (Knight) Allingham, were born in Kent, England, the former of May 15, 1808, and the latter in 1812. They were married in 1830, and came to America in 1840, locating in Lancaster, Ohio, and became the parents of twelve children, all of whom are now deceased, with the exception of our subject, and Frank, a brickmason of Van Wert. Richard, the father, was a nurseryman, and as such was an assistant at Lancaster until 1860, when he moved to Campbell county, Ky., where he was employed in his calling until 1881, when he had the misfortune to lose his eyesight, and made his home with his sons in Van Wert until death, September 15, 1895. In religion he was a Presbyterian, and in politics a republican.

Richard Allingham, Jr., was six years old when the family went to Kentucky, where he was reared until he reached the age of seventeen, when he went to Toledo, Ohio, where, for some time, he worked as a brickmason; later he worked at his trade in Defiance, Ohio, and at Portland and at Fort Wayne, Ind. In June, 1874, he came to Van Wert, and here he has since been engaged at his trade and in successfully contracting and building until the present time. August 3, 1882, he married, in Van Wert, Miss Sarah O'Day, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, June 4, 1858, and is a daughter of James and Nancy (Beatty) O'Day, also natives of this state. The fruit of this union has been five children, viz: William (deceased), Maud, Earl, Richard and Hugh L. Mr. Allingham has made himself very popular since his residence in Van Wert, has built up a good trade, and as a republican has been elected a member of the city council, in which office he is now serving his third term. He is an active member of the Abenaki tribe, No. 77, Improved Order of Red Men, and in religion he and wife are consistent and devoted members of the Lutheran church. He owns a neat residence at the corner of Walnut and First streets, and he and family are held in high regard by their neighbors, as well as by the community at large.

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WILLIAM ALSPACH, one of the well-known citizens and farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, living two miles west from Delphos, in section No. 22, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Marion township, Allen county, June 13, 1851. His parents were Elias and Mary M. (Palmer) Alspach, both natives of America, the father having been born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and the mother in Berkeley county, Virginia. Sebastian Alspach, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was an early settler of Ohio. Elias and Mary M. Alspach were married in Perry county, Ohio, and then came to Allen county, and located in Marion township, about one mile from Delphos. In August, 1851, he moved to Washington township, Van Wert county, where he purchased a quarter of a section of land, the same being the place where our subject now lives, and here lived and followed farming until his death which occurred December 24, 1884, in his sixty-sixth year. His widow is still living, and makes her home with our subject. To these parents eight children have been born, all of whom are now living except next to the eldest. The children were named as follows: Sebastian, now a citizen of Lima; Christian, deceased; Charles, farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county; Christiana, now the wife of G. H. Mallon, of Chicago; Serepta, now the wife of D. S. Carpenter, a farmer of Washington township; William; Mary E., wife of Louis Irick, of Delphos; Lucy, the wife of A. E. Klinger, of Wood county, Ohio.

William Alspach was reared on the farm in Washington township, attended the district schools, and secured a good education. He remained on the home farm until about a year before his father died, and then moved on fifty acres he had purchased, which adjoined the old farm. After his father's death the homestead was sold and our subject bought it in, and then moved back upon it and has since resided there and followed farming. He now owns a fine farm of 157 acres in section No. 22, all under fence and all improved.

Mr. Alspach was first married in 1875 to Mary Clark, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Emanuel Clark. To this union four children were born, as follows: Valerie, Thomas, Earnest, and Fredick. His first wife died February 26, 1887, and he next married, November 28, 1888, Mrs. Ella Seitz, to which union two children have been born—Marion and Loren. Mr. Alspach has been a leading citizen of this township, and has been quite active. He was for some time engaged in the saw-mill and stone-quarry business, but has sold out his interests. He is a member of the democratic party, and for four years served as trustee of Washington township, making an able officer.

DANIEL ALSPACH, deceased, paternal grandfather of Jeremiah J. and Oliver O. Alspach, was born in Berks county, Pa., May 15, 1792, and was of German uarentage. At the age of ten years he was brought to Ohio by his parents, who located in Fairfield county, and there he learned the carpenter's trade. December 20, 1814, he married Miss Elizabeth Runkle, who was born in Rockingham county, Va., January 11, 1797, of Virginia parentage, but of German descent. Elizabeth was also brought, when young, to Fairfield county, Ohio, by her parents. To the union of Daniel and Elizabeth were born fourteen children in the following order: Elizabeth, died in infancy; Amos, a retired farmer of Wells connty, Ind.; Jesse, deceased; Abraham B., an old settler of Van Wert county, Ohio; Nancy, widow of Jacob Richmond, of Perry county; Christine, deceased; Moses, deceased; Jeremiah, farmer, of Licking county; Henry K., farmer of Perry county; DeLeslie, who died in infancy, Samuel, farmer of Perry county; Joel, Reform minister, of Illinois; Sophia, wife of John Castanian, farmer of Wyandot county, and Daniel, who died in infancy. After his marriage Daniel Alspach settled in Jefferson township, Fairfield county, where he followed his trade as carpenter until 1825, when he bought a farm, which he cleared up from the woods and resided on for five years; in 1830 he sold and moved to Perry county, where he bought another farm, and on this he made his home until his death, which occurred April 5, 1839; his widow survived until June 21, 1878, and both were consistent members of the Reform church.

Abraham B. Alspach, one of the old settlers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, and a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Alpach, was born August 28, 1820, in Bloom township, Fairfield county, was reared in Perry county, and Jnne 4, 1846, married Eliza Biemer, a native of the county and of German descent. To this union were born six children, viz: Mary, who died in infancy; Arlo, who died of diphtheria at the age of six years; Clara E., widow of Edward Long and now the wife of John McDonald, a miller of Fairfield county; Viola, wife of William Neel, of Perry county; Mary Eliza, wife of Henry McDonald, a miller of Van Wert, and Daniel H., a farmer of Van Wert county. After his marriage, Abraham B. Alspach farmed until 1883, when he came to Van Wert county and bought his present home. Here his wife died January 6, 1885, and in March of the same year Mr. Alspach married Mrs. Phebe C. (DeCamp) Melchi, daughter of John and Lydia C. (Williams) DeCamp, natives of New Jersey and of French descent. Mrs. Phebe C. Alspach was born in Van Wert county December 2, 1844, and became the mother of three children by her first husband—Frances, Charles and John; and of two children by Mr. Alspach—Abraham Guy, now nine years old, and Bessie Caroline, aged seven years.

HENRY ALTHOEN, the leading hardware merchant of Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 2, 1839, a son of Philip and Lucetta (Morvilius) Althoen. Philip Althoen, also a native of Bavaria, was a tailor by trade, and carried on an extensive business in his own country. There were born to his marriage two children, Henry and Philipena, of whom the eldest is our subject. The mother died in her native land, but her father, who had previously crossed the ocean alone for the purpose of selecting a home in the United States for him and family, was seized with yellow fever and died near New Orleans. Both parents were devoved adherents of the Lutheran church.

Henry Althoen, subject of this sketch, attended school in his native country until seventeen years of age, when he came to America, and until 1865 labored as a mechanic and conducted an undertaking business for the purpose of accumulating sufficient money with which to begin his present extensive enterprise, which he established in 1873. He now owns a large brick store-building in Willshire, supplied with one of the largest and most complete lines of hardware in the county; in addition to this store, he has two large warehouses, filled with wagons and agriculture implements, as diversified and complete as his hardware stock. The marriage of Mr. Althoen took place, June 29, 1866, to Miss Anna E., daughter of Philip Hill, and to this marriage have been born the following children: Lucetta, Otto and Carl, all deceased; Annie, Minnie, Edward (deceased), Loretta M. and Freddie. In politics Mr. Althoen is strongly democratic. He is now filling his second term as township treasurer, has been a councilman fifteen years, and has filled a number of minor offices. He is liberal in his religious views, while his wife is a consistent member of the Baptist church, which, as well as the other churches, is freely aided by Mr. Althoen in a pecuniary way. Fraternally, Mr. Althoen is a member of lodge No. 43, A. F. & A. M., and also of the Willshire lodge of the I. O. O. F. His residence is one of the handsomest two-story brick dwellings in Willshire, and his surroundings, social and domestic, are all that man can desire. Mr. Althoen is indeed the "architect of his own fortune," as he was alone and penniless when reaching Cincinnati on his first coming to this country, and his wealth, now summing up to

$50,000, has all been gained through the exercises of his own sound judgment, and the practice of industry and economy. He is public-spirited and liberal in all things—especially in his contributions to all projects conceived and designed for the advancement of the township and county. As a friend of education he is earnest and sincere, and has seen to it that the members of his own family have had the benefits of all the advantages for instruction available.

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OLIVER O. ALSPACH, manager of John H. Kauke's extensive hardware store, on the northeast corner of Main and Washington streets, Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Perry county, Ohio, was born November 24, 1857, and is a son of Jesse and Eva (Long) Alspach. The father, Jesse Alspach, son of Daniel Alspach, was also a native of Perry county, born in 1813, was a farmer, and died in Thorn township, Perry county, in 1863, the father of five children, viz: Benjamin, Elizabeth, Jeremiah, Allen and Oliver O. The mother of these children died in May, 1874, a member of the German Reform church, to which her husband also belonged.

Oliver O. Alspach remained on the home farm and attended the schools of the county until 1877, and then passed two years in Delaware college; returning to Perry county, he was employed as a clerk in a hardware store in Thornville until June, 1887, when he went to Lima, Ohio, and clerked in the hardware store of W. K. Boone & Co. until February 6, 1888, and then came to Van Wert, and for one year was manager for the J. H. Kauke Hardware company; he then served as clerk and book-keeper until the spring of 1892, when he resumed the position of manager of the business, which covers about $40,000 per annum. The salesroom and warehouse comprise three floors, and the stock consists chiefly of builders' and other heavy hardware, cutlery and glass, and is handled by four salesmen and our subject.

The marriage of Mr. Alspach took place in Perry county, Ohio, October 17, 1882, to Miss Sarah C. Rissler, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born September 18, 1864, and a daughter of Thomas J. and Melissa (Martin) Rissler, the fruit of this union being one child—Jesse Raymond—born August 12, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Alspach are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he is a democrat, and fraternally is a commandery Mason. He is also president of the Fraternal Building & Loan association, has charge of a fine farm of 120 acres in Ridge township, and also of the Kauke mansion, and he has in every respect shown himself to be worthy of the confidence reposed in him.

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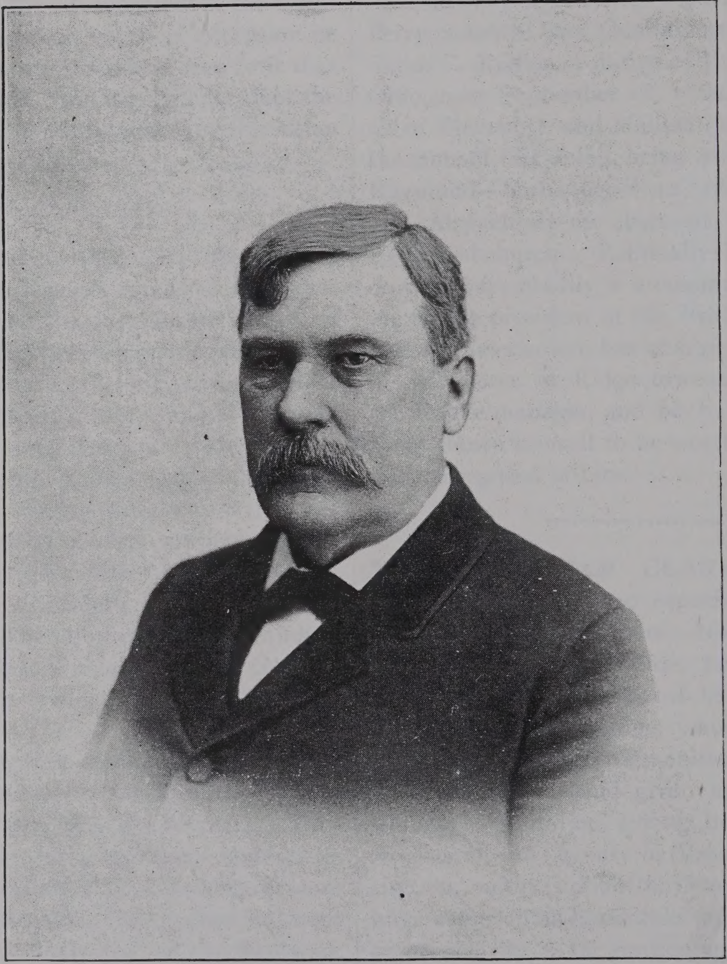
HON. HIRAM CLARK GLENN.—Ohio has been especially honored in her public men. Not only is this true of the state, but it is a fact worthy of note that each of her several counties has produced citizens whose names have added honor to the communities in which they lived and moved, and given additional luster to Ohio's reputation among her sister states. To this rule the county of Van Wert is no exception, and it is doubtful if any of her citizens have achieved as honorable mention, in public or private life, as the gentleman, a brief epitome of whose life is herewith presented.

Judge Hiram Clark Glenn is descended paternally from Irish ancestry and traces the family history back through several generations to the old country, from which, in an early day, his grandparents, Thomas and Nancy Glenn, emigrated to the United States, settling,



Glenn

GEORGIANA C. GLENN.

during the latter part of the seventeenth century, in Washington county, Pa. Subsequently, about 1805, the family moved further west, locating in Jefferson county, Ohio, where Thomas Glenn purchased land and engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, which vocation he followed until his death, which occurred in the year 1852. He served with distinction in the war of 1812, in the capacity of major, and a son, John Glenn, also participated in the same struggle, both taking an active part in several campaigns. Politically, Thomas Glenn was an ardent whig, and the Presbyterian church represented his religious creed, with which denomination his wife was also identified. To Thomas and Nancy Glenn were born seven children, whose names are as follows: John, Alexander, James, William, Clark, Nancy and Rebecca, only one of whom, Clark, a farmer, of Knox county, Ill., is living at this time.

William Glenn, the judge's father, grew to manhood in Jefferson county, Ohio, attended the pioneer schools of the neighborhood at intervals during his minority, and remained under the parental roof until his twenty-first year, assisting his father on the farm in the meantime. In 1831, he was united in marriage with Priscilla Biddison, daughter of Philip Biddison, of Ohio, and immediately thereafter engaged in farming in Jefferson county, where he continued to reside until his removal, in 1837, to the county of Tuscarawas, locating not far from the town of Lockport. Subsequently, February, 1839, he became a citizen of Van Wert county, settling first in Harrison township and later, about 1847, moved to a place at this time occupied by a part of the city of Van Wert, where he resided until becoming a resident of the city in 1850.

William Glenn was a man of excellent reputation, possessed, in a marked degree, the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, and left as a heritage to his family a name against which not the slightest breath of suspicion was ever uttered. His death occurred in Van Wert May 18, 1856; his faithful companion survived him a number of years, departing this life on the 24th day of January, 1892. The following are the names of their children: Philip B., killed April 6, 1862, in the battle of Shiloh; Rebecca J., deceased; Hiram C., and Edith P., who died in 1865.

Hiram Clark Glenn was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 8, 1838, and when only four months old was brought by his parents to Van Wert county. His early literary education embraced the branches taught in the public schools of Van Wert, in which he made commendable progress, and this supplemented by subsequent study and wide general reading, has made him not only a good scholar, but a broad-minded, intelligent man of affairs. When twenty years of age he turned his attention to teaching, which profession he followed in this county several years, a part of the time in the city of Van Wert, where he earned the reputation of an efficient and painstaking instructor. Not being satisfied with the educational field as a life work, Mr. Glenn next engaged in journalism, and for about one year was editor of the Van Wert Bulletin, a local sheet which gained for him some reputation as a writer. Later he yielded to a desire of long standing to enter the legal profession, and, in 1865, began the study of the same under the efficient instruction of J. H. Kroh, a prominent lawyer of Van Wert, in whose office he remained for a period of one year, subsequently pursuing his reading with Judge O. W. Rose, with whom he remained until his admission to the bar in the fall of 1867. Soon after engaging in the practice of his profession Mr. Glenn was elected justice of the peace for Pleasant township and Van Wert, the duties of which position he discharged in an eminently satisfactory manner until 1870, in which year he turned his attention entirely to the law and soon succeeded in building up a lucrative practice in Van Wert and adjoining counties. In 1879 he effected a co-partnership with Hon. G. M. Saltzgaber, with whom he was associated for a period of ten years, under the firm name of Saltzgaber & Glenn, doing a large business in the meantime, and gaining much more than a local reputation as a safe counselor and successful practitioner.

Upon the dissolution of the above partnership, Judge Glenn became associated with W. S. Johnson, under the firm name of Glenn & Johnson, which lasted two years, when the latter retired, Mr. Glenn continuing the practice alone until 1893, at which time the law firm of Glenn & Wolcott was established, H. K. Wolcott becoming his partner. The partnership thus formed continued until Mr. Wolcott's removal from Van Wert, in 1895, but in the meantime Mr. Glenn was appointed, by Governor McKinley, to fill the vacancy as common pleas judge caused by the resignation of Judge Day, of Celina. The duties of this honorable position he discharged in such a satisfactory manner as to elicit the highest praise from his official associates, and those having business to transact in his court. As an evidence of the ability with which he discharged his official functions the following complimentary notices from the courts of Mercer and Van Wert counties are respectively cited:

"In his short career as common pleas judge, Mr. Gleen has gained an enviable reputation. His decisions have been uniformly just and in compliance with his extensive knowledge of the law. It is no wonder that the lawyers honor him. At a meeting of the Mercer county bar, held on Friday evening, December 16, 1892, the following was unanimously adopted and ordered to be recorded in the minutes of the court as a part of that day's proceedings:

"Whereas, The Hon. H. C. Glenn, long an honored member of the bar and now judge of the common pleas, retires from the bench thereof,

"Resolved, That we cheerfully express our appreciation of his services, singleness of purpose, and honest and efficient labor in the most important tribunal of the state; that during his official life he has maintained, in an eminent degree, judicial integrity and upright character, and on his retirement from the bench and resumption of the practice of his profession, we wish him that success which his learning and gentlemanly qualities entitle him.

"Resolved, That copies of the above be furnished by the clerk of court to the press of Mercer and Van Wert counties for publication."

The following worthy tribute is from records of the Van Wert bar:

"This day being the occasion of the end of the present term of court held by the Hon. H. C. Glenn, judge, we, the undersigned members of the bar of Van Wert, practicing in the court of Judge Glenn, hereby desire to express our high appreciation of his judicial services For his continuous urbanity, for his diligent labors, for his uprightness, intelligence and ability, and for his impartiality in the discharge of his duty while on the bench, he is deserving the thanks of suitors and the public, and the attorneys who have been privileged to practice before him. In whatever sphere of life duty may call him, we earnestly hope that Judge Glenn may find it to him useful, honorable, profitable and pleasant. W. H. Daily, G. L. Marble, S. S. Burtsfield, H. G. Richey, W. H. Alexander, Clem V. Hoke, C. M. Sutphen, G. M. Saltzgaber, H. Kemper, C. V. Fromme, H. W. Blachley, John Darnell, H. K. Wolcott, J. Y. Todd, W. J. Beers."

Addition to his professional career, Judge Glenn has a business record of which any man might feel deservedly proud. He was one of the original stockholders of the Van Wert Gas Light company, and has served as president of the same ever since its organization, being at this time sole owner of the plant.

The city of Van Wert has ever found in him a warm friend and a liberal patron of every enterprise having for its object the public good, and to many of the unfortunate of the community he has proven himself, on more occasions than the public is aware, a friend indeed. Politically the judge is a firm adherent to the principles of the republican party, and as such has been a potent factor in a number of campaigns, having for years been an active worker, not only in local politics, but state and national as well.

As already stated, one of the judge's first official positions was that of justice of the peace; he also held the office of township clerk three terms, and from 1870 to 1872 was mayor of Van Wert, beside holding minor positions, among which was that of member of the school board, in which capacity he did much to advance the educational interests of the community. In 1884 he was his party's nominee for congress in what is now the Sixth district, but while suffering defeat in the general landslide of that year, was complimented by a vote 1,500 in excess of the general ticket, a fact which speaks much for his popularity with the masses.

Judge Glenn is prominently identified with the Odd Fellows' fraternity, in which he has served as deputy grand master, and is now chairman of the board of trustees of the State Orphans' home of the order. He is also a member of the I. O. R. M. As stated in a previous paragraph, Judge Glenn is a wide reader; and that he is acquainted with the best authors is attested by his library, which is considered the best collection of standard works in the city. The judge was married in Richland county, August 16, 1865, to Georgiana C. Baughman, whose birth occurred in the town of Plymouth, Ohio, February 3, 1846. Mrs. Glenn is the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Armstrong) Baughman, natives of Pennsylvania, and has proved a most valuable helpmate and companion, and not a little of her husband's success in life is directly attributable to her wise counsel and encouragement. The marriage of Judge and Mrs. Glenn resulted in the birth of three children, all deceased, but they have since reared an adopted daughter, who is now the wife of M. B. Evers, Jr., of Van Wert.

In all his public relations, Judge Glenn is recognized as possessing a strong sense of truth and justice, and as endeavoring to shape his life according to these principles. As a lawyer he is a methodical and systematic, and is distinguished in his profession for his untiring industry and an ambition to excel. He is a safe counselor, possesses the rare faculty of being able so to probe questions of law as to command the respect of the court and his professional associates, and his conduct toward his adversaries is noted for courtesy and fairness, never permitting his zeal to induce him to seek success by disreputable practice. He possesses a strong personality and dignified presence, impresses all with whom he comes in contact as a gentleman by nature and of strict integrity, and he enjoys, in full measure, the confidence of his fellow-citizens. Such, in brief, are the leading facts and characteristics of one of Van Wert's most honored citizens, and it is with pleasure that this tribute to his worth as a man and citizen is given a place in this volume.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, deceased, was born in Ohio June 22, 1813, was reared on a farm, and at the age of twenty-one years embarked in the mercantile trade near Wooster, Ohio, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Van Wert, and resumed his business as a merchant, continuing in trade until his death, when impaired health compelled him to retire. He was a prominent member of the republican party, and shortly after his retirement from business he was elected by that party to the office of county clerk, and it was while he was filling this position that he died, October 17, 1860. He had married, in New Pittsburg, Pa., Amelia Goodfellow, a daughter of Judge Goodfellow, of Wooster, Ohio; by this marriage were born two children—Agnes J., deceased, and William Goodfellow. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Anderson, on June 7, 1850, wedded Miss Mary West, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 16, 1831, a daughter of Clement and Anna (McManus) West. Clement West was born in Pennsylvania and his wife in New Jersey, but were married in Wayne county, where Mr. West was employed in farming. In 1839 Mr. West and his family moved to Richland county, Ohio, thence to Allen county, Ind., where the father died, and also the mother, in 1834. They were the parents of five children, viz: Abigail and Lydia, deceased; Leisure, of Kansas; Mary (Mrs. Anderson), and William, deceased.

William Anderson had born to him, by his marriage to Miss West, three children, named as follows: William H., deceased; Clara, at home, and Minnie, deceased. In his religious views Mr. Anderson was a Presbyterian and fraternally was an Odd Fellow; in addition to his position of county clerk, he filled, at the time of his death the office of justice of the peace, and he was able to leave his widow and her children in comfortable circumstances.

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ADAM ARMSTRONG, one of the substantial farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Thomas and Sarah A. (Saum) Armstrong, and was born November 4, 1847, in Delaware county, descending from one of the oldest pioneers of the state who was of Scotch-Irish descent.

The great-grandfather of our subject was one of the original pioneers of Ross county, Ohio, and there met his death at the hands of the blood-thirsty redskins. He was a companion of the famous hunters and scouts, Daniel Boone and Lewis Wetzel.

John Armstrong, grandfather of our subject, was a native of Virginia, whence he moved to Kentucky and thence came to Ohio with the pioneers, and was married in this state to Malinda Hinton. The Hintons were a quite wealthy family and owned the first stage line between Columbus and Mount Vernon, Ohio. Mr. Armstrong was a gallant soldier in the war of 1812; he was also an expert salt-maker and passed twenty years of his earlier manhood in the Kenawha salt works, but later made his home in Knox county, Ohio. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Armstrong were born the following children: Henry, Thomas, Joshua, George, John, Charles, Mary, Susan and Rachael. The father of this family died in Knox county at the age of about eighty-four years, honored as a pioneer and venerated and respected as a man.

Thomas Armstrong, father of Adam, our subject, was born at the Kanawha salt works, Va. (now W. Va.), January 27, 1814. He was reared a farmer, and received the usual education attainable by farm lads at that early day. His marriage took place in Knox county, Ohio, in 1844, with Sarah Saum, a daughter of Adam and Margaret Saum, of Virginia, the union resulting in the birth of nine children, of whom four lived to maturity, viz: John, Lafayette, Adam and Ellen. After marriage Mr. Armstrong resided one year in Knox county, then for a short time in Delaware county, Ohio, and 1847 came to Van Wert county, purchasing 170 acres of land in the woods of Washington township, on a part of which the city of Middlepoint has since been built; a few years later, about 1851 or 1852, he purchased 212 acres of his present farm, to which he removed at once. This land was all in the woods, one small spot only being cleared. He proceeded to clear away the remainder, with the exception of 120 acres, and continued to add to his estate until he owned over 300 acres of fine farming land, of which he has given his children a goodly portion. Mr. Armstrong is recognized as one of the pioneers of the county, there having been but few houses in the city of Van Wert at that time. He has done a vast amount of hard labor, and the township is greatly indebted to him for its development from the forest into its present agricultural and civilized condition. Of his children, John is a substantial farmer and is settled on the home farm; Lafayette is settled near by; Adam is the subject of this sketch, and his daughter Ellen is married to L. D. Moore, a school-teacher and farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county. The mother of this family was laid in her grave some twenty years ago, but the father still survives to enjoy the love and esteem of all who know him.

Adam Armstrong, with whose name this biographical record opens, was but a babe in arms when brought to Washington township by his parents in 1847. In this township he has passed his entire life, attending the district schools and working on his father's farms in the woods among the pioneers, and undergoing many of the privations of early frontier life. This life, however, hardened his muscles and early inured him to toil, and when old enough he began his business life, for his own account. April 19, 1882, he married, in Allen county, Ohio, Miss Mary Reeder, daughter of George and Rebecca (Manning) Reeder. George Reeder was a farmer, was a volunteer in a regiment from Ohio in the late Civil war and died in the service, leaving his widow and a child, now Mrs. Armstrong, to mourn his loss. The widow Reeder subsequently married John Hepfer, a cooper by trade and now living in Delphos, Ohio, and to this marriage have been born three children, Eliza, John and Melvin Hepfer, all of whom, however, are now deceased. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have been born six children, viz: Etta, Chester, Rossie (died at eight and a half-years of age), Bessie, Otis (died at four years) and Francis.

After marriage Mr. Armstrong settled on his present farm, which he had purchased when it was a vast wilderness. But Mr. Armstrong had been trained to frontier farming and soon elevated this farm to a state that compared favorably with any other in the township, thoroughly draining, tiling and othwise improving it. His dwelling, out-buildings, etc., are all any reasonable man could desire, notwithstanding the fact that he has been greatly afflicted for the past twelve years with rheumatism and heart trouble; yet he bears his affliction with christian resignation and cheerfulness, and with these exceptions is as comfortably situated as the majority of mankind even hope to be. He is a man of undoubted integrity and stands high in the esteem of his neighbors, with whom he ranks, although quite a youngster when he came here, as among the "old settlers" of Washington township.

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WILLIAM H. AYERS, farmer and stock raiser of Liberty township, also trustee of the same, is of German-Irish descent, both branches of the family having settled in Pennsylvania many years ago. His grandfather, James M. Ayers, a native of Wayne county, Pa., married Jane Richie, and a few years later immigrated to Ohio, settling in Ashland county, where he was an early pioneer. His son, Cyrus Ayers, father of William H., was born June 20, 1826, in the county of Ashland. He was a farmer, and after his marriage, September 5, 1848, with Rachael Butler, settled in Ashland county, thence in 1850 moved to the county of Van Wert and entered forty acres of land in the township of Liberty, which forms a part of the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. Cyrus Ayers was a democrat in politics and a minister of the regular Baptist church, to which he was expecting to devote his life. On the 3rd of April, 1858, while felling timber, he was caught by a falling tree, and his spinal column broken; he lived, in great agony, for seventeen days after the accident, and his death was a great loss, not only to his immediate family, but to the community as well. His widow is still living. Following are the names of the children of Cyrus and Rachael Ayers, together with the dates of birth: Martha J., July 9, 1849; James M., January 2, 1851; William H., September 2, 1853; Cyrus S., January 28, 1857, died October 3, 1862, and Rachael M., whose birth occurred March 19, 1859. The parents of Mrs. Ayers were John and Mary (Lindsey) Butler, the father a native of Bedford county, Pa., and the mother of Tuscarawas county, Ohio.

William H. Ayers, whose name introduces this biography, and the date of whose birth is noted in the preceding paragraph, is one of the leading farmers of the township of Liberty, and has devoted his attention to agriculture ever since beginning life for himself. He was married October 30, 1878, to Alvina VanGundy, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Exline) VanGundy, the parents natives, respectively, of Ross county, Ohio, and Bedford county, Pa. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ayers the following children have been born: Vernon M., September 2, 1879; Emery L., October 1, 1881; Orley, March 21, 1884; Tony G., September 12, 1887; Ethel B. E., December 1, 1889, and Agnes E. M., November 7, 1892, all living.

Mr. Ayers has been successful, financially, and has a well cultivated farm of 240 acres. He was elected as a democrat to the office of township clerk, the duties of which position he discharged satisfactorily for two terms, and for three years served as treasurer of his township; he also held the office of township trustee two terms and is the present incumbent. Mr. Ayers was nominated by acclamation for the office of county commissioner, but went down with his party, which was defeated that year, not only in Liberty township, but throughout the entire county. He was never defeated for office in his own township, which fact may be taken as an evidence of the confidence which the people repose in him. In religion he accords the utmost liberty to all, and fraternally is a member of Liberty grange, No. 322, P. of H.

JESSE W. BAIRD, a well known citizen of Van Wert, was born in Beaver county, Pa., November 11, 1842. His father was James Baird and died in 1872. His mother, Margaret (Warwick) Baird, was born in 1813 and is still living in Jennings township, Van Wert county. Jesse Baird, our subject, when but nine years of age was brought by his father to Jennings township, Van Wert county, where Mr. Baird was reared by one of the pioneers of that township, as at that time there were no roads save those that were blazed through the woods, and not a school-house nor church was in the township. It was here in the woods that Mr. Baird secured his early training in industry and economy, which has guided his steps to a great extent through life. He attended the district schools during the winter seasons, taking the advantage of the best means at hand, and, being of a studious disposition and having a retentive mind, laid by the usual fund of knowledge it was possible to obtain in those days. He worked on his father's farm until June, 1862, when he answered his country's call for troops and enlisted in the Eighty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until peace was declared, taking part in eighteen general engagements, also the siege of Atlanta, and marched with Sherman to the sea and from there through the Carolinas to peace, coming out with three gun-shot wounds.

After the war was over Mr. Baird returned to Jennings township and went upon a farm, and has since purchased a farm near Van Wert. On October 23, 1872 he married Mary E. Bush who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, on June 6, 1855 and had come to Jennings township with her parents when she was quite young. Her father R. E. Bush is still living in Jennings township; her mother, Elizabeth (Powell) Bush, died in 1888. After his marriage Mr. Baird continued on his farm until 1877, when he gave way to the allurements of a political career and entered the arena, having been nominated for the office of county recorder on the democratic ticket. After a lively campaign he was elected by a majority of 100. In 1890 he was renominated and elected by the next largest majority ever given to any candidate on the democratic ticket in the county. His second term expired in 1893 and he retired from the arena, but still retains his interest in politics. He lives in Van Wert, visiting frequently his fine farm, which is only two miles from town. His family consists of four bright aimable children: Margaret Elizabeth, who is the wife of Frank P. Edson, who was until recently deputy county auditor and whose sketch will appear elsewhere in this volume; Effie Elmira, Wilda Thurman and James Richard.

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THE BALYEAT FAMILY is of French origin, and the earliest authentic mention of the name is traceable as far back as the year 481, at which time it appears that one Balliet, as originally pronounced, was an officer on the army of King Ludwig of France. The offspring of this Balliet lived in the southern part of France, and many years later the name appears to have been closely interwoven with the history of the Huguenots. Among those who escaped the massacre of St. Bartholomew was one Jacob Balliet, who, with his family and others as unfortunate, but equally as fortunate, was obliged to travel in a single season over 800 miles until they reached a Protestant village by the name of Schaltbaugh, province of Salm, where he found refuge from his relentless persecutors. Here the family lived nntil the aforesaid province again came under the control of France, when the former massacre was repeated, a number of the Balliets falling victims, while others escaped, making their way to different countries of Europe and to America. As early as the year 1738 Paul and Joseph Balliet, grandsons of the aforesaid Jacob, came to America from the province of Alsace and settled in Pennsylvania, the descendants of the former locating in what was then Whitehall county, and those of the latter in what has since been known as the county of Northumberland.

From the most reliable information obtainable, it appears that the above Josept Balyeat, as the name was afterward spelled, became the progenitor of that branch of the family of the United States to which the families of Van Wert county belongs. One of the direct descendants of Joseph, if not his son, was Leonard Balyeat, who was born in Pennsylvania February 27, 1758, and who reared a family consisting of the following-named children: John, Stephen, Leonard, Daniel, Eve, Joseph, George, Henry, Jonas, Jacob and David. From what can be learned of the Balyeats during the early history of the family in the United States, they all appear to have been men of unusual physical vigor, with strong, well-knit bodies, while their morality and integrity, inherited from a deeply religious and highly honored ancestry, have been reproduced in their descendants down to the present time.

Jonas Balyeat, ninth in order of birth of the above-mentioned children of Leonard Balyeat, was born February 27, 1798, in Pennsylvania, and came west to Ohio as early as the year 1820, settling in Richland county, but seven and a half miles east of Mansfield, where he became a large land owner. He married Catherine Hum, and raised a large family, eighteen children in all, whose names are as follows: David, died in 1892; Jacob, a resident of Van Wert county; Abraham, ex-county treasurer, died shortly after elected to that office; Jonathan, a farmer near Middlebury, Ind.; Sarah, the deceased wife of Philip Troup; Aaron, a retired citizen of Van Wert; Eliza, wife of Aaron Hoover; John, deceased, aged five years; Moses, a resident of La Grange, Ind.; Joseph, deceased; Phœbe, the wife of Philip Troup; Benjamin, who enlisted in the ninety-day service in the late war and died at Point Lookout; Joshua and Caleb, twins, both deceased; Emanuel, farmer in Harrison township; Reuben; Mary, the wife of John Patterson, and Marquis De Lafayette, deceased.

The parents of this large family were well known and highly respected people of Richland county, and for moral worth and the upbuilding of the community, none stood higher. They were both active members of the Baptist church from early life and reared their large family under the influence of the church of their choice, and they all followed in later years their early teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat lived to an extended longevity, and died respectively at the ages of eighty-nine years and eighty years. Mr. Balyeat was a whig in politics and took an active part in the same, although not an office seeker; he was one of the liberal contributors to all public enterprises, and none took a deeper interest in matters educational than he and his most worthy companion.

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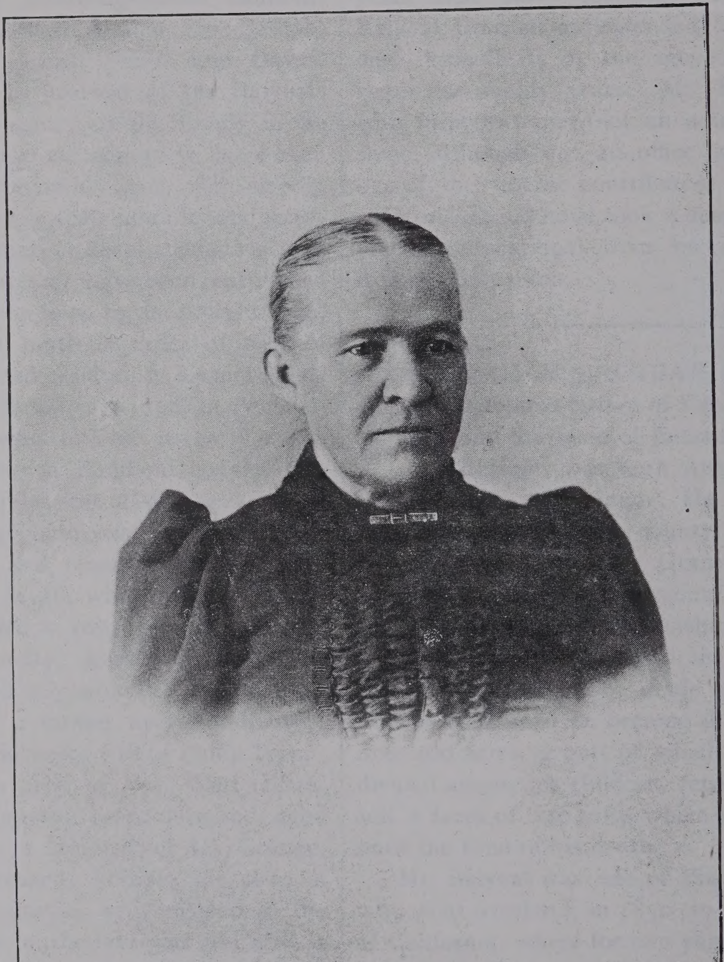
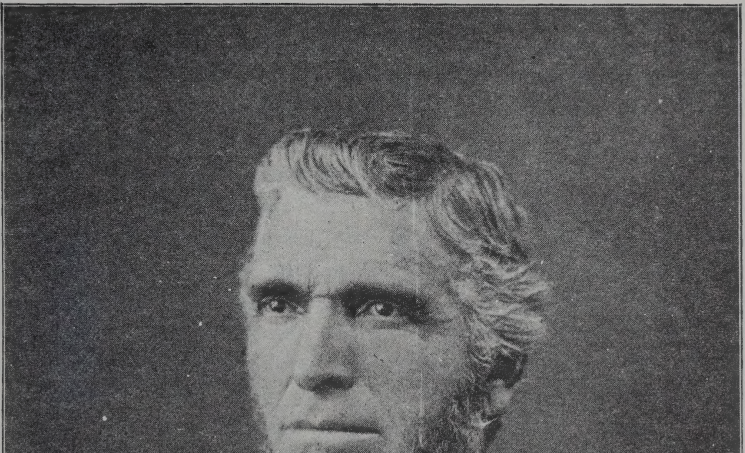
ABRAHAM BALYEAT, deceased, late a popular citizen of Van Wert county, and third son of Jonas and Catherine Balyeat, was born August 22, 1823, in the county of Richland. He was reared to manhood in his native county, attended the country schools and the Granville academy, and in 1846 became a resident of Van Wert county, locating in the township of Harrison, where he purchased eighty acres of land. To his original purchase he made additions from time to time until he became the possessor of over 400 acres, a part of which he afterward divided among his children, retaining for himself a farm of 240 acres which was his home until the time of his death.

Mr. Balyeat was one of the daring spirits who went overland, in 1850, to the gold fields of California, where for two years he sought a fortune in the mines, meeting with only fair success in the venture. Returning to Van Wert county, he resumed the pursuit of agriculture, which he followed with most encouraging results until his death; he also taught school for a number of years, and his success in educational work is attested by the fact of his having been employed for many successive terms in the same locality.



MRS. SARAH BALYEAT.



Abraham Balyeat

On the 13th of May, 1852, Mr. Balyeat and Sarah Slater, who was born November 26, 1829, in Pennsylvania, entered into the marriage relation, a union that resulted in the birth of the following children: Oscar A., attorney of Van Wert; Mariette, deceased; Leonidas, who lives on the home place; John S., of Kansas; Stephen, traveling salesman; Frank, of Pleasant township; Sherman, business man of Van Wert, member of the mercantile firm of J. F. Sidle & Co.; Charles, salesman in the clothing store of H. Davies, of Van Wert, and Orah, wife of J. A. McCoy. In the above children have been re-produced the many noble traits of their parents, and their lives reflect credit on a family noted so long for its many virtues.

In many respects Abraham Balyeat was much more than an ordinary man, honorable and upright in all his dealings, and as a neighbor and citizen none stood higher in the estimation of the public than he. From his youth he endeavored to shape his life according to the principles of morality, which insure good citizenship, and his example should encourage every aspiring youth to feel that whatever the future has in store, perseverance, with a conscientious regard for truth, will inevitably win a just reward. His life never deviated from the rigid rule of honor that ought to govern every true man; in religion he was a Baptist.

Mr. Balyeat was elected to the office of county commissioner and served for three years, and was also for three years a director of the county infirmary, and was further honored by being elected treasurer of Van Wert county, which office he was not permitted to assume, owing to his death, which occurred six weeks before the time for taking charge of the same. He died suddenly on July 25, 1881. He also served his country during the late Rebellion as second lieutenant in company I of the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry.

Since the death of Mr. Balyeat, his widow has managed the estate, which she divided among the children in 1893. She is a woman of most excellent judgment and a devout member of the Baptist church, and her home at this time is in the city of Van Wert.

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OSCAR ADDISON BALYEAT, attorney at law and ex-mayor of Van Wert, is the son of Abraham and Sarah Balyeat and was born in the county of Van Wert April 30, 1853. His early school experience embraced the studies pertaining to the educational course prescribed by the common schools, and at the age of nineteen he began teaching. His success in educational work is fairly evinced by his frequent employment as instructor in the same locality, and for a period of eleven years he had charge of schools in his own and neighboring townships. In March, 1882, Mr. Balyeat became asssitant in the Patrons' warehouse in Van Wert, and six months later was promoted superintendent of the same, discharging the duties of the latter position most efficiently for one year. In October, 1883, he was chosen deputy clerk of the Van Wert courts, in which capacity he continued over six years, or until the spring of 1890.

In April, 1890, Mr. Balyeat was elected, on the republican ticket, mayor of Van Wert, defeating his competitor by the largest majority ever received by a candidate for that office in the city, and so ably did he discharge his official functions that, at the ensuing election, he was re-elected to the same position, which he filled most acceptably to all concerned for a period of four years. On leaving the mayoralty, Mr. Balyeat began the study of law in the office of H. G. Richie, of Van Wert, and is now giving his entire attention to the legal profession, in which he has already made commendable progress. He has always taken an active interest in politics and is one of the republican leaders in Van Wert county. He is a shrewd politician, and the success of his party in several hotly contested campaigns has been largely due to his advice and skillful management, and at this time he holds the responsible position of chairman of the county central committee.

Personally Mr. Balyeat is quite popular and he has been solicitous to do everything within his power to promote the best interests of the place of his residence; he is regarded as a useful citizen and esteemed as a clever, genial gentleman. Fraternally he belongs to the K. of P., in which he has held high official position; he is also prominently identified with the I. O. R. M.

Mr. Balyeat was married November 16, 1882, to Lottie E. Redrup, daughter of James and Ann (Phelps) Redrup, of Richland county, Ohio. Mrs. Balyeat was born in the county of Richland, August 20, 1862, is the mother of three children—Ira G., Eva, and Forest S.—and is prominent in society work, both in the church and lodge.

MOSES BALYEAT, a representative citizen of La Grange, Ind., and the ninth child of Jonas Balyeat, was born November 27, 1831, in Richland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was reared upon his father's farm, and received his education in the common schools, remaining under the parental roof until his majority. Then he began life on his own account as a farmer, having chosen that as his life-calling. He married, in July, 1852, Miss Eliza Hershey, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Harnly) Hershey, both of German extraction.

Mr. Balyeat soon after his marriage removed to Ashland county, Ohio, remaining there until the spring of 1865, when he located in Van Wert county. Late in the fall of the same year he removed to Elkhart county, Ind., purchasing land near Middlebury and there he resided until the spring of 1870, when he sold his land and located near LaGrange, where he followed agricultural life until 1887. Then he sold his farm and removed to LaGrange, where for the past six years he has been court bailiff and janitor of the court house.

Early in life Mr. Balyeat identified himself with the Baptists, and ever since then has been a leading member of his church, that is for more than fifty years. His wife was also a member of the same church for many years, having joined in 1858. Mr. Balyeat cast his first presidential vote, and last democratic vote, for Franklin Pierce, in 1852, having since that time been a consistent and strong republican. He also voted for Jonn Sherman in his first race for congress. Thus it may almost be said that he has been a life-long republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat became the parents of six daughters, viz: Lydia R., wife of Samuel B. Smith; Hulda H., deceased wife of D. D. D. Free; Catherine G., wife of William Wert; Mary, wife of J. W. Pownall; Lida; and Grace M., wife of J. L. Wallace. The mother of these children died June 27, 1892, aged sixty years. Mr. Balyeat is a good citizen, and a charitable, kind-hearted man, and has the respect and good will of all that know him.

Jonathan Balyeat, son of Jonas Balyeat, was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1823, and was reared to manhood on the home farm. His education was obtained in the schools of the day, and by private reading and study. Upon attaining his majority he made the wise choice of agriculture as his life work, and while yet a young man, married Miss Margaret Gates, of Richland county, to which marriage there were born eight children, as follows: Alcesta, John W., Catherine, Marion, Anna, Walter A., Edmond A. and Frank. Mr. Balyeat removed to Van Wert county in 1848, thus becoming one of the early pioneers of that county. There he resided until 1865, when he removed to Elkhart county, Ind., where he has lived ever since, and where he has long been known as one of the leading citizens of his township and county. In politics he has always been a republican and in religion a Baptist, being looked upon by his fellow-churchmen as a pillar in the church.

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JACOB BALYEAT, second son of Jonas and Catherine Balyeat, was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 30, 1821, and there remained until his twenty-third year, assisting his father on the farm and attending such schools as the county afforded, in the meantime leaving the parental fireside; he went to the city of Mansfield, where he remained two months, and while there learned the shoemaker's trade. He married, in May, 1844, Frances Thomas, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Thomas. Subsequently about 1847, Mr. Balyeat moved his family to Van Wert county, settling in Pleasant township, where he opened a farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat knew not what it was to eat the bread of idleness, and the first few years in their new home were fraught with hardships and privations, before which many people of less determination would have shrunk appalled. Mr. Balyeat states that he was obliged to go a long distance in order to obtain breadstuffs, beside encountering many other difficulties incident to life in a new country of which the present generation has no adequate conception. With an energy born of a determination to succeed, he prosecuted his labors vigorously and in due season saw the reward of his persistent toil in a beautiful country home, where he is passing the declining years of a long and useful life. Mr. Balyeat's integrity has never been questioned, and his high sense of honor and fair treatment of his fellow-men have for years been proverbial in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat, have a family consisting of the following children: Jonas; Philip; Amanda Ellen, wife of S. M. Gilliland; Melvin; Michael T.; Mary L., wife of Greenberry Sommerset; Anna, wife of Samuel Gilliland; Frances, who married J. J. Vorp; Luman, and Viola deceased. The parents of Mrs. Balyeat, Michael and Elizabeth Thomas, had twelve children namely; Mrs. Sarah Balyeat, deceased; Jonathan; Elizabeth, deceased; Philip; Michael; George, deceased; Nancy; George; John; Katie, deceased; Mary; and Isaac, deceased. Both of above parents died in Ashland county.

Mr. Balyeat is a republican and owns 178 acres of land in Ridge township, where he located in 1861.

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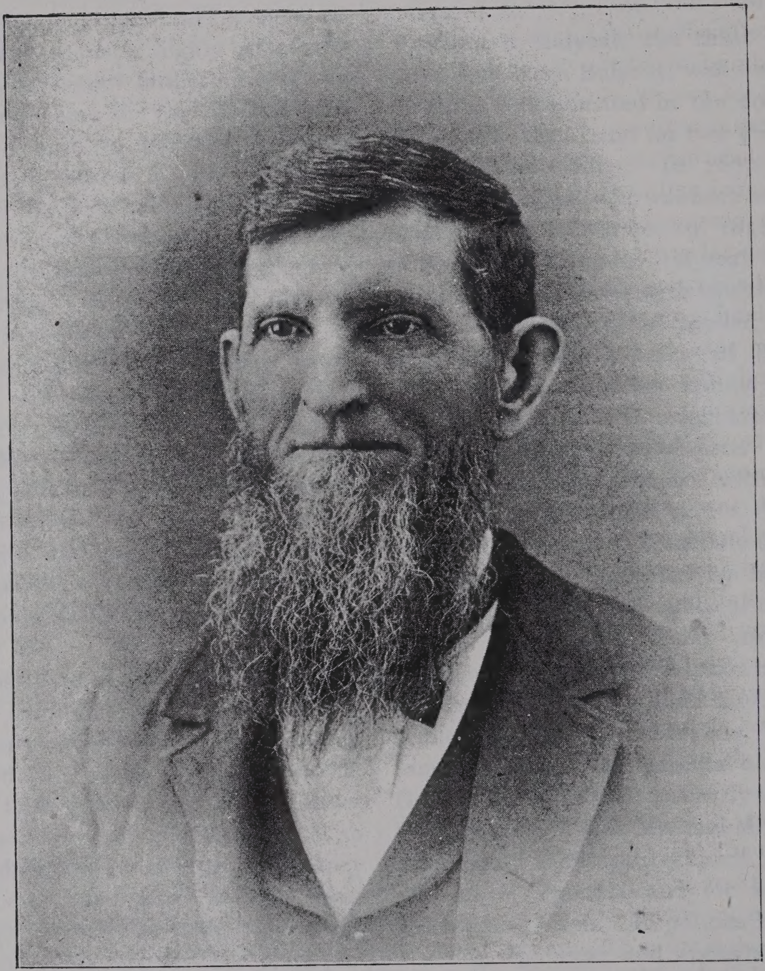
S. J. BALYEAT, of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1851, a son of David and Sarah (Thomas) Balyeat, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and a son of Jonas Balyeat, whose genealogy is to be found with that of the Balyeat family, in adjacent parts of this volume.

David Balyeat, eldest son of Jonas, was reared a frontier farmer and was educated in the schools of Richland county, Ohio. In 1841 he married Sarah Thomas, and to this union were born the following children: Lavina, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, wife of N. S. Allen, of Oregon; Reuben, of Oklahoma; S.

J., subject of this sketch; Alfred I., on the home farm; Emma, deceased wife of Mr. Langthon Wiseman, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Clinton and Addison, both deceased. After marriage David Balyeat lived for ten years on a farm he had purchased in Ashland county, and was esteemed a highly useful citizen as well as successful farmer; in 1852 he sold his place and came to Van Wert county and purchased a farm in Pleasant township (on which his son, Alfred I., still makes his home), on which he lived and labored until his death, which occurred November 9, 1891, being followed to the grave by his estimable wife February 17, 1894. In politics Mr. Balyeat was a vigorous republican, by which party he was elected to nearly all the local offices within its gift, and he was ever faithful and upright in the performance of every duty. In religion, both Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat were members of Baptist church, and their lives were consistent with their professions. Mr. Balyeat was one of the progressive and enterprising citizens of his time and had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and his work tells the story of a well-spent life.

S. J. Balyeat, like his ancestors, was reared to agricultural pursuits, and began his school studies in a log school-house, and continuing his lessons until they were terminated in the modern frame that replaced the old log structure. His marriage took place, in 1878, to Mary Leslie, daughter of George and Nancy (Henderson) Leslie, and born in Van Wert county, in 1857; here she became a successful and popular school-teacher for four years previous to her marriage. To this union have been born five children, viz: Carl, who died in infancy; Vernon, Clyde, Georgia Glee and Doyt. Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat are both devout members of the Baptist church, in which Mr. Balyeat is more than ordinarily interested, and in politics Mr. Balyeat is a stanch republican. In 1882 Mr. Balyeat purchased his present home in Pleasant township, where he is a prominent and successful farmer and where he and family are regarded as among the best and most useful and respected residents of the county.

Alfred I. Balyeat, the third son born to David and Sarah Balyeat, was born February 18, 1854, was educated in the county schools and at Ada, Ohio, and for two years was himself a school-teacher. In 1879 he married Sivella M. Snyder, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, November 19, 1858, a daughter of Fred and Margaret (Myres) Snyder, and this union was blessed with two children, Dennis and Gertrude. Fred Snyder, the father of Mrs. Balyeat, was a native of Pennsylvania, and in 1865 brought his family to Van Wert county and settled in Harrison township, where he still resides. His daughter Sivella was reared in strict accordance with the Baptist faith, and was married to Mr. Balyeat in her twenty-second year. This lady died February 9, 1888, deeply mourned by her family and friends, and in 1891 Mr. Balyeat married Sarah Smith, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Stucker) Smith, and this union has resulted in the birth of one child—Viola May. The mother of the babe was born in Van Wert county, January 1, 1864, her parents being natives of Holmes county, Ohio, but early settlers of Van Wert county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat are members of the Baptist church, in which they take a deep interest and for which they do much active work. In politics Mr. Balyeat is a strong republican and works hard for its success. He is a member of grange No. 399, and has all his life been identified with agricultural interests, and all his life also has been passed an the old homestead, with the exception of three years following his marriage. His social standing is unsurpassed by any other resident of his township.



AARON BALYEAT.

AARON BALYEAT, of Van Wert, son of Jonas Balyeat, was born March 15, 1827, in Richland county, Ohio, and grew to man's estate amid the active duties of farm life. He attended the common schools until sufficiently advanced in his studies to teach, when he entered the educational field and acted the role of instructor for a period of twenty years. In 1850, Mr. Balyeat became a resident of the county of Van Wert, locating in Harrison township, where he cleared and improved a farm and engaged in the pursuit of agriculture with success and financial profit—adding to his original place until he became the possessor of 160 acres of fine land. Subsequently he exchanged the farm for real estate in the township of Pleasant, and from time to time purchased other land, owning at one time in the county of Van Wert over 230 acres, the greater part of which, through his industry and successful management, became highly improved. Mr. Balyeat dealt largely in real estate both in Ohio and the west, principally in Nebraska, to which latter state he intended at one time to remove, but was prevented from so doing by reason of the death of his wife. He then purchased property in Van Wert, and for some years has been an honored resident of the city, though still giving considerable attention to his farming interests in Paulding aud Van Wert counties.

Mr. Balyeat's first marriage was solemnized October 11, 1849, with Miss Martha LaRue, who was born in Richland county December 29, 1827; the following children resulted from the union: Lambert W., of Van Wert; Lucretia E., deceased; Orlando B., residing in Nebraska; Clarence S., of Toledo; Mary J., wife of J. Greenamier, of Nebraska; Eliza J., wife of Marion Allen, of Pleasant township, and Marquis, deceased. Mrs. Balyeat departed this life on the 5th day of July, 1864, and in April of the following year, Mr. Balyeat wedded Miss Priscilla Brubaker, of Ashland county, Ohio, daughter of Augustus and Susan Brubaker—a union blessed with six children, whose births occurred in the following order: Edgar C., private in the regular army; Stella J., wife of J. Steiner; Bertha G., Effie E., Charles O. and Susan P. The mother of these children died January 2, 1886. Mr. Balyeat married his present wife, Mrs. Amelia Wells, on the 10th day of April, 1891.

Mr. Balyeat has been prominent in the public affairs of Van Wert and is at this time a member of the city council, in which body he is instrumental in promoting many measures for the city's interest; he has also served as trustee of the township, and while so officiating discharged his functions in a highly satisfactory and capable manner. Like the majority of the family, he subscribes to the Baptist creed, and for a period of forty-five years has been deacon of the church to which he belongs; politically he espouses the cause of the republican party. In every relation of life Mr. Balyeat is recognized as possessing a strong sense of truth and justice and he has discharged every duty of citizenship with energy and fidelity of irreproachable character, and, actuated by a sincere desire to make the world better, he stands to-day among the most respectable citizens of the city and county of Van Wert.

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JOHN E. BARNARD, chief clerk and cashier at the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago freight depot in Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Canaan, Wayne county, August 15, 1846, a son of John W. and Mary M. (Notestine) Barnard. The father, John W. Barnard, was born in Lancaster, Pa., January 26, 1813, a son of Samson Barnard, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and by trade a cooper. Samson Barnard passed his life in Pennsylvannia until 1850, when he moved near Wooster, Ohio, where for a year he continued to follow his trade and then lived in retirement until his death, which occurred, in 1875. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and the father of eighteen children, of whom five still survive. In politics he was a strong abolitionist, and was actively connected with the underground railroad.

John W. Barnard was reared in Lancaster, Pa., until twenty-three years of age, there learned coopering and carpentering, and, in 1836, came to Ohio and located at Seville, Medina county, followed coopering a year or two, and then worked at carpentering for fifteen years; he next purchased a farm in Canaan, on which he lived until 1865, when he removed to an adjoining township. For some years he was a general merchant at Burbank, Wayne county, Ohio, where he bought and shipped grain to a large extent. His marriage took place in Wayne county, in 1835, to Mary M. Notestine, a native of Pennsylvania, by which union he became the father of six children, viz: Elizabeth and Eliza, deceased; Amanda, wife of George W. Naftzger, of Glendale, Mich.; Martha, wife of Isaac N. Tally, of Oriole, Fla.; John E., the subject of this sketch, and Simeon, deceased. The father in politics was first a whig, but on the formation of the republican party enlisted under its banner. He died in 1878, a member of the United Brethern church; his wife died in 1848, a member of the Lutheran church.

John E. Barnard was reared in Wayne county, Ohio, and remained with his father until 1867, the year of his marriage, but, before speaking in full of that event, it is well that his business career should be mentioned and a history should be given of his extensive and somewhat brilliant railroad experience. In 1868 he went to Dayton, Ohio, and attended the commercial college one year; the following winter he taught school in Wayne county, and in the spring of 1869, went to Brookville, Ohio, and for three years officiated as book-keeper for a distilling firm and at the same time had charge of the Dayton & Western and Dayton & Union railroad office at that point. In the spring of 1872 he went to Union city, Ind., as agent for the Dayton & Union road, filled the position one month and then accepted a similar position with the Big Four, in the same city; in June, 1872, he went to Greenville, Ohio, as chief clerk for the Dayton & Union and Panhandle, remained until September of the same year, and then went to Dodson Junction, where he purchased an elevator, and where he was also appointed joint agent for the Dayton & Union and the Dayton & Western roads; he remained there until March 1, 1875, when he was appointed agent for the Big Four at Sidney, Ohio, and there he remained until October, 1881, when he was given the agency of the Big Four, at Litchfield, Ill., which position he filled until June 1, 1884, when he retired and went to Georgia, and engaged in mining in the gold fields of Lumpkin county. In the fall of 1885 he returned to Dodson Junction, Ohio, and in company with John Hiller, carried on the grain business until January 1, 1886, when he accepted an offer of the position of agent and operator for the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw company at Ansonia, Ohio, and filled the place until February 15, 1886, when he was transferred to the agency at Van Wert, which he held until December 1, 1888, when he went to Saint Paul, Minn., and acted as contracting agent for the Inter-State Despatch Fast Freight line until October 1, 1889, when he returned to Van Wert and engaged as book-keeper for the Oil Well Supply company, with which he continued until July 1, 1893, when he accepted a position as book-keeper in the wholesale fruit house establishment of C. C. Gleason's Sons, and remained with them until January 1, 1894, when he withdrew and passed his time in travel, etc., until September 3, 1894, when he entered upon the duties of his present responsible position of chief clerk and cashier of the freight department of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad at Van Wert.

November 28, 1867, Mr. Barnard was united in wedlock at Canaan, Wayne county, Ohio, with Miss Emma Parmenter, who was born in Carey, Hancock county, Ohio, March 23, 1846, a daughter of Alfred and Sarah (Stratton) Parmenter, and this union has been made happier by the birth of seven children, viz: A. Bertha, living with her parents; John A., a telegraph operator at Memphis, Tenn.; Mary A.; Charles and Eleanor A., at home, and two children that died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Barnard are members of the Presbyterian church, of which he was elected an elder February 10, 1895; he stands high in the Masonic fraternity, having attained the thirty-second degree, being active in the chapter council and commandery, and is worshipful master of Van Wert lodge, No. 218. Socially, the standing of the family is among the best of Van Wert's citizens.

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CONRAD BAUMGARTE, one of the pioneer citizens of Van Wert county, and a leading farmer of Washington township, was a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born on August 15, 1825. His parents were John Henry and Elizabeth (Grothouse) Baumgarte. The family came to America in 1845, leaving Bremen on September 1, and reaching New Orleans on October 27. From New Orleans they came up the river to Cincinnati, Ohio, and from that city came to Delphos by way of the canal. The father then purchased forty acres of land where our subject recently resided. The father died February 28, 1885, and the mother December 28, 1864, both members of the Roman Catholic church. To the parents, two daughters and one son were born, one of whom, Gertrude, is now the widow of Herman Wagesin. Our subject remained on the farm with his parents, being the only son, and after the death of his father the homestead came to him by his father's will. While in the old country he learned to make wooden shoes, and made many a pair after he came to Van Wert county. He also worked some at the carpenter's trade. When about twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age he had saved enough money to purchase forty acres of land, which was adjoining the home place. Since then he added by purchase until he owned 173 acres of fine farm land lying in sections Nos. 26 and 35.

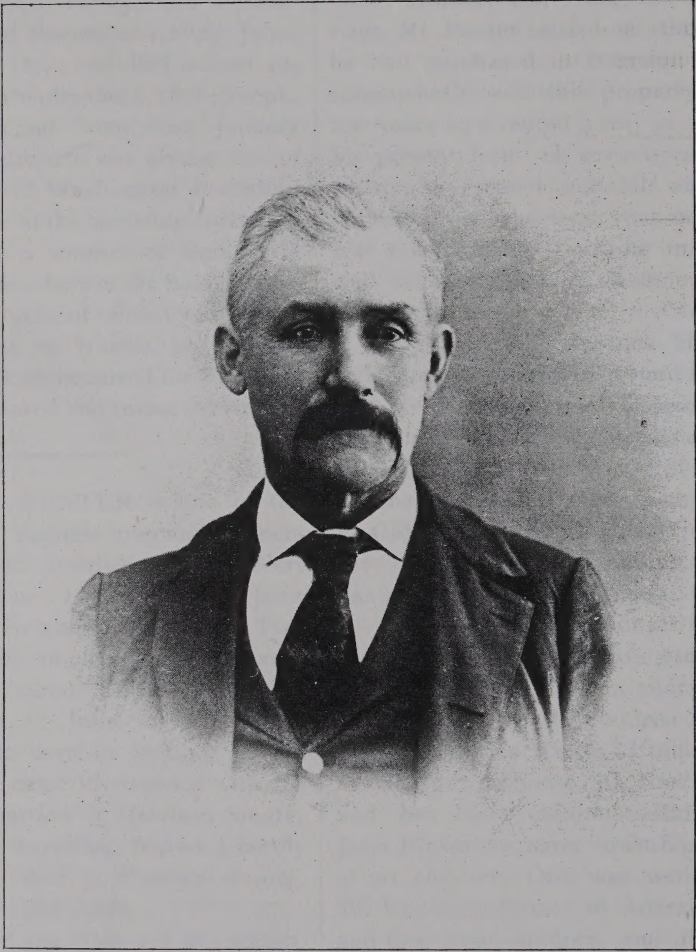
In 1876 Mr. Baumgarte erected a large residence, which is one of the best in the township. On May 6, 1857, Mr. Baumgarte was married to Magdaline Longmier, who was born in Pennsylvania on July 9, 1839. Her parents were Christian and Catherine (Culmann) Longmier, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. They were married in the old country and came to America in about 1837. They settled in Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1842, and then came to Van Wert county and purchased a farm near Delphos. The father assisted in the digging of the canal. He died on August 18, 1886, aged eighty years, and his widow died on April 14, 1887, aged seventy years. To the parents nine children were born, six of whom are living, three sons and three daughters. Both parents were members of the Roman Catholic church. To Mr. and Mrs. Baumgarte eleven children were born, as follows: Henry, born May 4, 1858, and died June 2, 1865; Mary, born June 28, 1860, married Frank M. Brickner October 9, 1884; Catherine, born April 14, 1862, married October 11, 1883, to John Recker; Frank, born May 7, 1864, and married November 29, 1890, Clara Berkemier; Julia, born June 19, 1868, and died September 18, 1876; Theresia, born January 7, 1870; J. Henry, born September 2, 1871, and died November 1, 1873; John, born November 12, 1874, and died August 19, 1880; Theodore, born September 5, 1876; Joseph, born April 5, 1878, and Anna, born January 22, 1880. Mr. Baumgarte was always one of the leading citizens of Washington township. He served as trustee of the township two terms and was supervisor a number of years. He and his family are members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church, of which church he served several terms as trustee, and in the faith of which his death occurred on February 19, 1896, a truly honored and respected citizen.

ROBERT C. BAXTER is one of the prominent business men and farmers of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio. His grandfather, John Baxter, came from Ireland and settled in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in pioneer days, cleared up a farm and reared thirteen children. James Baxter, son of John and father of Robert C., was also born in Ireland, and at twelve years of age came to America with his father. He was married in Harrison county, Ohio, to Catherine Browning, reared a family of six children, and died in Harrison county, at the age of thirty-eight years.

Robert C. Baxter, the subject of this sketch, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, January 27, 1834, was reared on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when, in 1850, he came with his mother and her children to Van Wert county and settled on a tract of land in the woods near Middlebury, which tract he assisted in clearing up and in putting under a proper state of cultivation. At the age of twenty-two he married, in Van Wert county, Miss Rebecca H., daughter of Benjamin and Rachael Brittsan, and by this union there were born six children, viz: Emily, Clara, Ollie, Horace, Burt, and Isaac. After marriage, Mr. Baxter settled on school land, which he had purchased in Harrison township, but subsequently sold this property and lived a few years on a rented farm; in 1882 he bought his present farm of seventy-eight acres, on which he erected suitable and substantial buildings, and the same year engaged in general merchandising, putting in a varied and well selected stock of goods suitable for the country trade.

In 1874, Mrs. Rebecca H. Baxter was called to her eternal rest, and for his second wife Mr. Baxter married Miss Lizzie Foudra, who survived six months only after her wedding day. December 22, 1878, he married for the third time, taking for his wife Martha E. Gideon. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter are members of the Methodist church, in which Mr. Baxter has held several offices; and in politics he is a democrat, and for six years served as justice of the peace, for five years as township assessor, and for thirteen years as postmaster of Wolfcale. Of the children born to Robert C. and Rebecca Baxter, Emma was married to Henry Finkhouse, of Harrison township, and has three children—Clara, married to John Finkhouse, same township, is the mother of six children; Ollie was wedded to George W. Knittle, a farmer of Adams county, Ind., and has three children, and Horace married Emma Crosier, also of Adams county, Ind.

Mrs. Martha E. (Gideon) Baxter is the daughter of Henry and Lydia (Bevelhimer) Gideon, the former a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1811; he was married in his nati state, came to Van Wert county in 1855, b later moved to Adams county, Ind., where h



SAMUEL BAXTER.

died at the age of fifty-eight years, the father of eight children, viz: Mary, Susan, Louisa (died when two years old), Martha E., Henry C., John M., Frank E. and Emma R. Mrs. Baxter was born June 16, 1842, in Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, and is a most amiable lady. Mr. Baxter is widely known in Van Wert and surrounding counties, and is recognized as a gentleman of the strictest integrity.

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SAMUEL M. BAXTER, ex-deputy sheriff and city marshal of Van Wert, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, was born in Allen county, Ohio, May 26, 1846, and is a son of Curtis and Emily (Johns) Baxter, of whom mention is made in detail elsewhere in these pages. Samuel M. was reared on the home farm in Allen county and there attended school until his enlistment at Lima, November 27, 1863, in company B, McLaughlin's squadron of cavalry, which was an independent company until May, 1864, when it was consolidated with the Fifth cavalry, and assigned to Sherman's army, then at Atlanta, Ga. After the fall of that city, Mr. Baxter participated in the battle of Sweetwater, Ga. (a cavalry charge); the fight at or near Jonesboro, Ga., the battles of Lovejoy station, Louisville, Ga., Waynesboro and Macon, Ga., and in the hard-fought battles of Averysboro and Bentonville, N. C., and onward to Raleigh, N. C., being present at the surrender of the rebel general, Joe E. Johnston, April 26, 1865. His only injury was self-inflicted by his accidentally shooting himself in one of his feet while on picket duty. He is now a pensioner, receiving $8 per month. On his return from the war he lived with his parents until twenty years of age, when he married and rented a farm until 1882, when he came to Van Wert county and bought 100 acres in Jackson township, which he cultivated until 1891, when he moved to the city and engaged in buying live stock and in shipping it to the eastern markets until January, 1894, when he was appointed deputy sheriff of the county under E. R. Conn, which position he still fills.

Mr. Baxter was first married, March 22, 1865, in Allen county, to Miss Mary J. Miller, a native of that county, born October 25, 1845, and a daughter of Isaac Miller, and by this marriage became the father of four children: Lester C., a harness dealer at Grover Hill; Iva May, at home with her father; Jason E., of Grover Hill, and Emily V., at home. Mrs. Baxter was called to her heavenly home February 23, 1879, dying in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. The second marriage of Mr. Baxter was also solemnized in Allen county and took place, March 22, 1880, to Mrs. Ella M. Cahill, widow of Abraham Cahill and daughter of Barber Robinson, of Crawford county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church; in politics he is a republican, has always been a zealous and efficient official, and on the 14th of May, 1895, was, without solicitation, appointed, by the mayor of Van Wert, to the position of city marshal, and it is needless to state the duties of the office, since his assuming the same, have been most faithfully and satisfactorily performed. He is a Mason, a member of the Royal Arcanum, and of the National Union. He owns a neat residence on First street, and other valuable property; is very popular with the community at large, and is highly esteemed for his honest manliness of character.

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ELIAS BATXER, a highly respected citizen of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of Irish descent, and is a son of Thomas Baxter, who came from Harrison county, Ohio, to Van Wert county, in 1848, and cleared up a farm of ninety-six acres, and here died, December, 9, 1893, at the age of eighty-two years. He and wife were parents of the following children: Elias, Rebecca, Robert, Sarah, John, William, Thomas, Nettie, James, Alonzo, and Nancy J. (who died when fourteen years old)—all of whom were born in Van Wert county, with the exception of Elias, Rebecca, Robert and William, who were born in Harrison county.

Elias Baxter, whose name introduces this biography, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, September 13, 1835, and came with his parents to Van Wert county when thirteen years of age. Here he attended the common schools, and here, also, learned the shoemaker's trade. June 25, 1856, he married Mrs. Mary A. Harvey, daughter of Thomas and Ruth (Harvey) Harvey. Her father, Thomas Harvey, was a native of Ireland, who came, when young, to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was married and had born to him the following children; Jane, Sarah, and Mary A. Thomas Harvey came to Van Wert county in 1850, and died in Harrison township at the age of about eighty years—a member of the Presbyterian church. The union of Elias Baxter and his wife, Mary, was blessed with two children, Ruth, deceased, and Sarah A. Mrs. Baxter having died, Mr. Baxter married for his second wife Mrs. Levonia Mullen, widow of Silas Mullen and daughter of George Bugsbee, a native of New England and an early settler of Pennsylvania, but later a resident of Van Wert county, Ohio. To this second marriage of Mr. Baxter have been also born two children—Effie and Flossie B.

May 2, 1864, Mr. Baxter enlisted in company I, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served four months. In 1872 he located in Convoy, Van Wert county, where he has a most pleasant and tasteful dwelling. He is a member of G. A. R. post, No. 236 of which he has been commander and adjutant; he is also a member of Convoy lodge, No. 641, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs. He is an earnest advocate of the temperance cause, and has been a member of the Good Templar and Sons of Temperance societies. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter are devout members of the Methodist church. The family is highly respected by their neighbors, and Mr. Baxter is a quiet, unobtruding citizen, but is a very useful member of the community.

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JUDGE ALONZO BAKER, deceased, was born in Marion, Ohio, December 31, 1828, and when a child was brought by his parents to Lima, Allen county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood, when he returned to Marion and was married to a Miss Peters. Soon after his marriage he came to Van Wert (in 1851), and here engaged in the dry-goods business and general trade until the call for volunteers to subdue the late Rebellion, when he entered the service, on the call for one-hundred day men, as major of the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Ohio national guard (One Hundred and Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry). On his return he was appointed collector of internal revenue, which office he held until it was abolished, when he again entered the dry-goods trade, in which he continued for a few years, and then bought an interest in the Van Wert Foundry and Machine works, where he filled the position of book-keeper. He sold his interest in this concern in order to be able to perform the duties pertaining to the office of probate judge, to which he was elected in 1872 and re-elected in 1875, and for which position he was re-nominated some ten days before his demise—the republican party, of which he was a most ardent as well as active member, being convinced, as was the general public, that he was the "right man in the right place." The death of Judge Baker was caused by hemorrhage of the stomach and took place September 9, 1878, at the comparatively early age of forty-nine years, eight months and nine days. He left behind, to mourn his loss, a wife and four daughters, beside an innumerable host of friends. Judge Baker was a Lutheran in religion, and fraternally was an Odd Fellow. There was never a whisper of scandal uttered or breathed as to his social life, and he was honored by all as a patriotic and useful citizen and an upright judge.

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**JOSEPH M. BAKER**, an energetic and successful farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Beaver county, Pa., and was born January 31, 1846. His parents, Enoch M. and Mary (Copper) Baker, were of Irish descent, the father of Enoch M., Robert Baker, having been born in Ireland in 1770.

Enoch M. Baker was born in Beaver county, Pa., in 1818, and was reared on the farm of his father, who died in 1863, at the advanced age of ninety-three years. Enoch, in his early days, was a school-teacher, and also learned marble cutting, but, the latter trade disagreeing with his health, he relinquished it and entered upon the more agreeable pursuit of farming in Lawrence county, Pa. There he followed this vocation until 1855, when he came to Van Wert, Ohio, and purchased 160 acres of land, and here died February 4, 1888. His marriage took place in Mercer county, Pa., in 1842, and by this union he became the father of nine children, who were named as follows: John C., deceased; Joseph M., the subject of this sketch; Emmet R., of Indianapolis, Ind.; Samuel C., of Oregon; Mary J., wife of Joseph Hook, of Van Wert; Rachael J., deceased wife of William Wise, of Missouri; Sydney R., wife of Henry Lampe, of Van Wert; Enoch A., of Decatur county, Ind., and Wilma, wife of Barton Holland, of Van Wert. Mrs. Mary Baker was born in Mercer county, Pa., in 1827, and is still living, a member of the Society of Friends. Enoch M. Baker was a true hearted American, and in 1846 responded to his country's call by enlisting for the war with Mexico, but, as it happened, was never called into active service. In politics he was a democrat, for two terms held the office of infirmary director, and for many years was a member of the board of agriculture; he was an active worker in the cause of temperance, was a member of the Legion of Honor, and died a devout adherent of the Society of Friends.

Joseph M. Baker was educated in the common schools of his district and grew to manhood on his father's farm, which he assisted in clearing from the woods as the years wore on. In 1878 he moved to Missouri, and for ten years engaged in farming in Cedar county, and then returned to his home in Van Wert county, Ohio, where he has since been contented and happy. In 1872, Mr. Baker was united in marrage with Miss Margaret Kreider, daughter of John and Sarah (Harsh) Kreider, natives of Lancaster county, Pa. To this union have been born six children, viz: Cora E., who died in childhood; Jennie F.; Joseph M., deceased; Maggie M.; Edna M. and Jessie M. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania September 7, 1852, but at the age of two years was brought to Ohio by her parents, who located in Ashland county, where they resided for ten years and then came to Van Wert county, where her mother is still living, but where her father died about the year 1883. Mr. Baker and wife are members of the Friends' church, and in politics Mr. Baker is a prohibitionist. He is a member of the tent of the Knights of Maccabees at Van Wert and is universally respected as a progressive citizen. His farm of 160 acres is well drained and improved, and gives every indication of being under the control of an experienced agriculturist.

WILLIAM S. BEALE.—One of the prominent and respected citizens of Van Wert, Ohio, and a gentleman who has made a success of business enterprises, as well as in the line of inventions, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch—William S. Beale. He comes from good old English stock, his paternal grandfather, Albion Beale, having been born in England, and coming to this country early in life. He located in Butler county, Pa., where he engaged in farming, and there resided until his death.

Our subject's father, James Beale, was born May 29, 1811, in Butler county, Pa., and there remained until he had reached manhood's estate. He was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Williams, in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1837, and there followed his trade as carpenter until 1854, when he removed to Rock Island county, Ill., and engaged in farming until 1881. At this time he removed to Whiteside county, Ill., where he died in the following year, his wife's death preceding his by three years. The parents were devout people, being members of the Baptist church, and it is recorded of Mr. Beale that he himself erected a Baptist church edifice in Illinois. In politics he was a republican, and personally was a man of sterling worth of character. Mr. and Mrs. Beale were the parents of six children, being named in order of birth as follows: Nancy J., Julia, William S., George W., Sarah A., and Christmas E. Of these only two are now living—our subject, William S., and his sister, Julia, now the wife of J. Cain, of Hillsdale, Ill.

Our subject was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., January 24, 1845, and was nine years of age when his parents removed to Illinois. He grew to manhood in Rock Island county, Ill., and there received his education in the common schools, and in 1865 supplemented this with a commercial course of study in the Eastman Commercial college, of Chicago. This being completed, he returned to Rock Island, Ill., and in conjunction with his brother engaged in buying and shipping live stock, making their headquarters upon the old home farm. In this enterprise they continued until 1870, when they added the dealing in lumber, coal, etc., to their already prosperous business. In November, 1883, they moved to Van Wert, Ohio, and engaged quite extensively in the lumbering business, purchasing timber lands and working up the timber in their own mills for shipment. In this line they continued until 1893, when they retired from the lumber trade, and since then our subject's time has been devoted to the improvement of his land and the perfecting of his inventions.

He was married in Rock Island county, Ill., November 18, 1868, to Miss Mary E. McMurphy, a lady of earnest christian character, who proved a worthy helpmate. Mrs. Beale was born near Hampton, Ill., October 21, 1844, where her early life was passed. She was a faithful member of the Baptist church, and was a most earnest Sunday-school worker. This union was blessed with the birth of three children: Alfred, who died in infancy; Lillie G., and Carrie E., the wife of Rev. George W. Taylor, of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Mr. Taylor is an evangelist of note, whose labors have been crowned with great results. In his life work he was notably assisted by his worthy wife, who is a musician of note, being a fine cornetist as well as a vocalist. The mother of these children died June 18, 1894, and was buried in Hillsdale, Rock Island county, Ill.

Our subject is a republican in politics, and although not a rabid partisan, still takes a proper interest in affairs of public import. Coupled with an acute business judgment, as is noted in his successful ventures, our subject is possessed of an inventive turn of mind, and of late has devoted considerable time and attention to perfecting some of his useful ideas. Among these may be noted a life preserver and bathing protector, upon which he has secured letters patent. It is made of vulcanized rubber, in the form of a vest, and has been pronounced a success wherever tried.

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**JOHN C. BEAR**, an experienced agriculturist and public-spirited citizen of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Fairfield county, in the same state, and was born April 27, 1822, a son of George and Sarah (Cherry) Bear. George Bear was a native of Rockingham county, Va., and his wife was born in Pennsylvania, but both were children when brought to Ohio by their parents, who settled in Fairfield county, and there they grow to maturity and were married. George Bear was a farmer, a millwright, and a carpenter and joiner, and to his marriage with Miss Cherry were born seven children, as follows: Eliza and Nancy, deceased; John C., our subject; George, deceased; Jacob, William; and Sarah, deceased. George Bear brought his family to Anglaize county, Ohio, in 1836, and there lived on a farm until both he and wife were called away by death. While residing in Auglaize county, John C. Bear was united in marriage, May 29, 1845, with Mary Tyson, and the following February came to his present farm in Ridge township—then densely wooded, and abounding in game and other wild animals. Here he set to work and cleared his land, has thriven and reared a family, although he was compelled to go to Fort Wayne and Spencerville for his milling. His children were born in the following order: George, who resides in Kansas; Smith, in Auglaize county, Ohio; Isaac, deceased; Lucinda, wife of Charles Clark, of Van Wert county; John, deceased; Albert, in Kansas; Margaret, deceased; Samuel, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of William Miller; Eliza Ann, married to Henry Farrer, of Michigan; Elijah, .of Kansas; Thomas, of Van Wert county, Ohio; William, at home, and Jacob who also resides on the home farm. In politics Mr. Bear is a republican, and is active in his support of the party, although he has never sought public office. In religion he and wife are members of the Society of Friends, and have done their share and more, too, in securing the erection of a meeting house of worship for the society, Mr. Bear having been one of the building committee, and through his exertions it was that the building was ultimately completed. Mr. and Mrs. Bear are highly respected by their neighbors, and deservedly so, and their children residing in the county share the good will that is extended to the parents.

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**SYLVESTER R. BEECHER**, practical and expert accountant (now with Humphreys & Hughes, of Van Wert, Ohio), was born in Portage county, Ohio, July, 30, 1861, a son of Frederick and Cornelia A. (Center) Beecher. The father, Frederick, was born in Shalersville, Portage county, April 12, 1835, and died in Mantua, same county, February 12, 1866; he was very prominent socially, and as a business man stood in the foremost rank, having been teller in the Ravenna branch of the State Bank of Ohio, and the founder of the extensive mercantile firm of Beecher, Rhodes & Co., at Mantua, Ohio. Mrs. Cornelia A. Beecher was a daughter of Reuben Center, of English descent, and a native of New York. Both the Beechers and the Centers are very old names in the east, and were connected, by blood and marriages, with such families as those of the Pratts, the Forts, the Van Rensselaers, the Van Buskirks, the Ethan Allen family, and that of Henry Ward Beecher. To the union of Frederick and Cornelia A. Beecher were born two children, viz: Sylvester R., who is the subject of this sketch, and Frederick, now agent for the American and National Express companies, at Ashtabula, Ohio. Mr. Beecher was a republican in politics, and at his untimely death left his wife and children in affluent circumstances.

Sylvester R. Beecher, was reared and preliminarily educated at the academy at Shalersville, Portage county, Ohio. At the age of seventeen, he entered Mount Uuion college, where he was finally educated, finishing the course in 1881. After completing his education, he traveled extensively through the southern and western states, and Old Mexico, for a year, and then engaged in the grocery and queensware business in Mantua, where his father, years before, had been very successful; continuing in this business about four years, he sold out to accept a lucrative position at book-keeping.

Mr. Beecher has since remained at this business, for which he is finely constituted, and has held various positions of trust and responsibility with some of the largest firms and corporations in the state, and of late years has made a specialty of expert accounting, auditing, and adjusting books of large firms and corporations. In July, 1889, he came to Van Wert and accepted the position of chief accountant with the Van Wert Natural Gas company, opened their books and filled the position until 1892, when he went to Cleveland, Ohio, to take charge of the office and books of Flynn, Able and Froulke, wholesale furniture dealers and manufacturers, remaining with them from October until the following January, when he was called to Van Wert a second time to take charge of the office and books of the extensive wholesale grocery firm of Humphreys & Hughes. Mr. Beecher has been a successful teacher of book-keeping and penmanship, and is a very fine musician, being an expert performer on the cornet.

Mr. Beecher has been twice married. January 9, 1884, he was united in wedlock with Miss Metta Maude McClintock, daughter of John H. McClintock, a prominent jeweler of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Two weeks after they were married, she was taken sick, and after a lingering illness died the following June. April 30, 1892, in Newport, Ky., Mr. Beecher was married to Miss Hattie A. May, daughter of Joseph May, of Van Wert, Ohio, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two children—Clovis May, and Nora Cornelia. Mr. and Mrs. Beecher are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, and in politics Mr. Beecher is a republican; he is also a royal arch, and royal and select master of the Masonic fraternity, and is regarded as a brilliant and rising young man.

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DANIEL S. BECK, a successful farmer, was born in Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, October 23, 1848, and here he still makes his home. He is a son of Michael and Mary A. (Feighner) Beck, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born in the city of Lancaster January 6, 1816, a son of Daniel Beck, who was probably a native of Germany, but who became a farmer of Pennsylvania, later came to Ohio, and died in Van Wert county in February, 1863. Michael Beck, when a youth, came with his father's family to Ohio, making the trip in wagons, and for a few years resided in Stark county, then moved with the family to Richland county. There, January 7, 1841, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Feighner, daughter of Jacob Feighner, and in October, 1846, came with his young wife and family to Van Wert county, making the journey in an ox-cart, and here he bought 120 acres of government land, placed his family for shelter at the house of a neighbor, O. W. Harvey, cut his way into the woods, built his log-cabin, and in due course of time hewed out from the forest a farm that ranked among the best in the county. To the marriage of Michael Beck and wife were born seven children, viz: Jacob H., who died serving his country at Bowling Green, Ky., January 8, 1863; George W., who also died a soldier's death in Nashville, Tenn., November 26, 1862; Adam F., of Van Wert; Daniel S., the subject of this sketch; John D., a farmer of Pleasant township, and Sabina A., wife of John Roat, and Sarah E., M. D., of Paulding, Ohio. Mrs. Mary A. Beck was born February 25, 1818, in Richland county, Ohio, of German parentage, and died December 19, 1879, a member of the Lutheran church. Michael Beck, father of our subject, was a life-long democrat, and by that party was elected to nearly all the offices of his township, among them, those of township treasurer and township trustee, which positions he held many years. He was active in the work of the Lutheran church, in which he was an office holder, contributing liberally to both church and Sunday-school, and was noted for his bountiful charity and christian kindness. His death, which took place April 15, 1893, was a sad loss to the community, and was deeply and sincerely mourned.

Daniel S. Beck, whose name opens this sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm, was educated in the common-schools of Union township, and in 1873 began the life of a farmer on his own account on the old homestead. January 21, 1875, he was united in marriage with Miss Maggie Rank, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Koser) Rank, this marriage resulting in the birth of three children—an infant that died in infancy, and Zelza G. and Alba L. Mrs. Maggie Beck was born in Cumberland county, Pa., November 18, 1848, and was but six years old when brought to Van Wert county by her parents, of whom further particulars may be learned by a perusal of the sketch of Samuel Rank, to be found on another page. In politics Mr. Beck is a democrat, and in 1893 was elected township trustee, which office he still holds. In religion he and wife are both prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally Mr. Beck is a member of Scott lodge, No. 791, I. O. O. F. He is the administrator of the large estate left by his father, and is ably and faithfully doing his duty in this capacity. As a progressive farmer and public-spirited citizen he is held in the highest esteem, and his social position is an enviable one.

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JOHN D. BECK, youngest son of Michael and Mary A. (Feighner) Beck, was born in Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1854, and is a brother of Daniel S. Beck, whose sketch precedes this, and contains in full the genealogical history of the Beck family. John D. was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood and reared to farming. In 1887 he was united in marriage with Amanda J. Burtsfield, which happy and congenial marriage has been blessed with four children, viz: Catherine M., Alice A., Stephen G. and George G. The mother of these children was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1858, and was thirteen years of age when brought to Van Wert county by her parents. After his marriage Mr. Beck began farming on the old homestead in Union township, which he made his home until 1890, when he purchased his eighty-acre tract in Pleasant township, and this farm he has improved with every modern convenience and brought under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Beck is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically is a stanch democrat. He is a thriving agriculturist, a useful citizen and an honest man, and fully deserves the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen.

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JOHN BECKMANN, trustee of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a leading farmer residing two and a half miles southwest from Delphos, was born on the farm where he now lives on July 20, 1852. His father was William Beckmann, who was a native of Hanover, Germany, and his mother was Clara Marie Hobelmann, also a native of Hanover, Germany. The parents were married in the old country, and came to America in 1844, landing at New Orleans. From that city they came up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and from the latter city they came by way of the canal to Delphos. They settled in Van Wert county on the farm now owned by our subject, they purchasing 120 acres of land. Eight children were born to the parents, five of whom are now living. The children are as follows: Henry, deceased; August, deceased; William, John, Mary, Catherine, Frank, deceased; Elizabeth. The father of these children died November 24, 1885. His widow still survives, and is in her seventy-third year. Both parents were members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church, of Delphos, and the father was a member of Saint Joseph's society.

John Beckmann was reared on the farm, and attended the district schools. Upon the death of his father he became the owner of the old homestead of 120 acres, and since then he has added by purchase eighty acres. On November 7, 1879, he was married to Catherine Schemiller, who was born in Marion township, Allen county, and is the daughter of Mathias Schemiller, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Beckmann three children have been born, as follows: Aloris, August and Joseph. Mr. and Mrs. Beckmann are also members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church of Delphos. In April, 1894, Mr. Beckmann was elected trustee of Washington township, Van Wert county, for a term of three years, and holds that office at the present time. He is a member of the democratic party, is a good citizen, as well as an efficient officer.

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JAMES H. BELL, a respected farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, springs from a colonial family of Pennsylvania, of Irish and German descent. James Bell, his grandfather, was a pioneer of Allegheny county, and his son, Thomas Bell, father of our subject, was born in that county. Thomas there married Jane Armstrong, had born to him six children—Israel, Rebecca, James H., John, Jonathan and Maria—and died in his native county at the age of seventy-nine years. Two of these children served in the Civil war, viz: James H. and Jonathan, the latter of whom, disabled in the 100-day service, in an Ohio regiment, died, a few years after the close of the war, from the effects of this injury.

James H. Bell was born in Allegheny county, Pa., September 24, 1831, was reared on the home farm, and also learned blacksmithing. On coming to Ohio he located at New Concord, in Muskingum county, and on

October 30, 1856, married Miss Mary C. Geyer, daughter of James and Sarah A. (Smith) Geyer. George Geyer, father of James, was one of the original pioneers of Muskingum county, and entered 600 acres of land in the wilderness; James Geyer was at that time but three years of age. To James and Sarah A. Geyer were born the following children: Mary C., Christian A., Martha E., Ruth M. Dorcas S., Nathan J. and Sarah L. (the latter two were twins, of whom Sarah died in infancy), Jacob F., Malinda J., Rosannah E., George M. and Charles U. G. (the last named, at the age of twenty-four years, was called away). James Geyer, the father of this family, was a substantial farmer, owning 200 acres of land; in his declining years he retired to New Concord, where he had built a handsome residence, and there died at the age of seventy-nine years, a member, with his wife, of the Methodist church and an honored citizen. After this marriage, James H. Bell farmed in Muskingum county until May 2, 1864, when he enlisted at Zanesville, Ohio, in the 100-day service under Capt. M. R. Trace; fought in the battle of Maryland Heights and in two very severe skirmishes in the Shenandoah valley, and was with his regiment in all its marches and engagements until his honorable discharge at Zanesville, September 8, 1864. After being mustered out he returned to Muskingum county, whence he moved to Morrow county in the spring of 1865, and in the spring of 1868 brought his family to Van Wert county and settled on the Ridge road, close to his present location, and in 1869 bought his present farm of forty acres, then in the deep woods, but which he and his sons have since cleared up and converted into a pleasent and profitable home. Mr. and Mrs. Bell are members of the Methodist church, in which Mr. Bell has been class leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school; he has taken great interest in educational affairs, and for three years was a member of the school board.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bell have been born seven children, as follows: John F., Joseph A., Thomas J., George W., Laura J., Dorcas M. and Martha W. Of these, John F. is a farmer of Tully township, is married to Bernice Baker and has one child; Joseph A., a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio, married Margaret J. Clinger and is the father of two children; Thomas J., also a farmer of Paulding county, married Ida M. Spelmore, and has four children; George W., farmer, married Candace S. Miller, who has borne three children; Dorcas M. is the wife of Daniel V. Clenn, a farmer of Tully township; Martha M. is married to Ellsworth O'Brien, who is farming the Bell homestead.

The grandfather of Mrs. Bell was born in Pennsylvania, of sturdy German stock; James Geyer, her father, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., August 10, 1810, was married February 6, 1837, and died in New Concord, Ohio, May 6, 1893, age eighty-two years, eight months and twenty-six days. Mr. Bell, aided by his faithful wife, has made for his family a most comfortable home, and both are honored by their neighbors as being among the most respected residents of Tully township.

HENRY BEVINGTON, one of the oldest and most experienced farmers of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Mercer county, Ohio, born October 7, 1831, son of John and Elizabeth (Heath) Bevington, the former a native of Pennsylvania. Shortly after their marriage they located in Mercer county, and in 1832 came to Van Wert county, and settled on a forty-acre tract, on which the mother still resides and which had been presented by John Heath to the mother of our subject, Henry

Bevington; this land was soon converted into fine fields and to-day is the pride of the neighborhood. The children born to John and Elizabeth Bevington were named as follows: Margaret, deceased wife of Alexander Brown; Henry; Nancy Ann, deceased wife of John Arnold, and was the first white child born in York township; Rebecca, deceased wife of Samuel Arnold; James, who attained man's estate and is now deceased; Mercy, widow of Enoch Metz; John, who served in the late war for three years, is also deceased.

John Bevington, father of our subject, made an additional purchase to his original forty-acre tract, and passed away when our subject was but nine years of age. John Bevington was in reality a teamster, hauling goods from Fort Wayne to Piqua, the country at the time being so broken, that it would require two days to make the trip from Mercer to Saint Mary's. The mother of our subject has now attained the advanced age of eighty-five years, and has resided on the same farm since 1832. Henry Bevington resided with his mother until the time of his marriage, May 22, 1852, to Amanda Ries, daughter of Philip and Mary E. (Schaffer) Ries, both natives of Germany. To Philip and Mary E. Ries were born the following children, viz: Wilhelmina, deceased; George, who grew to manhood, married Miss Reese; Mary, the deceased wife of Enoch Barkdull; Catherine, widow of Peter Wappner; Lydia, deceased, and Henry, of York township, all of the above children having been born in Germany; Amanda, wife of our subject; William, who died while in the late war; the latter two having been born in Richland county, Ohio.

Mrs. Bevington's father was a farmer and wagon-maker and located in Richland county, Ohio, when he first came to America; his wife died in York township at the age of eighty-three years. The children born to Henry Bevington and wife were John H., married to Elizabeth Anna Davis, and is the father of three children: Ethel, Della and Clifford; Mary, wife of John Mathias, and mother of one child, Mertie; Charles, wedded to Laura Grant; Anderson, who married Lulu Baggs; Frances, wife of Gill Baltzell, and mother of one son; Leo T.; George; Edward and Bessie, at home.

Mrs. Bevington is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, her parents having also been devout Christians, who worshiped at the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Bevington has a brief but effective military history, having enlisted in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served from 1864 until honorably discharged three months later. The subject's present farm was entirely in the woods, from which he cleared away the spot on which his splendid home now stands, and his eighty acres is now fully under cultivation. Mr. Bevington is recognized as an industrious citizen and thoroughly upright in all transactions.

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DAVID OSWALD BILLMAN, junior partner in the firm of Eyler & Billman, jewelers and opticians, on South Washington street, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Pleasant Mills, Adams county, Ind., March 3, 1868, a son of Frederick Billman, who came to Ohio in 1873. When but five years of age David Oswald, our subject, was brought by his parents to Van Wert county, Ohio, was here educated in the city schools, and at the age of fifteen years began learning the trade of a silversmith or jeweler at home, finishing his lessons in the art at the age of eighteen, when he entered the store of Meredith & Rowland, where he was employed until 1893, when he started business on his own account, with his bench in Kimes' store on South Washington street—this being a tin and stove store. In April, 1894, Mr. Billman united with John S. Eyler, to whom allusion is made elsewhere in this connection, and established the present flourishing business under the firm name and at the location mentioned above, where will always be found a select stock of jewelry, watches, clocks, silverware, and everything pertaining to the trade, and where repairing of the most workmanlike order is promptly attended to and satisfaction guaranteed in every particular, this department being attended to by the practical Mr. Billman in person.

The marriage of David O. Billman was solemnized May 24, 1892, with Miss Myrtle Miller, a native of Van Wert, born in 1869, and a daughter of Samuel Miller. One child has blessed the union and is named Russell. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Billman is a republican. They have their home in their own pleasant residence, which includes two acres of land adjoining the west end of the city, where they enjoy to the full the agreeable association of their neighbors as well as their high esteem. Fraternally Mr. Billman is a member of the National Union, and in his business relations his reputation stands without a blemish.

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HENRY W. BLACHLY, one of the well known attorneys of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Richland county, Ohio, November 24, 1858, and is a son of Dr. Henry W., and Caroline A. (Cracraft) Blachly. The father was born in Washington county, Pa., and located in Richland county, Ohio, in 1856, where he remained until October 26, 1860, when he removed to Van Wert county, where his death took place May 6, 1889. Dr. Henry W. Blachly was a graduate of Jefferson college, Washington county, Pa., studied medicine with his brother, Stephen L. Blachly, a prominent physician of Washington county, and by him was prepared for entrance into the Cleveland Ohio Medical college, from which he graduated in 1854; the following two years he practiced with his brother, then practiced about four years alone in Richland county, Ohio, and then came to Van Wert county. He was married in Washington county, Pa., to Miss Caroline A. Cracraft, who became the mother of two children: Mary E. (deceased) and Henry W. The father was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, in politics he is a republican, and with his wife was a communicant of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which faith the latter still adheres, having her residence now in Van Wert.

Henry W. Blachly, the subject of this sketch, was but two years of age when brought to Van Wert county by his parents. He was prepared, in the Van Wert city schools, for study in the scientific branches in the schools of Valparaiso, Ind., which he entered in 1878 and from which he was graduated in 1879. He then engaged in teaching in Allen and Van Wert counties, Ohio, until 1882, when, in conjunction with his vocation, he was employed in the Van Wert county surveyor's office until 1884. He, in that year, began the study of law under A. L. Sweet, of Van Wert, was admitted to the bar in 1886, and then formed a partnership with his former preceptor in the practice, which partnership lasted until May 20, 1893, when Mr. Sweet retired and was succeeded by W. H. Daily, the firm assuming the style of Blachly & Daily, under which it achieved an enviable reputation and was recognized as one of the most competent law firms of Van Wert city and county until June, 1895, when Mr. Blachly became successor to that firm, being assured of the success his ability so well merits. The marriage of Mr. Blachly took place in the city of his adoption, December 15, 1886, to

Miss Hattie Saltzgaber, who was born in Michigan, October 18, 1859, and is a daughter of Henry and Harriet Saltzgaber, and to the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Blachly have been born two children, Hazel M. and Irma K. In political affinities Mr. Blachly is a republican, and fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, while socially he stands very high, being a gentleman of good address and of unusual ability. Mrs. Blachly is a most estimable lady and also stands deservedly high in the social circles, being a lady of moral integrity and possessing many womanly accomplishments.

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ADAM BLACK, an enterprising farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family, and is a son of Matthew and Catherine (Myres) Black. The father was born in the Keystone state February 4, 1816, was there reared on a farm, and learned something of mechanics, and when a young man came to Ohio and located in Richland county, where he was first employed in a saw and grist-mill, and was there married, and in 1848 came to Van Wert county and entered an eighty-acre tract of land from the government, which he at once proceeded to clear up and cultivate, and on which he erected a log cabin and suitable out-buildings but which buildings were in later years superceded by modern frame structures. He was well known as a successful farmer and stock raiser, and owed his success entirely to his own industry. In politics he was a republican, was a class leader and chorister in the Lutheran Evangelical church for many years, was always a warm advocate of the cause of public education, and died, an honored and respected citizen, February 16, 1871. His wife, also a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1820, and was but a little child when brought by her parents to Richland county, Ohio. She was married to Mr. Black about the year 1842, and became the mother of six children, viz: John, who lives on the old homestead; Adam, our subject; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Moore, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county; George, deceased; Henry W., a farmer, also of Hoaglin township, and Sarah, married to Samuel Albright, of Morrow county, Ohio. The mother of this family is still living.

Adam Black was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 7, 1846, was reared on his father's farm in Van Wert county, and was educated in the little pioneer log school-house. He came, an infant, to Van Wert county with his parents, here grew to manhood, and assisted in clearing up the farm from the woods and in cultivating it until his enlistment, February 27, 1864, in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Uptergraft, going at once to the front and taking part in the hard-fought battle of Resaca, May 14-15, 1864; May 27, 1864, at Pickett's Mill, Ga., he was shot by a sharp-shooter, the ball passing through his arm near the shoulder, and was at once sent to the field hospital, where his wound was dressed, and then to hospital No. 19, at Nashville, Tenn., where he was confined three weeks, when he was sent to New Albany, Ind., Camp Dennison, Ohio, Camp Chase, Camp Douglas, Ill., and to Cairo, Ill., successively, and at the latter place honorably discharged November 16, 1865. As a compensation for the wound here spoken of he now receives a pension of $12 per month. All his pay as a soldier he had carefully saved and forwarded to his father, who applied it to the purchase of the farm on which our subject now lives, and on which he settled in 1875, being this year united in marriage with Anna Livensparger, daughter of David and Catherine Livensparger, of Richland county. This lady was born in Richland county September 20, 1841, bore her husband two children—Rutherford E. and Minerva C. J. (deceased)—and died November 29, 1879. Mr. Black chose for his second wife Miss Harriet Hynes, daughter of David and Nancy (Linder) Hynes, and this union has been blessed with two children—Bertha E. and Laura. Both Mr. and Mrs. Black are members of the Evangelical church and in politics Mr. Black is a republican; he is also a member of the Vance post, G. A. R., at Scott, Ohio, is an Odd Fellow and is a highly respected and useful citizen.

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MATHIAS BOCKEY, one of the leading farmers and citizens of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, residing three miles northwest from Delphos, is a native of Ohio, and was born in Big Spring township, Seneca county, on June 4, 1841. His parents were John and Margaret (Simonis) Bockey, both natives of Germany. They were married in Germany, and several of their children were born before they came to America. They located first in Seneca county, where they remained until 1867, and then came to Delphos, where they resided for a short time, then removed to Landeck, in Marion township, Allen county, where they resided several years, when they returned to Delphos. They both died in Delphos, the mother dying on April 23, 1887, and the father on April 11, 1889. Both were members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church of Delphos. There were eleven children born to the parents, only the following four of whom are now living: Elizabeth, widow of Charles Scheffer, late of Delphos; Margaret, now the wife of Joseph Meyers, of Delphos; Adam, a farmer of Marion township, Allen county, and Mathias.

Our subject was reared on the farm in Seneca county, and attended the common schools, learning both English and German. He remained on his father's farm until 1864, marrying, in 1863, Anna M. Koch, of Seneca county, when he came to Spencer township, Allen county, where he purchased a farm of 120 acres. This land was unimproved and was chiefly in woods. He erected a log house, into which, with his wife, he moved, and began at work clearing up the land. His wife died on this place March 5, 1870, and October 24, 1871, Mr. Bockey was united in marriage to Agnes Koch, a sister of his first wife, who was born in Seneca county, on January 21, 1850. The parents of Mrs. Bockey were Adam and Catherine (Smith) Koch, both natives of Mendlesheim, Bavaria, Germany, and came to America in 1834, and were married, at Tiffin, Ohio, May 9, 1841. The mother died May 10, 1860, leaving six out of eight children, four of whom are now living: John C. Koch, who is the attorney of the Northwestern Railroad company, and a leading citizen of Eagle Grove, Iowa; Mrs. Bockey; George W., a citizen of Bowling Green, Ohio, and Mrs. Mary Bohnlein, of Allen county. From Seneca county, the father removed to Wood county, Ohio, where he died on July 10, 1882. He was born February 2, 1818, and his wife was born July 7, 1819. April 22, 1875, Mr. Bockey removed to Stewart, Adair county, Iowa, where he purchased property and engaged in the milling business; but the milling business not agreeing with his health he remained there but a short time, returning to his farm in Allen county, Ohio. There he remained until 1885, when he purchased 268 acres in sections Nos. 15 and 16, Washington township, upon which he removed. Of the farm there are 142 acres cleared and under cultivation. At the time he moved on, the front part of his present large two-story residence was built, since when he has added the balance. In 1891 he built his barn, which is the largest in Van Wert county, and one of the finest to be found anywhere. It is an L building, dimensions as follows: Front L, 76x40 feet; the other L is 112x40 and is what is known as a bank barn. The height of the sides is twenty feet, and from the ventilators to the ground is forty-nine feet.

In 1890 Mr. Bockey sold forty acres of his unimproved land in Allen county, to the Standard Oil company. This land he purchased in 1864 for $17 per acre, and sold it for $100 per acre. When Mr. Bockey came to Allen county he was possessor of but small capital, his assets amounting then to about $500. What he now has he has earned himself, relying entirely on his own energy and ability. The principal crops of Mr. Bockey are wheat and corn. In 1894 he produced over 4,200 bushels of grain beside other crops. He also raised large quantities of peaches, he having about 300 peach trees; he also grows all kinds of other fruit and berries. He grows large herds of beef cattle, and in 1894 raised the finest cattle ever shipped from Delphos. Four of his beef cattle were shipped to Europe, the four weighing 6,340, receiving $238 for them. He keeps on an average of forty head.

The children of Mr. Bockey are as follows: Margaret, Catherine, Mary, Adam Raphael, Annie I., Lucy S., John Edward, Arthur M. Mr. Bockey and family are members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church. In politics he is a democrat. He is a self-made man and has accumulated his property by his own exertions. He has endured many privations and hardships, and now, at his time of life, is entitled to enjoy the comfort of his fine home and surroundings. Mr. Bockey has for years run a threshing machine and clover huller in his home vicinity, and no man that has served the public has given better service or better satisfaction than he. He is an affable gentleman to meet and one who inspires confidence at every turn. Mr. Bockey is known as one of the progressive and benevolent men of his neighborhood and county, and is also greatly respected wherever known.

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DAVID R. BONEWITZ, the leading dry-goods merchant of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Fayette county, Pa., and was born January 9, 1831, a son of Jacob and Catherine (Franks) Bonewitz, the former of whom was born in Maryland, May 5, 1787, and a son of Jacob and Sarah (Spiker) Bonewitz, the last named Jacob also born in Maryland, and a son of Jacob who was born in Baden, Germany, and was one of three brothers—John, George and Jacob—who came to America together. Of these, John went north, while George and Jacob located in Maryland, where, it is supposed, they passed the remainder of their lives. Jacob Bonewitz, the grandfather of David R., our subject, settled in Fayette county, Pa., in 1800, where he was engaged in farming until his decease. The eight children born to himself and wife Sarah were named Jacob, John, Joseph, Solomon, Rosanna, Ann Marie, Catherine and Elizabeth, all now deceased. Jacob Bonewitz, the eldest of the above family and the father of our subject, was reared in Fayette county, Pa., lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, learned shoemaking, was foreman of a shop in Pittsburg in 1810, and went thence to Mount Vernon, Ohio, where he was foreman for the John Shaw Boot and Shoe factory until his father's death, when he returned to Pennsylvania and acted as administrator of the estate. He was there married, in 1820, to Catherine Franks, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1802, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah Franks, also natives of the Keystone state. After his marriage, Mr. Bonewitz resided on the old homestead until 1833, when he moved to East

Union township, Wayne county, Ohio, and passed the remainder of his life. He was the fother of nine children, viz: F. J., H. W., Sarah J., David R., Julia G., M. V., Elizabeth, Martha and Joseph A.

David R. Bonewitz was reared from three years of age to maturity in Wayne county, Ohio, and in 1854 came to Van Wert county, located in Tully township, and engaged in farming until he was drafted in October, 1862, for nine months, and was assigned to company G, Twentieth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, Seventeenth army corps; at the expiration of his time, on his return home, with $600 given him by his father, he engaged in general merchandising in partnership with his brother-in-law, A. Eyman, at Convoy, in Tully township, which trade was successfully conducted for eight years, when he sold his interest and resumed farming for two years in Ridge township, when he returned to Convoy, farmed until 1876, and in 1877 located in Van Wert city, formed the firm of Bonewitz, Schumm & Co., and dealt in dry goods, carpets, notions, etc., until 1879, when the firm name was changed to Bonewitz & Schumm, and so remained until 1884, when Mr. Bonewitz became sole proprietor, since when he has kept the most popular and fashionable establishment in its line in Van Wert, his stock, in all departments, being unsurpassed in the city.

Mr. Bonewitz was married in Van Wert, January 9, 1866, to Catherine Richie, a sister of H. G. Richie, of whom mention is made elsewhere, and to this happy union have been born four children, viz: Lee, Van and Horace, assistants in their father's store, and Mary, at home. The family are members of the Presbyterian church and are very highly respected in the community. Mr. Bonewitz is the owner of the imposing three-story building in which he carries on his business, the salesroom of which measures 22x132 feet, and is filled with the most select stock to be found in northwest Ohio.

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JOSIAH BOWERS, a well and widely known citizen of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Whetstone township, Crawford county, Ohio, July 9, 1830, of Scotch lineage. His father, Benjamin Bowers, was born in 1805, near Hagerstown, Md., and was a small boy when brought to Ohio by his father, who settled in Stark county. Benjamin there grew up among the frontiersman, and there married Rebecca Lichtenwalter, and later moved to Crawford county, Ohio, where he developed from the wilderness a farm of 320 acres, and owned, beside, a large amount of land in other parts of the country.

Josiah Bowers was reared to manhood on his father's homestead, and April 10, 1851, married Henriette Bare, daughter of John Bare, and to this union were born three children who died young, and one, Rebecca, who is now the wife of Amos Hawkins, a farmer of Nebraska. In 1852 Mr. Bowers came to Van Wert county and settled on eighty acres of land in Harrison township, where he made a good home. He lost his wife in 1859, when he went to Van Wert village and engaged in the clothing business, and later moved to Celina, Ohio, where he engaged in the same trade until May 14, 1861, when he enlisted in company D, Third Ohio battery, state troops, for three years, but at the end of six months received his discharged and enlisted again for three years or during the war in the Third independent Ohio battery, which was mustered into the United States service, and in this he served until honorably discharged, on account of disability, at Saint Louis, Mo., in 1863. He next served about six months in the One Hundred and Sixty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, then a year, or during war, in the One Hundred and Sixteenth regiment, and was finally discharged, in 1865, with the rank of first sergeant.

February 22, 1866, the second marriage of Mr. Bowers took place to Margaret Jane Miller, and to this union have been born six children, viz: Henriette, married to Jasper Lyons, of Harrison township; Lulu, wife of Enos Brittson, now deceased; Vinta, married to Sherman Albright, of Harrison township; Jesse W. Fremont, Jasper and Harlan. After marriage, Mr. Bowers settled on a farm of 105 acres in Harrison township, and in 1882 opened a general store at Middlebury, where he is still doing a successful business, also superintends his farm of forty acres adjoining the town. Mr. and Mrs. Bowers are members of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Bowers is a republican. He is a gentleman who has always had a steady purpose in life, has worked hard and acquired a competence, and it may well be said that this family is one of the most highly respected in Van Wert county.

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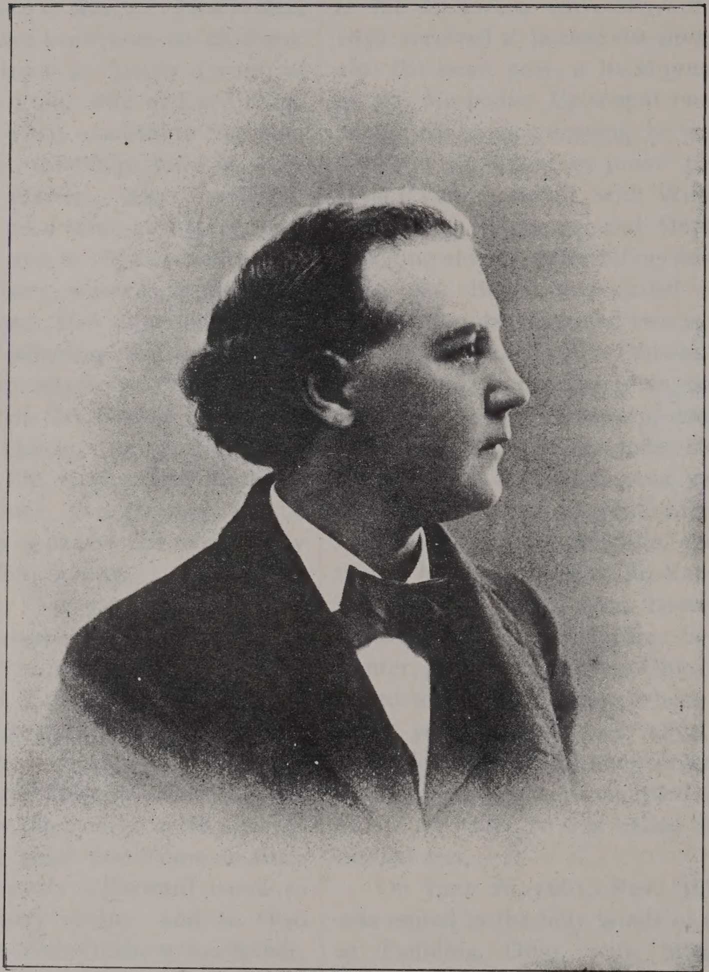
REV. JOHN T. BOWER, deceased, was born in Blair county, Pa., December 27, 1834. His parents, Daniel and Rosanna Bower, were natives of Germany, and early in 1834 came to America, making their first home in Blair county, Pa., but shortly afterward came to Ohio, located in Perry county, and in 1840 removed to Marion county, where the father, after a useful life as a farmer died in 1868, and the mother in 1872. Their thirteen children were named, as follows: Frederick, Rosanna, Caroline, Theophilus, Louisa, Charles, Augustus, Lewis, Hannah, John T., Samuel, Elizabeth and Daniel. Of this family seven are deceased, viz: Caroline, Theophilus, Charles, Augustus, Elizabeth, Hannah and John T.

John T. Bower was reared on the farm in Marion county, attended the common schools until nineteen years of age, then passed a year in the Delaware university, of Ohio, and in 1854 received a license to preach, receiving, also the same year, a local preacher's license in the Methodist Episcopal church. At the annual conference ensuing he was received on trial and appointed as junior preacher in the Mount Victory circuit, with William H Taylor as preacher in charge and Henry Pilcher as presiding elder. After filling this position one year, Mr. Bower was called to Zanesville, Ohio, where he remained two years, following which he had charges in Ohio as follows: Versailles, two years; Greenville, one year; Fort Seneca, one year; Antwerp, two years; Airsville, two years; Saint John, two years; McComb, two years; Cairey, one year; Arcanum, three years; again at McComb, three years; Lakeside, one year; Airsville, again, one year; thence he came, in 1875, to Van Wert, where he officiated until 1880; hence to William Centre, two years; Hardin, two years, and Center, one year. From Ohio he was transferred to Athens, Tenn., where he remained three years and then, in 1892, returned to Van Wert, Ohio, and here served as a faithful servant in the Master's vineyard until February 14, 1893, when he was called from labor to eternal rest.

On June 26, 1861, Rev. John T. Bower was united in the holy bonds of matrimony, in at Paulding, Ohio, with Miss Rachel W. Wiyans, who was born in Troy, Ohio, November 24, 1841, a daughter of John C. and Mary N. (Clark) Wiyans, of Holland descent, and the parents of six children, born in the following order: Delilah Ann (deceased), Mary J. (deceased), Josephine H., Charles, John (deceased), and Rachel W. (Mrs. Bower). To



WILLIAM J. BIEBER.

the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bower were born three children, viz; Frank W., a painter; Inez G., a clerk, and Harry C., at home with his mother. Mrs. Bower has a comfortable competency left her by her lamented husband. She is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, is highly respected in society, and is much admired for her amiability and lady-like demeanor.

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WILLIAM BIEBER, a highly respected business man of Van Wert, was born in Van Wert, Ohio, a son of Charles Bieber, mentioned in full below. When but a child he went with his mother to Toledo, where, with her, he resided until 1873, there receiving his education. He first moved to Philadelphia, Pa., where he learned the cigar maker's trade, which he followed there until 1890, when he and his mother came to Van Wert, and here he took charge of his inheritence, which amounted to about $4,000, mostly in realty, and continued to support his mother until her death in 1893, since when subject and sister have made their home together. He is a democrat in politics and a Methodist in religion. He is an energetic business man and a whole-souled gentleman, who has made hosts of friends and enjoys the respect of them all, as well as that of the public in general.

Charles Bieber, late of Van Wert, was born in Sweibrecken, Germany, and descended from noble ancestry, yet at an early age learned the business of a baker, at which he worked for a number of years. He emigrated to this country when he was twenty-one years of age, landing in New York, and going thence to New Orleans. He then went to Philadelphia, where he was married, and returned to New York, in the meantime continuing to work at his trade in each place, in order to secure money with which to pay his expenses. Still later he spent five or six years in traveling through southern states. In 1854 he finally settled down in Van Wert, where he lived until his death, which occurred April 15, 1889. For some time after locating in Van Wert he worked at his trade and then established himself as a merchant, meeting with success, and retiring from active life in 1875, on account of old age. He was a member of Saint Peter's Evangelical church, and was always charitably disposed, giving his means in aid of all worthy enterprises that appealed to him. Mr. Bieber and his wife were the parents of five children, viz: Louisa, widow of Andrew Richter, whose sketch appears on a following page, Mary, Emma, Elizabeth, and William, only two of whom are now living, Louisa and William, both residents of Van Wert.

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WILLIAM BOWER, one of the pioneers of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and whose lamented death occurred June 25, 1895, descended from an old Pennsylvania family of German extraction. John Bower, his father, was a native of York county, Pa., was reared on a farm, and married Elizabeth Warner; to this marriage were born the following children: William, Jacob, John, Levi, David (who died young), Catherine, Elizabeth, Sarah A. and Lydia A. John Bower, early in 1825, came to Ohio and located in Harrison county, and in 1839 came to Van Wert county, and settled on 160 acres in Tully township. He was a shoemaker by trade, as well as farmer, a highly respected citizen, and a member of the Lutheran church.

William Bower, whose name opens this mention, was born in York county, Pa., May 3, 1813, and was twelve years of age when brought to Ohio. He grew up a farmer, and in 1836 married Sarah Tenner, daughter of John and Mary (Tipton) Tenner, of Harrison county. Three years after his marriage Mr. Bower, in October, 1839, came to Van Wert county and entered 160 acres in the wild woods of Harrison township, before the Indians had left the country and when the forest was abounding in wild game. In due course of time he succeeded in clearing up his farm and in making a good home. He became a representative citizen, and a popular democrat, and served as township clerk, assessor, trustee; was twice a member of the school board and a supervisor several times, and, indeed, filled all the offices of the township, with the exception of justice of the peace. He was a member of the Lutheran church, was one of the organizers of the first Lutheran congregation in Harrison township, and filled the offices of elder and Sunday-school superintendent. To Mr. and Mrs. William Bower were born eight children, viz: John Emanuel, Mary, Kate, Andrew, Daniel, Rachael and Clara. Two of the above-named sons served in the late Civil war. Emanuel was in the Forty-sixth Ohio infantry and served nearly four years; Andrew was in the Fifty-second regiment, Ohio infantry, and was killed in the trenches before Atlanta.

John T. Bower, the eldest child of the above named family, and was born in Harrison county, Ohio, February 15, 1837, and was about two years of age when brought to Harrison township, Van Wert county. He received the ordinary education given to pioneer farmers' lads, was reared to farm life, and in early life married Clara A. Pomeroy. To this union were born eight children, viz: Sarah A., Lucy, William, Bert, Bertha, Charles, Della and John W. Mr. Bower is a democrat in politics and has served as township clerk, as assessor, and as clerk of the school board. He lost his wife April 10, 1893, and has never ceased to mourn his deprivation. William Pomeroy, father of the late Mrs. Bower, came from the state of New York, was of New England descent, and died in Michigan, aged more than seventy years.

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JAMES BRADLEY, one of the older farmers of Hoaglintownship, Van Wert county, Ohio, and mill-owner, is of Scotch-English descent. John Bradley, his grandfather, on coming from England, lived in Pennsylvania for a considerable time, but in 1820 came to Ohio and entered eighty acres of land in Richland county, on which he made his permanent home. He married a Miss Powell, reared a family and died on his farm, a member of the Presbyterian church. William Bradley, son of John, above mentioned, and father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and was eighteen years of age when he first came to Ohio, prior to the coming of his father, and selected a farm on which he made the first improvement; subsequently wrought out an eighty-acre farm for himself. He married Miss Priscilla Hoy, who bore him the following children: Jane (deceased), Margaret, John (deceased), Richard (deceased), Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas and Priscilla, beside our subject; the parents both died in Richland county, members of the United Presbyterian church.

James Bradley, whose name opens this biography, was born in Richland county, Ohio, March 25, 1838, and has been engaged in farming and milling and mechanical work ever since boyhood. On reaching his majority, he he married Miss Catherine Light, daughter of Michael and Catherine (Hinkst) Light. The marriage took place in Crawford county, Ohio, but house-keeping began in Richland county, whence, three years later, the young couple moved to Allen county, where Mr. Bradley farmed for seventeen years, and then came to Van Wert county, where he has resided twelve years. The result of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley is the following family: William M., Cora E. (deceased), Lydia J., Homer, Hattie M., Mary C. and George F.

Michael Light, the father of Mrs. Bradley, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., March 25, 1809, and his wife, Catherine Hinkst, was a native of York county, Pa., born December 4, 1821. They were married in Richland county, Ohio, where the parents of each had long before settled. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Light were nine in number, and were born in the following order: Mary (deceased), Daniel, Samuel, John (deceased), Catherine and Lydia (twins), George, Michael (deceased) and Margaret. The grandparents of Mrs. Bradley, John and Nancy (Landis) Light, came from Dauphin county, Pa., to Richland county, Ohio, in the pioneer days, entered a tract of sixty acres, and were among the first to give tone to the respectability of their township.

The farm now owned and occupied by James Bradley, our subject, comprises 119 acres, and is unexcelled in its arable character by any other in the township. It has been brought to its present state of productiveness wholly by the labor and skill of Mr. Bradley himself, who is an adept in agricultural affairs. But his ingenuity and skill are not confined solely to farming. He also owns and operates a saw-mill, threshing machine, shingle machine, and a feed-mill connected with his saw-mill. In all his worldly or temporal affairs Mr. Bradley has evidenced wonderful sagacity and exercised a prodigious amount of energy, both mental and physical. His moral sentiment is intensely developed, and is manifested in his every act. He is a trustee in the United Brethren church, and was active in promoting the erection of the house of worship now owned by that denomination in Hoaglin township, and was extremely liberal in his pecuniary aid for the purpose. In politics Mr. Bradley is an ardent prohibitionist, and socially he and family rank among the best of Van Wert county.

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FRANK M. BRICKNER, one of the well known farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and trustee of the township, is a native of Ohio, having been born at Tiffin, Seneca county, on April 22, 1861. He is a son of John and Caroline (Shull) Brickner. The father is a native of Ausbach, Bavaria, Germany, born December 11, 1831, and the mother was born in Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, October 7, 1838. The father came to America in 1839, when a boy of eight years, his father, Michael Brickner, settled in Seneca county, Ohio. In 1863, John Brickner removed to Van Wert county and purchased the land where he now resides in Washington township, three miles northwest of Delphos, and here he has since resided.

Our subject is the eldest of nine children born to his parents, seven of whom are living. He was reared on the farm in Washington township and secured his education in the public schools. When about nineteen years of age he left home and worked on the farms in the neighborhood of Delphos, and for three months at Tiffin. On October 7, 1884, he was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Baumgarte, who was born in Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, on June 28, 1860, and is the daughter of Conrad Baumgarte, one of the well known farmers of Van Wert county and Washington township. To Mr. and Mrs. Brickner four children have been born as follows: Ida C., born August 16, 1885; Edward J., born August 19, 1887; Lucy C., born March 29, 1890; Theodore H., born June 26, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Brickner are members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church of Delphos.

Mr. Brickner has always been a democrat in politics, and has always taken an active interest in political and public matters. In April, 1895, he was the candidate of the democratic party for trustee of Washington township, and was elected by the usual majority, going into office on the tenth day of April. Mr. Brickner is one of the best known of the younger farmers of Washington township. He is a good business man, and will no doubt give general satisfaction in the discharge of his official duties. He is enterprising and energetic, and is public spirited in every way. For nine years Mr. Brickner was engaged in the manufacture of tile upon his farm and made quite a success of the business. He sold out that business in 1891.

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BENJAMIN BRITTSON, a substantial farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of one of Van Wert's pioneers, and is of ante-Revolutionary descent. His grandfather, Isaac Brittson, came from Beaver county, Pa., to the far west in 1830 and settled in Adams county, Ind., where he was killed at a barn raising at the age of fifty-six years. Isaac Brittson, Jr., son of the Isaac aboved named and the father of Benjamin, our subject, was born September 27, 1818, in Beaver county, Pa., was reared from the age of twelve years on his father's farm in Adams county, Ind., came to Van Wert county in early manhood and first married Elizabeth Pring, daughter of Richard Pring, a pioneer of Van Wert county, and the father of ten children. After marriage, Isaac Brittson, Jr., settled on wild land in the central part of Harrison township. To his first marriage were born nine children—Mary, Daniel, Jeremiah, Martha, Benjamin, John, Jenny, Lucina and William. The second wife of Mr. Brittson bore the maiden name of Sarah J. Pomeroy and became the mother of nine children—Enos, Walter, Eliza, Bert, Willis, Lizzie, Frank, Chauncey and Charles. The second Mrs. Brittson died, and for his third wife Mr. Brittson married Mrs. Mary M. Hillard, who bore him three children—James, Catherine and Bessie. Mr. Brittson was first a Lutheran, but later became a Methodist, in which faith he died March 23, 1891. In politics he was a democrat.

Benjamin Brittson was born March 12, 1850, on his father's farm in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, received a good common-school education, and was reared to farming and also learned the carpenter's trade. February 18, 1877, he was united in wedlock with Eliza E. Capper, daughter of Stephen and Ellen (Stewart) Capper—the former born June 1, 1818, and the latter February 15, 1821. Stephen Capper, in 1841, settled on the farm now occupied by our subject, the place containing 160 acres in the woods. His wife was a daughter of Mahlon Stewart, who was born in Maryland, of Scotch descent, and settled in Ohio in 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Capper were the parents of seven children, viz: Elizabeth, David (killed in the battle at Dalton, Ga.), Mahlon, James, Thomas, Wellington and Eliza E. After marriage, Mr. Brittson settled on the Capper homestead, and here he has since lived. To his union with Miss Capper were born three children—Charles, Hattie and an infant that died unnamed. Mrs. Eliza E. Brittson died April 7, 1883, and March 23, 1884, Mr. Brittson married Miss Alice L. Harr, daughter of John H. Harr, whose biography is to be found on another page, and to this union have been born two children, Florence and Mary. Mr. Brittson has been a church elder for five years, and in politics he is a democrat; he is also a member of the Hiawatha tribe, No. 116, I. O. R. M., of Convoy, and is recognized throughout the communtity as an upright, straightforward gentleman and citizen.

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**JOSEPH BRODNIX.**—Among the old and well known citizens of Van Wert county, Ohio, deserving mention with its representative citizens, the name of Joseph Brodnix, of Van Wert, is worthy of extended notice. He was born in Bucks county, Pa., August 3, 1827, son of Thomas and Anna (Boyd) Brodnix. Thomas Brodnix, also a native of the aforesaid county and state, was born February 2, 1799, and his father, also named Thomas, was born in 1758, in France. Thomas Brodnix, Sr., received a military education in his native country, and when a young man came to America in time to take part in the Revolutionary war, at the close of which he settled in Bucks county, Pa., where he followed the farmer's vocation. He also served in the war of 1812. He married Sarah Barrico, who bore him five children: Sarah, Nancy, William, Thomas, and Hannah, all deceased. The father of the above-named children died in 1836 and the mother in 1839.

Thomas Brodnix, Jr., the date of whose birth is given in the preceding paragraph, was born and reared to manhood in Bucks county, Pa., and was there educated in a Quaker school, his parents having been birthright members of the Society of Friends. While still young he learned carpet-weaving, and followed the same for some years in the city of Philadelphia, and about 1832 engaged in boating on the Delaware river for two or three years. He then followed carpet-weaving in Dayton, Ohio, and about 1840 came to Van Wert county, locating in York township, where he made his home till 1865, moving at that time to Defiance, where his death occurred February 1, 1892. Thomas Brodnix, Jr., was twice married; the first time, to Anna Boyd, by whom he had six children: Joseph, subject of this biography; Sarah, widow of A. M. Corgan, resident of Defiance, Ohio; John, a resident of Napoleon, Ohio; Anna, wife of James Boyd, of Paulding county; Isabella, and Edward H., deceased. Mr. Brodnix's second marriage was with Janett Bronson, who is also deceased.

Joseph Brodnix, the leading events of whose life are herewith set forth, was thirteen years old when his parents came to Van Wert county, but previous to that time he worked at carpet-weaving, with his father, in the city of Dayton. He remainad under the parental roof until reaching manhood's estate, and about 1848 accepted a clerkship in a general store, in which capacity he continued four years, and for two years was engaged as salesman in a dry-goods house. His next employment was in a hotel at Saint Mary's, where he remained for a short time and then taught school, for less than one year, in the town of Mendon, Mercer county.

Returning to Van Wert county, Mr. Brodnix, on the 3rd day of July, 1851, was united in marriage to Lydia A. Cook, daughter of Daniel Cook, of Virginia, and immediately thereafter engaged in agricultural pursuits in Pleasant township, renting land for three years, and then purchased a farm consisting of 160 acres in the township of Pleasant; he sold this place in 1864, then bought 160 acres in Liberty township, eighty acres of he gave to his son, B. B. He followed the farmer's vocation with fair success, until 1865, at which time he disposed of his place and moved to the city of Van Wert, where for some time he engaged in the boot and shoe trade. Severing his connection with the mercantile business, Mr. Brodnix next turned his attention to house-painting and later engaged in house-decorating and paper-hanging, which he still follows. In the various enterprises in which he has been engaged, he has been successful and now has a comfortable competency, including a residence in the city and a good farm, also owning, in partnership with his brother, 102 acres of land in the county of Defiance.

By his first marriage, alluded to in the preceding paragraph, Mr. Brodnix became the father of eight children, whose names, in order of birth, are as follows: Anna, Emma, Ella, Julia, Frank, Ida, Perry and Bennie, all deceased but the last named. Mrs. Brodnix was born in Richland county, Ohio, and departed this life July 17, 1892. On the second day of February, 1893, Mr. Brodnix married his present wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Shanor, widow of the late Dr. Shanor of Allegheny, Pa.

Mr. Brodnix is a member of the I. O. O. F., a republican in politics, and with his wife belongs to the Presbyterian church. In all the essentials of true manhood, and good citizenship, he is not wanting, and during his long residence in Van Wert he has won a warm and abiding place in the affections of the people; he is kindhearted, his integrity has never been questioned, and throughout a long and useful life, he has kept on the best of terms with his fellow-men.

Bennie B. Brodnix is the only living child of Joseph and Lydia Brodnix. Mr. Brodnix was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, April 16, 1872, and passed his youthful years in the city of Van Wert, in the schools of which he acquired a good English education. On the 22d of November, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Leona V., daughter of Franklin and Mary J. (Weber) Yant, and immediately thereafter began farming his present place, consisting of eighty acres of fine land in Liberty township. Mr. Brodnix has made many substantial improvements on this place, developing its natural resources, erecting buildings, etc., and has the satisfaction of knowing that under his successful management it has been made one of the finest farms of its size in Liberty. B. B. Brodnix is republican in politics, and also a member of North Liberty Methodist church.

Mrs. Brodnix's father, Franklin Yant, was born in Stark county, Ohio, December 28, 1831, and her mother first saw the light of day in the county of Columbiana on the 30th day of August, 1835. They were marrried in Mercer county, Ohio, thence moved to the county of Van Wert, settling in Liberty township; he served in the late war in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio infantry, was a republican in politics, a member of the Methodist church, in which he held the office of trustee and steward, and died March 27, 1894. His father, Philip Yant, a native of Pennsylvania, married Nancy Nicholas, and in an early day immigrated to Stark county, Ohio, thence, later, became a resident of Van Wert county, being among its well known pioneers.

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BENJAMIN BROWN, one of the most substantial and experienced of the farmers of Willshire township, Van Wert county, was born in Morrow county, Ohio, December 24, 1835, was fairly well educated and has always ben prominent as an agriculturist. Payne T. Brown, father of our subject, was born near Steubenville, N. Y., in 1802, and when he attained his majority came to Ohio, in company with his mother, his father having previously died in the Empire state. Payne T. and his mother located in Richland county, where Payne T. was married to Elizabeth Vanator. The young couple then entered eighty acres of land in what is now Morrow county, and also purchased eighty additional acres, thus making a good farm. In later life they removed to Van Wert county and purchased in Whillshire township the farm of 230 acres on which our subject now resides, and where Payne T. died in August, 1872, leaving a widow and the following children: Mary; Mrs. Sarah A. Stane; Thomas, deceased; Benjamin, our subject; Emeline; Henry; Susan, deceased, and Thomas. The mother of these children now makes her home on the old homestead, which, when settled, was six miles away from the nearest neighbor.

Benjamin Brown was married, September 15, 1859, to Lucinda Majors, daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Julick) Majors, who were very early settlers in Adams county, Ind.—the former being a famous hunter and fisherman, who paid for his Adams county farm with deer-skins. He eventually moved to Henry county, Mo., where he died in 1890, and where his widow still resides. Just five years after marriage Benjamin Brown enlisted, September 15, 1864, in company D, Forty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, was detailed as a post guard in the army of Gen. George H. Thomas, saw much active duty in the campaigns in Kentucky, Tennessee and in Alabama, and was honorably discharged June 15, 1865. The family born to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Brown was comprised of the following accomplished sons and daughters: Rosa, deceased wife of Alfred Ayers; George W., who lives in Athens, Tenn.; Benjamin, who was an operator for seven years for the Chicago & Erie Railway company, never made a mistake of one cent in his accounts, and saved the money necessary to defray the expenses of his education, and will soon graduate from Bethany college, W. Va.; Ellsworth, principal of the Ohio City schools and a member of the county board of teachers' examiners; Maud, who has secured her license and began teaching in the summer of 1895; Harry and Nellie—the last two mentioned being also prepared for the vocation of teaching. On the day of their marriage Benjamin Brown and wife settled on the present farm of 230 acres, and here their interesting family have been born and reared. The farm was then entirely new, but Mr. Brown has converted it into one of the finest pieces of property in the county, and has improved it with a modern brick dwelling and other substantial buildings. His cattle are full-blooded short-horns, and his other stock is equally as choice, and he is one of the most progressive, as well as one of the wealthiest farmers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are consistent members of the Disciples' church, and in politics Mr. Brown is a strong prohibitionist. The social standing of the family is of course with the best in the county.

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PROF. ELLSWORTH BROWN, principal of the high school of Ohio City, and son of Benjamin and Lucinda Brown, was born near Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, June 4, 1866. The father was born in what is now Morrow county, then a part of the county of Richland, December 25, 1837, being the son of Payne T Brown, a native of New York, who immigrated to Ohio about 1830, settling in Richland county. Payne T. Brown was of Scotch descent, a republican in politics, and for many years an active member of the Christian church. He married Elizabeth Vanator, and reared the following children: Henry; Benjamin; Mary Emeline, wife of Henry Trimby; Sarah, widow of Thomas Stone; George W., Rebecca, widow of George Dettmer; Martin; Payne T.; Susan, and Thomas. The mother of these children is still living, at a ripe old age; the father departed this life in 1872.

Benjamin Brown, father of the subject, was reared a farmer, and in 1859 married Lucinda Major, daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Gulick) Major, a union blessed with the birth of the following children: Rosa, deceased wife of A. A. Ayres; George W., a farmer, residing in Tennessee; Benjamin, professor of elocution and oratory at Bethany college, Va.; Ellsworth, the subject of this sketch; Inez, a teacher in Willshire and Maud, who is also engaged in school work. Benjamin Brown and wife are well known residents near the town of Willshire, where they are highly respected. Mr. Brown served in the late war, in the Forty-second Ohio infantry, until the close of the same, his period of enlistment having extended from 1863 to the latter part of 1865. In politics he was originally a republican, but of late years has been a supporter of the prohibition party. He and wife are members of the Christian church.

Joshua Major, father of Mrs. Benjamin Brown, settled in Adams county, Ind., when a young man, and lived there until 1874, when he emigrated to Henry county, Mo., where his death occurred in 1886; his wife, Harriet Gulick, daughter of John Gulick, was born in Romney, Va., and became the mother of the following children: John E., Lucinda, Melissa, Charles, Mrs. Eliza Kilmer, Mrs. Belle Curtis, Daton, Henry, Davis W. and Mrs. Emma Alfter.

The immediate subject of this sketch laid the foundation of his literary education in the common schools of Willshire township, and attended two years at the Van Wert high school, and at the early age of sixteen began teaching, his first term being in district No. 4, Willshire township. Subsequently, he taught in Pleasant township and Ohio City, three years in the latter place, and then, actuated by a laudable desire to increase his literary knowledge, entered the Western Ohio Normal school, from which he was graduated at the end of two years. On completing his course, Prof. Brown was chosen a member of the faculty of the aforesaid institution, but continued in that capacity for only a limited period, resigning in 1889, in order to engage in educational work in the south. He accepted a professorship in an academy at Oak Grove, Ga., and taught successfully for less than a year, and then resigned to accept the superintendency of the public schools of Flovilla, Ga., which position he retained for four consecutive terms.

On the 7th day of August, 1890, Prof. Brown entered into the marriage relation with Miss Calla Hoffman, daughter of Christian and Margaret Hoffman. (For sketch of Mrs. Brown's parents, see biography of Christian Hoffman.) Mrs. Brown was born December 26, 1868, in Van Wert county, attended the country schools, and later graduated from the Western Ohio normal at Middlepoint, Ohio, completing her course in 1891, after her marriage. Mrs. Brown taught in the Ohio City schools before her marriage and for two years was assistant to her husband in the high school in Flovilla. Prof. Brown and Mrs. Brown have three children—Minnie Lea, Fawn and Allen DeWitt. Mr. Brown was elected superintendent of the Ohio City schools in September, 1892, and has discharged the duties of this position in a capable and most satisfactory manner ever since. In August, 1894, he was appointed member of the county board of school examiners for three years, and since that time has done much toward supplying the schools of the county with a superior class of teachers. He is an enthusiast in his profession, keeps fully abreast of the times, and has before him a most promising future. He is a member of the Methodist church, in which he holds the office of trustee, and in politics is a republican.

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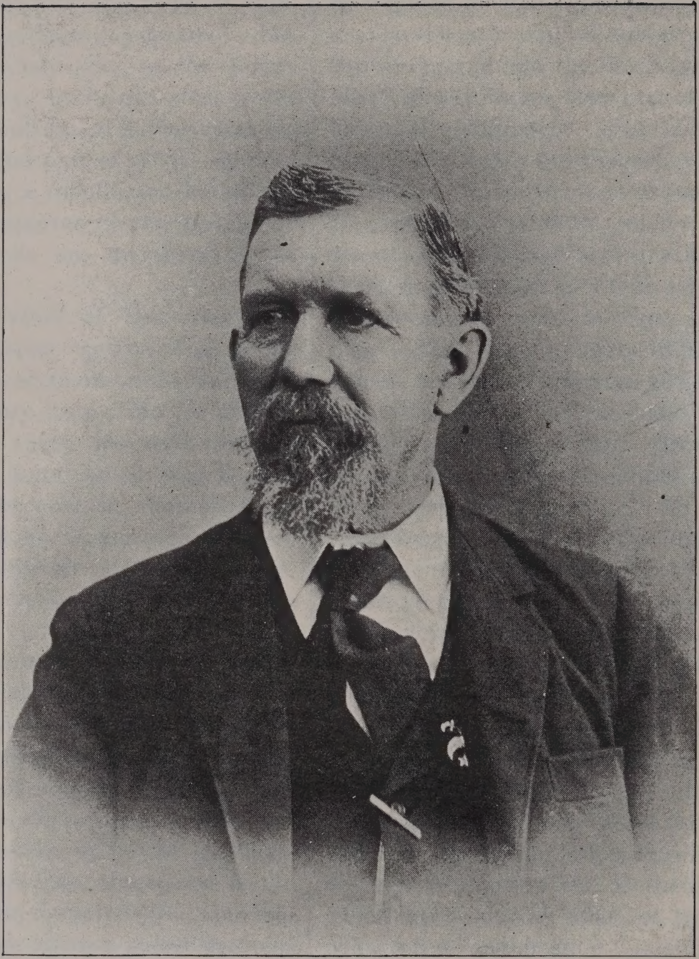
MARTIN BROWN, of the firm of Brown & Barrick, Van Wert, Ohio, is the eighth child of Payne T. and Elizabeth (Vanator) Brown. Payne T. Brown was born in the state of New York.



HENRY BUTLER.

Upon reaching his majority he followed the tide of emigration and came west, settling in Morrow county, Ohio. Here he entered a tract of eighty acres of land, made a clearing, and sowed and reaped, and by frugality acquired a competency and reared his family. In politics he was an old-line whig, and died, honored and respected, in October, 1872. His widow is a native of Ohio, a daughter of James Vanator, one of the early pioneers of Morrow county, and still resides upon the old homestead, loved and respected by all who know her, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. To the union of this worthy couple were born twelve children, as follows: Mary; Sarah A., wife of Thomas Stone; Henry, deceased; Benjamin; Emeline, wife of Henry Trimby; Rebecca, widow of George Doltmer; George W.; Martin; Payne; Susannah; Marion, deceased, and Thomas, deceased.

Martin Brown the subject of this biography, was born on his father's farm in Morrow county, Ohio, June 19, 1844. He received such education as could be obtained in a district school in the early pioneer days. While still in his teens, he left the paternal roof and sought a change in Van Wert county. Here he worked for a time on a farm owned by his father, near Willshire. On reaching his majority, he was employed as clerk for some years in Willshire, and later he located near Rockford, on a farm.

In the year 1875 he settled in Van Wert and established himself in the livery business, which he carried on successfully until 1881. In 1883 he located in Willshire. where he established and conducted a general store for a considerable time, when he disposed of his business, and engaged in the agricultural implement trade until 1892. In this year he established his present livery business. Mr. Brown has been three times married. His first wife was Miss Frank Work, who died in 1873. Two children were born of this union, and both died in infancy. His second marriage occurred, in 1877, with Miss Maud Graham. She died in 1882. For his third wife Mr. Brown espoused Miss Hattie Parks. To this marriage have been born the following family: Carl, Maude, Ora, one who died in infancy and Coil. In his political views Mr. Brown is a republican. He is also a member in good standing of Van Wert lodge, No. 218, F. and A. M.

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HENRY BUTLER, one of the most enterprising citizens of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of England, was born February 12, 1839, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Kirk) Butler, both natives of the same shire, where they were married. John Butler, from 1845 until his death, was a dealer at Manchester in grain, flour, produce, etc., and was a well educated gentleman. He was a Methodist in his religion and in politics was a liberal, and took great interest in all public affairs. They were the parents of nine children, named as follows: John; George, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Edwin, Elizabeth, William, Thomas and two that died young.

Henry Butler was but ten years of age when he left his native land in company with an uncle, William Clayworth, and July 3, 1849, landed in New York, but shortly afterward came to Ohio, and until October resided in Zanesville, when the two came to Van Wert and remained together until our subject reached the age of eighteen years, although during this interval our subject had passed a year or two with a cousin in Huntington county, Ind. On his final settlement in Van Wert, Henry Butler was employed in railroading until the breaking out of the late Civil war, when he enlisted, April 17, 1861, in company E, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three months, and after the expiration of his term returned to Van Wert and engaged in handling cooperage until 1863, when he enlisted in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteers, under Capt. W. T. Davis, for the term of three years, or during the war. He was assigned to guard duty at Camp Chase, where he remained until his honorable discharge in August, 1865, and again returned to Van Wert, where he became connected with Senator Meredith in the manufacture of staves and heading, though in a short time J. S. Brumback bought out the interest of Mr. Meredith, and the firm became H. Butler & Co., and from August, 1865, until 1869, there was an interchange of several partners. In the last-named year the business was closed at Van Wert, and in 1890 Mr. Butler trasferred the factory to Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, where, in partnership with A. L. Doran, he turns out from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 staves per annum and heading in proportionate quantities. Mr. Butler owns much valuable real estate in the city of Van Wert, and also property in Ohio City, which town was laid out by himself and J. S. Brumback, the banker, and Lester Patterson.

Mr. Butler is a republican in politics and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has served his fellow-citizens of Van Wert as councilman for two years, was one of the water-works trustees, and has been a member of the park commissioners since the organization of the board; he was also appointed city treasurer in January, 1895. He was one of the promoters of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, and with J. S. Brumback, J. M. C. Marble and Lester Patterson, took the contract for building the first ten miles of the road, of which he became the president in 1879, and retained the position three years. Mr. Butler is also secretary at Van Wert for the Manitou Beach association, on Devil's Lake, Mich.

Devil's Lake is a body of the purest water, five miles in length by two in breadth. It has an average depth of twenty-five feet; its greatest depth is about ninety feet. At Manitou Beach the increase in depth is very gradual, so that —and more especially as the bottom of the lake here is of clear white sand—the Beach is a favorite bathing place. Even children may bathe with safety, and boat to their hearts' content. The water of the lake is supplied, not by surface drainage, but by a number of springs, some of them very large, in the bottom of the lake. There is an outlet but no inlet. It is, in fact, a genuine "spring lake" of such pure and clear water, that the fisherman sees the white sand gleaming fifteen feet below his canoe, as it rises and falls with the waves. The lake abounds in fish, such as black bass, perch and pickerel; and in both spring and fall is frequented by large numbers of wild ducks. Wild geese also are to be found on it in season; and quail and pheasants are common in the surrounding country.

MANITOU BEACH is at the southwestern end of Devil's Lake, at the point where the main line of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad touches the lake, and lies between the railroad and the famous grove at Manitou Beach. Its obvious advantages led to its being selected as the site for a summer village in 1887. In 1888 sufficient land for the purposes was obtained and this new village was laid out carefully. No special effort has been made to sell the lots, the syndicate preferring to wait, for a short time, the effect of the growing popularity of Devil's Lake. In June of 1889 the village contained but three houses and now about forty, of which twenty-five are taseful cottages, built by those whom the local reputation of Devil's Lake at once attracted when the most desirable part of it became easily accessible. The streets of the town, already graded, are sixty-six and 100 feet in width, and are lined with shade trees. The land rolls slightly, affording easy, natural drainage, and a number of charming sites for cottages. The railway depot, telegraph and express offices are within easy walk of all the cottages. Of this delightful village, as has been intimated, Mr. Butler is the founder, A. L. Doran, of Celina, holding a half interest.

Mr. Butler was first married, March 1, 1866, at Van Wert, to Elizabeth Fouty, a native of Marion county, Ohio, and a daughter of Isaac and Grace Fouty, and the fruits of this union were two children—Edwin V. and Emma M. Mrs. Butler was called to her heavenly home in March, 1882. For his second mate Mr. Butler chose Mrs. Eva M. Clark, daughter of Dr. William Smith. Mr. Butler is a Mason of the thirty-second degree and socially he is the center of an extended circle of acquaintances. In 1872 he made a trip to England on a visit to his old home, but soon returned more favorably impressed with his home in the new world than ever before.

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A J. BROWN, a prominent citizen of Van Wert, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born June 8, 1845. He is a son of John Brown, who was born in 1810, near Wheeling, Va. (now W. Va.), and at an early age learned the blacksmith trade, at which he worked for several years. He was a soldier in the war with Mexico. In 1830 he was married to Miss Jerusha Symcox, of Ohio. In this same year he settled in Medina county, Ohio, where he still followed his trade, that of a blacksmith, with most gratifying success. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Peter, Louisa J., George W., Jefferson, Rauslina, Benjamin, Nelson, A. J., R. R., and Harrison—six of whom are dead. All were married but three. Those that are living are as follows: Peter, Louisa J., A. J., R. R., and Harrison. John Brown was a democrat in politics, and he was a member of the Christian church. He was a hard-working, honest and successful man, and at the time of his death, in 1855, he left his family in comfortabe circumstances. His wife survived until 1886.

A. J. Brown, the subject of this sketch, was born in Medina county, Ohio, and during his earlier life worked at general labor of various kinds. He was a patriot when the war of the Rebellion broke out, and enlisted, October 15, 1861, in company G, Ninth Michigan volunter infantry. His fate was to see much hard fighting, and to suffer wounds at the hands of the enemy several different times. He fought in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, April 3–7, 1862; of Murfreesboro, Tenn., July 13, 1862; Lavergne, Tenn., December 27, 1862; Stone River, December 29–31, 1862; Chickamauga, September 17–20, 1863; Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863; Rocky Faced Ridge, May 8, 1864; Resaca, May 14, 1864; Dallas, Ga., May 27, 1864; Chattahoochee river, July 5–6, 1864; siege of Atlanta, July 22, and August 25, 1864, and Jonesboro, Ga., September 1, 1864. At Pittsburg Landing he was wounded by a musket ball, which he still carries in his body, and on August 25, before Atlanta, he was wounded in the thigh. On July 26, 1864, he was wounded in the breast, and on August 13 he was sent to the hospital, where he remained seven months. He was discharged at Jackson, Mich., December 19, 1865, and is now receiving a pension of $10 per month.

After the war was over he located in Van Wert county, where he learned the carpenter's trade, which he has followed ever since with unusual success. He was married in December, 1866, to Miss Mary Brenner, of Van Wert, Ohio, by whom he has had the following children: William, Frank, Stella, Frederick, Kate, Eddie, Harry, Ordie, Sylvia, Thomas. All of this family are living but William, and all are single but Stella, who married J. Edwards. Mr. Brown is a republican in politics and a Presbyterian in religion. He is a man of great liberality in his views, and is charitable with his means. He is living in a beautiful home in Van Wert, surrounded by many warm-hearted friends.

Mary A. Brenner, wife of Mr. Brown, was born July 10, 1845. Her father, George Brenner, was born in Pennsylvania, and at an early age learned the cooper trade, which trade he followed during his entire life. He married Elizabeth Snyder, of Pennsylvania, by whom he had the following children: Amanda, who married and is now dead; Sarah, Kittie, Emanuel, deceased; Lydia, and Mary A, The latter two are married and have families. Mr. Brenner died April 9, 1870, and Mrs. Brenner died in 1877. She was a member of the Lutheran church, and was a most excellent woman in every way. Mr. Brenner was also a member of the Lutheran church, was a republican in politics, and was a very liberal and charitable man. Mary A. Brenner was born in Holmes county, Ohio, but was living in Wayne county when she met and married Mr. Brown. She is a member of the Lutheran church, and is a most excellent woman, wife and mother. Mr. Brown is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Patriotic Order Sons of America.

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JOHN B. BROWN, one of the most enterprising farmers of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Miamisburg, Montgomery county, December 7, 1849, and is a son of William and Mary (Baum) Brown. William Brown, father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania February 14, 1810, of German descent; he was reared a farmer and also learned the saddler's trade; about 1833 he became a boatman on the Schuylkill river, and four years later came to Ohio, located in Montgomery county, where he worked by the month in a distillery, and about 1838 married Mary Baum, who was born in the county named October 26, 1821, of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage. Her parents settled in Montgomery county, Ohio, about the year 1820, where the father bought and cleared up a farm, and later ran a distillery until his death, in 1849, a member of the Lutheran church and in politics a democrat. He had served in the war of 1812 under Gen. Anthony Wayne, and was in every sense a useful citizen.

John Baum, maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland in 1792, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Carsley) Baum, also natives of Maryland and parents of the following children: Martin, who ran the first steamboat on the Ohio river; Jacob, John, Joseph, George, Betsey, Mrs. Polly Roberts, Mrs. Barbara Smith, and Mrs. Susan Smith—all now deceased. Jacob Baum, father of subject's mother, came to Ohio in 1800, located in Hamilton county, but made several removals, and finally settled in Montgomery county, 1806, and entered 530 acres of land, receiving the deed from President Monroe in 1813. His death took place in 1832, a member of the Reform church. John Baum was but six years of age when brought to Ohio, was reared a farmer, and married Rebecca Elzer, daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Kimmel) Elzer, and a native of Pennsylvania, and to this union were born five children, viz: Mrs. Catherine Hoff, deceased; Mary, mother of subject; Mrs. Sarah McDowell, deceased; George, of Pleasant township, and Ellen, wife of Henry Hoffman, farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio. John Baum had also been a soldier under Gen. Wayne at Greenville and Fort Recovery. After his marriage he passed the remainder of his life on his farm near Miamisburg, dying in 1849; his widow died in 1865. The children born to the marriage of William Brown and Mary Baum were six in number and were named as followss: Catherine, wife of E. Summers, of Montgomery county, Ohio; Martin, in Van Wert; Sarah, deceased; John B., subject of this sketch; Mrs. Amos Dilts, of Van Wert, and George, of Montgomery county. William Brown died in Brookville, Ohio, in November, 1886, a member of the Lutheran church, an Odd Fellow, and in politics a democrat.

John B. Brown, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools of Montgomery county and reared to farming. June 1, 1881, he married Henrietta Eckfeld, daughter of John and Catherine (Gehres) Eckfeld, the former of whom was born in Germany in 1823, learned the carpenter's trade, was married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, about 1851; Catherine Gehres was born in Germany November 19, 1828, came to Wayne county, Ohio, when eight years old, arriving with her parents, after having passed ninety-eight days on the ocean, and is now the mother of six children, viz: Elizabeth, wife of Martin Brown; Abraham, of Fostoria; Lewis, deceased at seven years of age; Henrietta, wife of our subject; Esther, wife of M. H. Standish, and John. Henrietta Eckfeld was born in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and was educated in the union school. She has borne her husband five children, as follows: Catherine, in 1883; William, January 13, 1886; Elizabeth, June 1, 1889; Leah, March 2, 1891, and Carl (deceased), August 7, 1894. John Eckfeld was a soldier in the Civil war; he was a Freemason, and died June 6, 1889. John B. Brown, at the time of his marriage, returned to Montgomery county, remained until the following fall, then moved to Marion, Ind., where he farmed until February, 1883, when he purchased his present home, which is now one of the finest farms in the township. Mr. Brown is very prominent as an Odd Fellow, in politics is a democrat, and is highly respected as a citizen and neighbor.

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CARL H. BROWN, deputy postmaster of Van Wert, Ohio, is a son of Norman K. and Jennie (Sims) Brown, and was born in the town of Van Wert, Ohio, June 17, 1864. Maj. Norman K. Brown was born in Pennsylvania, but early in life was brought to Van Wert, by his parents, Samuel S. and Eleanor (Smith) Brown, who engaged in the keeping of the Pioneer hotel; Norman assisted in the post-office and was also interested in the mercantile business for years; he entered the army as a private and was promoted to the rank of major, before discharged, and after the Civil war was closed became one of the editorial staff of the Van Wert Times, a position which he held at the time of his death, in October, 1881. His marriage to Jennie Sims tooks place in Van Wert and by this union he became the father of five children. The mother of these children died in 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were quite prominent in the social circles of Van Wert, and Mr. Brown was well known among the leading business men. He was a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence and information, and was an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, the I. O. R. M. and the I. O. O. F.

Carl H. Brown, our subject, was but six years of age when he lost his mother, when he was placed under the fostering care of his maternal grandmother until he was twelve years old; he then went to live with T. B. Barrick, at Daisy, a small county post-office in Van Wert county, and while with this gentleman acted as his assistant in the post-office from 1878 to 1883, when he returned to Van Wert and here was employed as clerk for a year; for another year he was engaged in teaching school; then clerked for Mr, Barrick, next acted as deputy postmaster under John Shaw for three years; then went into the grocery business and at the end of two years sold his interest and accepted a position as traveling salesman for the Central School Supply house of Chicago, with whom he remained until 1894, in the meantime having been rapidly promoted to the front as one of the firm's most expert salesman; he then again became deputy postmaster of Van Wert, with J. E. Montgomery. The public has seldom met with a more obliging and careful official, and as such he enjoys the confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

The marriage of Mr. Brown took place in Van Wert, in August, 1885, to Miss Emma G. Longfellow, daughter of Rev. J. M. Longfellow, two children being the result of the union —Donald V. and Naomi Blanche. The parents are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics the father is a democrat. They reside in their neat residence on Middle street and are surrounded by a pleasant circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom they are held in the highest esteem. Mr. Brown is a pleasant gentlemen and an obliging official, well qualified by experience for the duties of the important position he holds, in which he has given entire satisfaction to the public since his incumbency, through familiarity with all its intricacies and details. As a citizen and official, Mr. Brown stands at the head of Van Wert's most honored residents.

ABRAHAM BURCAW, an old settler and a successful farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, is a native of Millville, Butler county, Ohio, born March 21, 1825, and one of the nine children of William and Hannah (Kitchen) Burcaw, viz: Margaret, wife of William Bealer; Ellen, deceased wife of the late William Johnson; George, who was a soldier in the Mexican war and also in the war of the Rebellion, and who died of lung fever after the close of the latter war; Abraham, the subject of this sketch; Sarah, wife of James Smith, of Butler county; Hannah, married to Scott Inlow; John, of Butler county, and two that died in infancy. The parents both ended their days in Butler county.

Abraham Burcaw began working out while yet a lad, receiving as compensation his board and clothing. He had been able to save a little money, however, by the time he was married, September 18, 1852, to Miss Sarah Ann Smelser, who was born October 15, 1831, a daughter of Abraham and Julia (Howard) Smelser, natives of Virginia, who came to Ohio and located in Butler county after the birth of their third child, but died in Tippecanoe county, Ind., whither they had removed rather late in life. Their family comprised the following-named children: Caroline, wife of Adam Kissinger; Louis; Robert, deceased; Sarah Ann, now Mrs. Burcaw; Jessie, killed by a falling tree at the age of nine years; Elizabeth, wife of William Dill; Abraham, of Mercer county, Ohio; Pleasant, married, and Jemima, twin sister of Pleasant and widow of George Johnson; Nancy Jane, wife of Aaron Sellenberger; Joseph, of Topeka, Kans.; John, of Kansas, and Hannah, wife of William Goodwin. In 1856 Abraham Burcaw, with his wife and two children, came to Van Wert county and located on a farm across the line from Delphos, Allen county, on which he resided for eight years, and then moved to York township, Van Wert county, where he lived until 1874, when he bought his present farm, part of which is situate in Ridge township and part in York township. He has sub-divided much of his land, distributing several fine farms among his children, and still owns a farm in Ridge township and sixty acres in York township. His children were born and named in the following order: Robert; Sarah Elizabeth, wife of Sylvester Palmer; William Lewis; Mary Jane, wife of William Walters; Delilah, who died in childhood; Amy Caroline, who died an infant; Martha Ellen, wife of William Mager; Abraham Lincoln; Amos Allen and Cary Franklin—ten in all. Mrs. Burcaw has been a consistent member of the Lutheran church since girlhood, and has trained her children well in morality; Mr. Burcaw has made a success of agriculture, and has won many sincere and warm friends since his residence in Ridge township.

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HENRY BRUNNI, a prosperous and energetic farmer of York township, Van Wert county, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, September 29, 1855, a son of John B. and Regina Brunni, natives of Germany, who came to Ohio in the year 1850, and reared a family of six children, as follows: Ricca, wife of Jesse Paulin, of Anderson, Ind.; Charles Christian, of Van Wert county, Ohio, who wedded Sarah Walcott; John, deceased, who married Lucinda A. Shaffstall; Mary, wife of Dr. D. D. Samuel; Wallon, editor of the Lisbon Herald, at Lisbon, Iowa; Henry, our subject, and Amelia, of Anderson, Ind. John B. Brunni, father of our subject, died while in the service of his adopted country, and his wife died in the year 1882.

Henry Brunni, our subject, spent his early life on the home farm, in care of his widowed mother, until her death. March 26, 1885, Mr. Brunni met and married Miss Lydia Harp, of whose family a full biography will be found on another page of this volume. Two daughters have been the result of this happy union, and are named Mary Regina and Ethel May. Mr. Brunni is the owner of a fine farm, well tiled and adorned with a modern residence built in 1893. He and wife are members of the Methodist church and in politics he is a stanch democrat. Few farmers of the age of Mr. Brunni have attained the success with which he has been favored, and few citizens of the township stand in greater favor of the surrounding community, his example being well worthy of the emulation of those still younger than himself.

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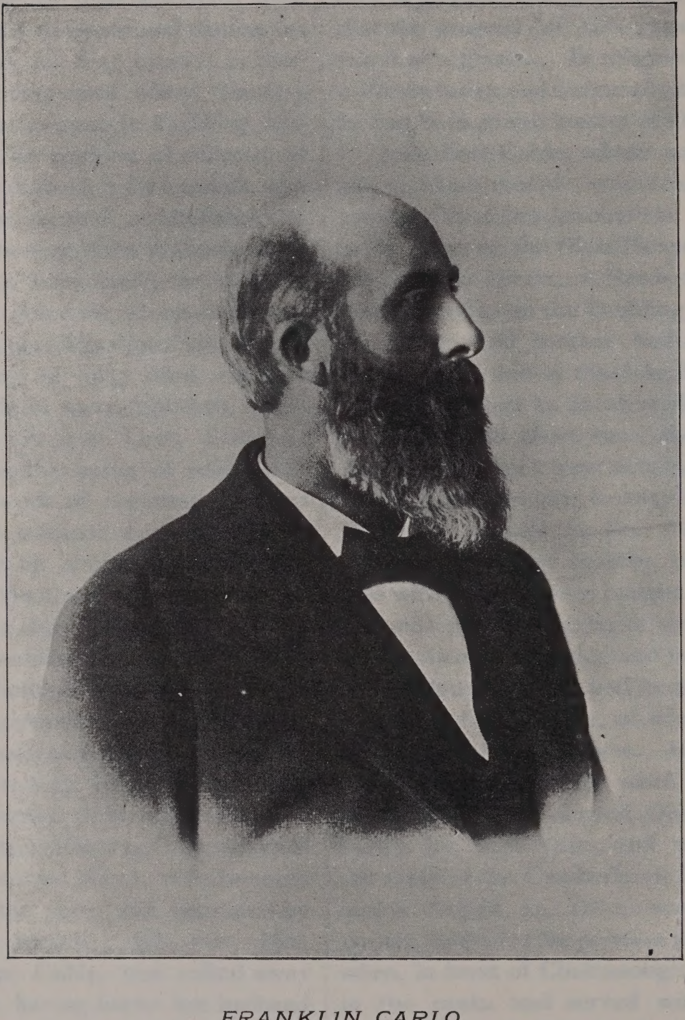
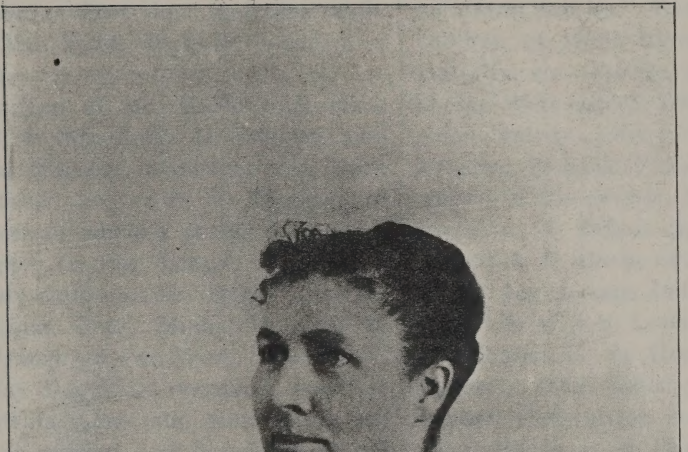
JOHN IKIRT CABLE, of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, was born in Columbiana county, June 21, 1835, and is a son of Joseph and Susannah (Stallcup) Cable. The Hon. Joseph Cable, father of our subject, was probably one of the most remarkable men ever produced within the territorial limits of the present great state of Ohio. His birth took place April 17, 1801, on Ohio soil, before the territory was admitted to the Union as a state, and October 25, 1827, in Columbiana county, he married Miss Sussannah Stallcup, who was born in Pennsylvania May 1, 1811. Ignoring the events which occurred during the early life of Joseph Cable, we must content ourselves with a brief narrative of his varied and phenomenal experience after marriage. Just after that event he located at New Lisbon and engaged in editing the Ohio Patriot until 1837, giving tangible evidence of his ability as a political and general writer; thence he went to Steubenville, and there published the Gazette until 1839, when he moved to Carrollton and published the Jeffersonian until 1842, when he sold the plant, and, for the nonce, relinquished editorial work and devoted his attention and talents to politics, which latter led to his election to the United States house of representatives from the Seventeenth Ohio congressional district for two successive terms; he next located in Sandusky city, and for two years edited the Bay City Mirror; thence he went to Paulding, and for two years held the position of collector at the junction of the Wabash & Erie canals, and when that office was vacated, or abolished, on account of the abandoning of the Wabash extension of the Miami & Erie canal, he came to Van Wert, and the influence of his trenchant pen was felt though his editorship of the American from the spring of 1857 until 1860, at which time the Bulletin was established, which journal, in conjunction with Capt. Scott, he edited until 1862, in the spring of which year he engaged in the work of securing pensions for the three-month soldiers, at which task he assiduously labored for about twelve months; he then went to Wauseon, Ohio, where he edited the Wauseon Republican four years, and next returned to Paulding, where, in partnership with his son Fielding, he founded the Gazette, which they controlled until 1870; he also for a short time managed a newspaper at Antwerp, in the same county, but finally returned to Paulding City, retired from active life, and passed the remainder of his days in peace until his death, which occurred May 1, 1880, honored by the citizens of the state and lamented by hosts of admiring friends. His wife, Mrs. Susannah (Stallcup) Cable, was called away November 1, 1842, having borne her husband five children, viz: Fielding and Elizabeth, deceased; John I., our subject, and two infants that died unnamed. Mr. Cable's second marriage took place in Carrollton, Ohio, November 16, 1843, to Jane Watt, who was born in Mercer county, Pa., March 22, 1811, and who died August 7, 1887, the mother of two children—Mary, deceased, and Martha A., wife of Homer Meacham, superintendent of the Miami extension of the Erie. The names of the children of Joseph Cable are thus grouped together, that the progeny of this great man may be found at a glance. In religion Mr. Cable was a Presbyterian and fraternally he was a Mason, having been grand master of Ohio in 1840.

John Ikirt Cable, whose name opens this biographical record, was reared in Carroll county, Ohio, but learned the art of printing in the office of the Ohio Picayune and that of the Bay City Mirror, at Sandusky; he then entered the office of the Paulding Gazette, which his father and brother had established for Judge Latta, and of which he had charge until 1855; then went to Steubenville, worked in a job office for a short time, then returned to Paulding and for a year acted as deputy sheriff under John Crawson; in 1857 he came to Van Wert and worked for Col. Alexander on the American for three months, then, in partnership with Lewis Evers, bought the office in the fall and operated the same until the spring of 1859, when he married and moved to a farm in Willshire township and located on a piece of land owned by his wife, of whom further mention will be made below. Here he resided until August 4, 1862, when he enlisted in company E, Fifty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, and was assigned to the army of the Cumberland; he reached Lexington August 22, 1862, was made wagonmaster, and filled the position fourteen months, when, in front of Chattanooga, he was placed in the ranks and served with his company until the fall of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, when he was withdrawn from the ranks and detailed to duty in the quartermaster's department, where he remained until December, 1864, when he rejoined his company, with which he



FRANKLIN CARLO.



MRS. FRANKLIN CARLO.

did duty until after the grand review at Washington, D. C., where he was honorably discharged June 3, 1865. On his return home he engaged in teaming for a year, then for a year and a half worked in the Bulletin office; next he farmed a short time, and then again returned to Van Wert, where he now owns a delivery line.

The marriage of Mr. Cable took place July 7, 1858, to Miss Anges P. Johnson, who was born in Harrison township, Van Wert county, October 31, 1839, a daughter of Davis Johnson, of whom a sketch is given on another page. To this happy union have been born six children, viz: Davis J., an attorney of Lima, Ohio; Minnie G., wife of Charles S. Hough, of Van Wert; Anna Pearl, at home; Maj. Doyal C., deceased, and two deceased infants. Mr. and Mrs. Cable are Methodists in religion, and in politics he is a republican, having cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont; he has served as trustee of Pleasant township for six years, and as assessor for four years, and took the enumeration of the township in 1890; fraternally he is a member of the G. A. R., of which he is present commander, and he is also master of exchequer of the K. of P. lodge of Van Wert.

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FRANKLIN CARLO is a native of Ohio and was born in Champaign county, October 5, 1842. His father, Dr. Morris Carlo, was born December 18, 1801, in the city of Dresden, Saxony. At the age of twenty-nine years he came to America, landing in New York city, whence he came to Ohio and engaged in the practice of his profession, that of physician, in the city of Cincinnati. He had a fine education and was able to converse fluently in six different languages. He was married in Cincinnati, in 1832, to Anna B. Sutter, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., October 5, 1813. Shortly after their marriage they located in Saint Paris, Champaign county, Ohio, where they were among the pioneer settlers of the place. In a few years they moved on a farm near by. To them were born fifteen children, of whom ten reached the years of maturity, viz: Louisa, widow of A. Walborn, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Edwin, of Champaign county, Ohio; Frances, wife of F. Fromme, of Saint Paris, Ohio; Franklin, he subject of this sketch; Anna, widow of J. N. Richison, of Yellow Springs, Ohio; Mattie, wife of H. B. Davis, of Denver, Colo.; Morris V., of Jay county, Ind.; John A., deceased; Ella, wife af J. B. Leonard, of Bucyrus, Ohio, and Charles R., of Illinois. Dr. Carlo died August 4, 1864, and the mother died in September, 1878, at the home of her daughter, Anna Richison, in DeGraff, Ohio, and was laid to rest beside her husband in Spring Grove cemetery, near Saint Paris, Ohio. They were both faithful members of the Lutheran church.

Franklin Carlo, the subject proper of this biography, was reared on the farm in Champaign county, Ohio, and when he had attained his majority he enlisted as a soldier in company I, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, served out the brief term of his enlistment and then reenlisted in company E, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and did his duty as a gallant soldier until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged at Lexington, Ky. His description then was: Five feet, eleven and a half inches high, light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, and weight 180 pounds. In the spring of 1866, in company with his brother Edwin, he crossed the plains overland to Colorado and Montana in search of gold; the search was a failure and he returned, via Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, on a small

Mackinaw rowboat, to Omaha, Neb., thence by stage to Des Moines, Iowa, thence by rail to his old home in Champaign county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming till his removal to Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, in September, 1869, where he had sometime previously purchased a farm, on which he has since made his home and increased it to 210 acres. With the exception of $750 of the capital necessary to make the first payment on and to improve this farm, he has earned the money with which to pay for it by his individual exertions, thus showing himself to be practical in his vocation and well deserving the success which has attended him throughout his life.

On May 20, 1869, he was married to M. A. Hattery, who was born in Van Wert county February 2, 1847, a daughter of Edward and Mary Ann Hattery, of whom mention is made elsewhere in these pages as being among the prominent pioneer settlers of the county. This union has been blessed by the birth of seven children, viz: Edward F., present deputy county treasurer; Bertha L., wife of Delbert McMillen; Jennie Lind; Bessie; Chester Arthur; Earnest Rutherford and Gladys Ruth; the latter two are twins, born September 23, 1892. In religion Franklin Carlo and wife are Lutherans, and in politics he is a republican, under the auspices of which party he has served as township clerk one year, county commissioner three years, and is now occupying the office of county treasurer, to which he was first elected in November, 1893. In 1895, Mr. Carlo, having filled the office to the great satisfaction of the public, was re-elected county treasurer in one of the hottest contests that the republicans ever entered upon in the county, but he was carried through by a handsome majority, and this fact alone speaks volumes as to Mr. Carlo's immense popularity.

ABRAHAM CALHOUN, a retired farmer and patriotic citizen, of Van Wert, was born September 8, 1839. He is a son of Adley Calhoun, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1814. Adley Calhoun was reared on the farm, but received an excellent education in the common schools, and afterward attended the high in Steubenville, Ohio. In 1835 he was married, in Jefferson county, to Miss Rebecca Bartholomew, by whom he had the following children: William, Abraham, Margaret, Jane, Mary and Amanda. Three of these six children are living, three dead. Of those who have died William was killed at the battle of Pittsburg Landing in 1862, and Mary died in 1868.

In 1854 Adley Calhoun sold his farm in Jefferson county, and removed to Van Wert county, where he purchased a tract of land, and of this land he later gave to each of his children 160 acres. Up to the time of the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion Mr. Calhoun was a democrat, but by the fact of the war being brought on and by its results, he became a republican, and remained a republican the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and died in 1870. His wife was a Lutheran, and died in 1895.

Abraham Calhoun was born in Jefferson county, was reared on his father's farm, and with him came to Van Wert county, continuing to work with him until he was twenty-one years of age, and then enlisted in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served until his term of enlistment expired, but was never in a battle. He now receives from the government a pension of $10 per month. In politics he is a republican and in religion a Methodist. In every way he is a liberal-minded and charitable man, with his means as with his opinions, and he is popular with all. After the war was over he settled down upon his farm, where he lived for a series of years, when he removed to Van Wert, living retired from active care and enjoying the fruits of earlier labors. On January 30, 1868, he was married to Miss Edith Hoagland, of Van Wert county, by whom he became the father of the following children: Albert, who died in 1870; Tirza G., and Bardon, who died in 1888. Tirza G. Calhoun is a highly accomplished and a most excellent young lady. She has received a superior musical education, is a music teacher, is single and is living with her mother.

Miss Edith Hoagland was born March 3, 1851. Her father, Enoch Hoagland, was born in Virginia in 1804, and received a superior college education, and after graduating taught school for some time. Later he became a dealer in real estate and was elected justice of the peace, serving in Richland county for eighteen years. In politics he was a democrat and served in the army of the Union all through the war of the Rebellion. He located in Van Wert county at an early day, and was one of the first settlers in Hoagland township, that township having been named after him. He was married in Richland county to Miss Cynthia Foller, who was formerly of Virginia, and died in 1856. By her he had the following children: Melissa, deceased; Wilson, deceased; Mary; Aaron, deceased; Sarah, deceased; Enoch; Emma, deceased; Samuel, Edith and Clara.

Edith Hoagland, the wife of Mr. Calhoun, was born in 1851, as before stated. Her mother died when she was five years old, and she was then taken by a sister to Iowa, and lived with that sister until she was sixteen years of age. In 1865 she returned to Van Wert county, in which county she taught school for some years, and was then married to Mr. Calhoun. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a woman highly regarded and esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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GEORGE CARMEAN, of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Old Chillicothe, Ohio, February 20, 1819, and in 1835 became a pioneer of Allen county, Ohio, being then but sixteen years of age. His father, William Carmean, was a native of Delaware, and when a young man came to Ohio and settled in Ross county, near Chillicothe, on Buckskin creek, and there married Margaret Miller, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of George Miller, of Dutch descent, to which marriage were born ten children, viz: George, Frederick, Sarah, William, Mary, Jacob, Elizabeth, Rachael, Joseph and Edward. William Carmean came to Auglaize county after marriage and was accidently drowned in the Big Auglaize river, while attempting ford the stream on horseback.

George Carmean, our subject, located in Allen county, Ohio, in 1835, and worked as a farm hand until his marriage, in October, 1840, to Elizabeth Carr, a daughter of Solomon and Mary Carr, the former of whom came from Ross county and an early settler on the Big Auglaize river in Auglaize county. After marriage George Carmean and wife settled in Allen county, where they lived until 1872, when they came to Van Wert county, and located in the woods of Jackson township, where he has cleared up a farm of eighty acres, and met with a course of prosperity seldom equaled. To his marriage with Miss Carr, there have been born the following children: Margaret, Isaac, William, Melissa J., Abraham Solomon and Jesse. Mr. and Mrs. Carmean are sincere members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he was first an old-line whig, and afterward a republican.

The patriotism of the Carmean family was well represented, during the late Civil war, by four of the sons, who enlisted in the following order: Joseph, in Allen county, in August, 1861, in company B, Eighty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, veteranized in January, 1864, was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 13, 1865, and died in Van Wert county July 3, 1867; William enlisted in Allen county, in August, 1862, in company A, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, was promoted to sergeant, and detailed for duty at Nashville, Tenn.; Edward enlisted in Allen county, February 29, 1864, in company D, Eighty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, was confined four months in hospital, and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 13, 1865; Jacob D. enlisted at Lima, Allen county, September 24, 1864, in company G, One Hundred and Eightieth Ohio volunteer infantry, was in hospital at Washington, D. C., then at Nashville, Tenn., for two months, and was discharged for disability April 13, 1865. This is a fine military record for one family.

Mr. Carmean is a typical American pioneer. At the age of sixteen years he walked through the woods from Chillicothe to Wapakoneta, a distance of 200 miles, and at the latter place found but one building—a log tavern; he met but one white man, but there were numerous groups of Indians scattered along in wigwams; he inquired his way to his uncle's place on Hogg creek in Marion township, Allen county, and thus, with the assistance of a settler, found his uncle's home in the woods. At that time there were few houses in Lima, and Delphos had not been settled at all. Game was plentiful in Allen and Van Wert counties, and many were the deer and wild turkeys killed by Mr. Carmean, and not a few bears. After settling on his land in Jackson township, Van Wert county, Mr. Carmean underwent all the hardships, or nearly all, that he had endured on his first settlement in Allen county, but his toil was considerably mitigated, in clearing up his farm from the woods, through the presence of a larger number of neighbors, and the readiness through which help and more improved implements were attainable. He has developed a fine and fertile farm, improved in every respect, has reared a highly respected family, and is now passing away his years in comparative ease, enjoying the harvest consequent upon his long and arduous labors, and recognized by his neighbors as one of the most experienced farmer in the county, and honored as an upright gentleman who has never been known to commit an act of injustice nor ever to have violated his word.

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IRA CAVETT, a prosperous farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and in days gone by, and yet, a famous hunter, was born in Licking county, Ohio, September 28, 1829, and is a son of William and Elizabeth Sibyl (Barnes) Cavett. The father, William Cavett, was born in Pennsylvania and was but a lad when brought by his parents to Ohio; his wife, Elizabeth S. Barnes, was born in the state of New York. They were the parents of two children only—our subject and Lucy, the wife of John Gilliland. In the winter of 1838, William Cavett, with his wife, son and daughter, left Licking county in a wagon and went to Williams county, but were there disappointed in the purchase of land, and in the spring following came to Van Wert county and entered 160 acres two and a half miles south of the city, in Ridge township, where he followed farming until his death in 1861; his widow still resides on this farm, in her eighty-sixth year, although the property has been divided between the children.

Ira Cavett, the subject of this sketch, was but nine years of age when brought to Van Wert county. He assisted as much as possible in clearing the homestead, but had a small predilection for hunting, and through his skill as a marksman not only furnished meat for the family, but derived a handsome revenue from the pelts of the animals that fell under the accurate and deadly aim of his rifle, and even now, though past middle life, his passion for the chase has not expired, and he frequently makes trips to Missouri and Michigan on the hunt for game, and on a recent occasion brought home six fine deer as the result of his remarkable skill as a marksman. Although his opportunities for securing an education were somewhat meager, he was shrewd and apt in his younger days and acquired through self-instruction sufficient knowledge to carry him safely through life's business affairs.

October 21, 1852, Mr. Cavett was married to Miss Martha Gilliland, a member of one of the most prominent pioneer families of Van Wert county, and to this union have been born four children, viz: William Thomas, who died at four years of age, from the kick of a horse; Eva May, who died in early childhood; Edward Maxwell, who died when sixteen months old, and John, who is married to Lucy Sidle, and is the father of three children—Ethel May, James Ira and Nellie Marie. Mrs. Cavett is a Catholic in her religion, while Mr. Cavett is a Methodist. In politics Mr. Cavett is a democrat, and for six years held the office of director of the infirmary; he was also township trustee for two terms, and assessor, by appointment, one term. His present farm of ninety acres he bought in 1865, and it now compares favorably with any farm of its size in the county. In 1890 Mr. Cavett was appointed to the position of guard at the Ohio penitentiary for forty days, when he had to leave on account of ill health. John Cavett was born September 4, 1871, and was educated in the common schools. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when, in 1890, he engaged, in partnership with W. R. Kime, of Van Wert, in the stove and tinware trade, in which he continued one year; then, a short time later, engaged in buying and shipping poultry and eggs until August, 1894, since when he has lived at home with his parents. He is a democrat in politics, and in religion a member of the Methodist church. Ira Cavett and wife and son have all won the respect and good will of all their neighbors, and but very few stand as high as they in the esteem of the citizens of Ridge township.

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DR. SAMUEL KENNEDY CHRISTY, the leading physician and surgeon of Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of sterling Scotch-Irish descent, and is of the fourth generation of the family to make a home in America. His great-grandfather, John Christy, the founder of the family in the United States, passed his days in eastern Pennsylvania, where John Christy, grandfather of the doctor, was born and reared, but later became identified with the early settlement of Butler county, Pa., where he was for many years engaged in farming. He also performed gallant service on Lake Erie during the war of 1812. He married a Miss Moore, and both he and she passed away their lives in Butler county, dying devoted members of the Presbyterian church.

William M. Christy, son of John and father of Dr. Samuel K., was born in Butler county, Pa., in March, 1812, was reared to farming, and on reaching manhood married Margaret Kennedy, daughter of Samuel and Margaret

(Gillespie) Kennedy. The father of Samuel Kennedy came from Ireland, settled in Pittsburg, Pa., and in a small way was engaged in the manufacture of linens, a business he had carried on in the old country. The marriage of William M. Christy was blessed with the following children: Mrs. Ellen Peoples, Mrs. Elizabeth Sullivan (deceased); Mary A.; Achsa M., deceased, Samuel K., our subject; Mrs. Isabella M. Myers, and John C. The parents of this family were married in Allegheny county, Pa., where they were engaged in farming a number of years, but in 1853 moved to Adams county, Ind., where they purchased a fertile farm of eighty acres, and there the father died in 1873 and the mother in 1884—both devout adherents of the Presbyterian church.

Dr. Samuel K. Christy was born in Allegheny county, Pa., June 8, 1852, and was reared to health-giving toil on the home farm. He was educated in his literary course at the Normal university of Lebanon, Ohio, which he attended several terms, and after finishing his studies in that institution employed himself in teaching school four years, making a fine reputation in this profession; he then, in 1877, entered the Medical college of Ohio, at Cincinnati, from which he graduated, in 1880, with the largest class that was ever granted diplomas by that famous institution. The doctor immediately located for practice in Willshire, Ohio, his present abode, where his abilities were at once recognized, and here he has had a remunerative practice ever since, with the exception of two years that were passed in Howard, Miner county, S. Dak., and two years in Decatur, Ind.

The marriage of Dr. Christy took place April 2, 1884, to Mrs. Calinda J. Johnson, widow of Wilson Johnson and daughter of Halsted and Mary B. (Pierson) Mills, of Willshire township. The doctor and wife are consistent members of the Methodist church, which they liberally aid, and in politics the doctor is a republican. Fraternally he is a member of the K. of P. lodge, No. 49, of Howard, S. Dak.; and is also a member of the Northwestern Ohio State Medical association. He owns an attractive new two-story frame dwelling in the vlllage of Willshire, eighty acres of farm land in Adams county, Ind., and also some valuable property in South Dakota. Socially, the doctor and wife stand high in the esteem of their fellow-townsmen, and the professional reputation of the doctor extends all through Willshire and the adjoining townships.

**CHARLES W. CARPENTER**, of Van Wert, Ohio, a retired farmer and ex-soldier, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 17, 1844, a son of James W. and Susanna (Ream) Carpenter, who have long been residents of Washington township, Van Wert county. Charles W. was but eight years of age when his parents settled here, and here he was educated in the old-fashioned log school-house, and reared until eighteen years of age, when he enlisted August 11, 1862, in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, and was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, with William T. Scott as his captain. He took an active and gallant part in the hard-fought battles of Perryville, Ky., and Stone River, Tenn.; was in the Tullahoma campaign in Tennessee up to Chattanooga and on to Chickamauga, where he was capturned by the enemy and taken to Libby prison, at Richmond, Va., and there confined from October, 1863, until February, 1864, and was then transferred to Andersonville; here he was held from February 22, 1864, until September following; was then confined at Millen, Ga., until November 1; at Charleston, S. C., one month; at Florence, S. C., until February, 1865, and then in the pen near Wilmington, N. C., from which he and about 300 others made their escape and reached the city of Wilmington, which, in the meantime, had been captured by the Union army. He received his discharge at Camp Dennison, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 18, 1865, and is now drawing a pension of $12 per month, as a recompense for his sufferings while in the service and for duty well performed. He returned to Van Wert county July 20, 1865, and remained at home until his marriage, April 12, 1866, in Washington township, to Miss Mary E. Mann, a daughter of James and Caroline Mann, and born in Hocking county, Ohio, April 6, 1840, the union resulting in the birth of two children, viz: Jessie, now the wife of James E. Wade, of Van Wert, and Birdsey M.

After his marriage Mr. Carpenter farmed in Washington township on rented land until 1869, when he bought forty acres, but shortly afterward sold and purchased 160 acres in Kansas; this land he also sold in due course of time, and in 1880 returned to Washington township and purchased a fifty-acre farm, on which he lived until 1894, when he sold out again and came to the city and for a few months was with David J. Hale in the agriculture implement business, but soon retired to a life of ease and rest and the enjoyment of the society of his family and many friends. Mr. Carpenter is a republican in politics, and fraternally is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Royal Arcanum, and the G. A, R., and is held in the warmest friendship by all who know him.

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LANDY JEFFERSON CLIFTON, an energetic farmer of Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the county in which he still makes his home. The father of the subject of this sketch was Daniel Clifton, a son of Job Clifton, who spent his life in Pickaway county, Ohio, dying there in the early 'forties. Daniel Clifton was born in Pickaway county in 1826, received a limited education, and when quite young began working for himself and became self-supporting. In early manhood he married Elizabeth Burk, daughter of one of the pioneer settlers of eastern Ohio, and later came to the county of Van Wert, locating in the township of Liberty. Actuated by a spirit of patriotism Mr. Clifton, in 1864, entered the army, enlisting in company H, Fifteenth Ohio infantry, with which he did valiant service in defense of the nation's honor until honorably discharged January 1, 1865; he died in prime of life, being but thirty-eight years of age when called from the scenes of his early labors; his wife died March 28, 1863.

Landy J. Clifton was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, October 18, 1854. When quite young he suffered the loss of both his parents, and never knew a father's guidance or a mother's tender care. In consequence of this sad deprivation his advantages for acquiring an education was, of necessity, considerably circumscribed, and when a lad of tender years he was obliged to turn his hand to various kinds of manual labor in order to obtain a livelihood. He was reared to farm life, with which he early became familiar, and on attaining his majority began the pursuit of agriculture upon his own responsibility.

Mr. Clifton and Laura Bell Sheets, daughter of Frederick and Mrs. Nancy (Eustler) Sheets, were made man and wife on the 18th day of October, 1883, and their home has been gladdened by the birth of the following children: Davis L., Lambert, deceased; Benjamin, Sherman C. and Oliver V.

Mr. Clifton is a wide-awake man and first-class citizen; he owns a small farm, well improved, and in connection with tilling the soil, has for some time been engaged in the manufacture of drain-tile, in which his success is most encouraging. Politically he is a republican and in religion a member of the United Brethren church, belonging to the Radical congregation, in which he holds the position of trustee and steward; Mrs. Clifton is also a member of the same society, in which she is a most valued member and active worker.

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REV. JOSEPH J. CLARKE, the pious and scholarly pastor of Saint Mary's Catholic church at Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Utica, N. Y., December 22, 1853, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Ohara) Clarke. Father Joseph Clarke received his preliminary education in the Assumption academy in Utica, and after leaving this school was employed in the same city for four and a half years in a dry-goods store, he then, in 1872, entered Saint Charles college, near Baltimore, Md., whence he went, in 1877, to Mount Saint Mary's, Emmetsburg, Md., where he took a three-year course in theology under Bishop Watterson; he then came to Ohio, entered the diocese of Cleveland, and was ordained November 11, 1883. He was, first, assistant priest at Cleveland; then at Hudson, Ohio; then at Elmore, near Cleveland; then at South Thompson, Ohio; then came to Van Wert, Ohio, in March, 1891, and here he has since remained, in charge of Saint Mary's parish. The congregation was organized in 1868, and the first mass was celebrated in an old frame residence; the church edifice was erected by father Hoeffel in 1874; the first pastor was Rev. James Leddy, who had charge until 1878, when he was succeeded by Rev. John T. Cahill; in 1879, Rev. P. Barty followed Father Cahill and remained until December, 1881, when he was succeeded by Rev. T. J. O'Neil, who performed the functions of a pastor until March, 1886; he was followed by Rev. E. F. Rohan, and in November, 1887, Father Rohan was relieved by Rev. M. J. Clear; in March, 1891, Father Clear was withdrawn, and our subject, Rev. Joseph J. Clarke, was placed in charge of the flock, who hold him in the most reverential admiration for the unfaltering faithfulness with which he has filled every function pertaining to his sacred office. The present church building is of brick, is 54x36 feet in the ground plan, and was erected at a cost of $3,200. Father Clarke has also a mission at Convoy, Van Wert county, also at Spencerville, Allen county, Ohio, both of which receive his most tender care.

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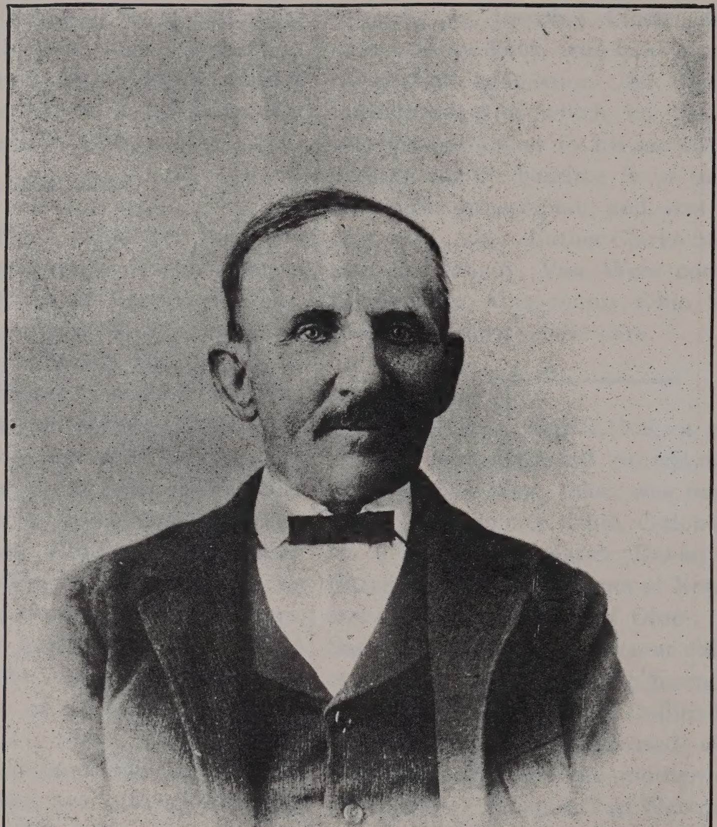
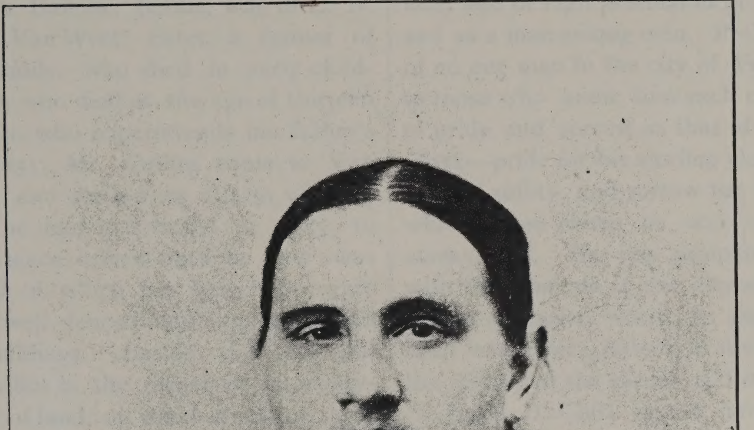
SAMUEL COLLINS, a retired business man and prominent citizen of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Hocking county, Ohio, October 2, 1822, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Davis) Collins—the former a native and farmer of New York state, and the latter a native of Ohio. Samuel and Sarah were the parents of four children beside our subject, viz: Eli, Nancy, Joseph and Sarah, all deceased. Mrs. Sarah Collins having died, Samuel married his deceased wife's sister, Nancy, who became the mother of two children: John, residing in Van Wert, and Perlina, widow of Reuben Everett, of Hocking county.

Samuel Collins, our subject, was but two years of age when his mother died, but he remained on the home farm until he reached his third year, when he made his home with his grandmother, Davis, with whom he resided until his majority, when he learned the milling and cording business with George Dunkel, at what is now Laurelville, Hocking county, Ohio, and subsequently for seven years had the management of Mr. Dunkel's milling business. In 1846, Mr. Collins was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Featherolf, daughter of Benja-



Samuel Collins



*MRS. ELIZABETH COLLINS,*

*DECEASED.*

min and Hannah (Fink) Featherolf, of Hocking county. To this union have been born eight children, as follows: An infant, deceased; Lewis, who became a lawyer at Van Wert, Ohio, and now resides in New Mexico; Martin, now in South Dakota; Jennie, wife of E. B. Gilliland, of Van Wert; Peter, a farmer of Van Wert; Emily, who died in early childhood; Samuel, who died at the age of thirteen years; Hannah, who superintends her father's home. In 1851, Mr. Collins came to Van Wert county, and settled on a farm of sixty acres which he had purchased in 1845, to which he has since added until he now owns 380 acres, all of which has been thoroughly tile-drained, well fenced and improved with first-class buildings. Beside this splendid farm, Mr. Collins is the owner of an eighty-six acre tract of land, on which there are three producing oil wells. He is also the owner of valuable city property, including a desireable residence on South Washington street, Van Wert, which he makes his home. Mr. Collins holds to the Baptist church, and in this faith his loving and aimable wife died November 12, 1886. In his politics Mr. Collins is a prohibitionist, of which he has been an adherent for seven years. The only society with which he has ever associated himself, outside of his church, is that of the Patrons of Husbandry, of which he was made master of the Pleasant township grange on its organization. He is highly respected as an upright and useful citizen, and his aid is never lacking toward any enterprise that bears the impress of usefulness to the public at large.

**MAJ. ISRAEL DILLE CLARK**, deceased.—Such a work as the one in hand exercises its most important function when it enters a memoir to one who has passed as long and useful a life as did the honored subject whose name initiates this review. The story of his career is one that tells of long identification with the history of Ohio, of unstinted and loyal service to his country in the crucial hour of civil warfare, and of high position in professional ranks and as a man among men. Probably the name of no one man in the city of Van Wert recalls to those who knew him such mingled feelings of pride and sorrow as that of Maj. Israel D. Clark—pride for his sterling character and his exalted ability, and sorrow for the deprivation which came when he was summoned into eternal rest. He was prominently identified with the interests of the city and county, and this compilation would be inconsistent with itself were there failure to revert in detail to the history of the career of this noble man.

Israel D. Clark was a native son of the Buckeye state, having been born at Shelby, Richland county, on the 22d of April, 1820, the son of Thomas and Nancy (Dille) Clark, both of whom were natives of the same county, of which their respective parents figured as among the earliest pioneer settlers. They were identified with agricultural pursuits and were people of sterling integrity. The father was one of the successful and influential farmers of the pioneer locality and his life was characterized by that ceaseless toil and endeavor which insure success in temporal affairs. He was a republican in his political adherency, and both he and his wife were Presbyterians in their religious faith. They became the parents of six daughters and two sons, all of whom are now deceased.

The subject of this review was the fourth child in order of birth, and he was reared under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the parental farmstead, receiving his preliminary educational discipline in the common schools. On the 24th of September, 1840, he was united in marriage, in his native county, to Abbie Cook, whose death occurred on the 3d day of January of the succeeding year. September 26, 1841, at Mansfield, Ohio, was consummated his marriage to Miss Rachel Scott, whose demise occurred April 15, 1875. She left three children: John Willis Clark and Rilla Clark, deceased, and Mrs. C. M. Sutphen, whose death occurred in 1894. To the third marriage of our subject due reference will be made in succeeding paragraphs.

Major Clark removed from Mansfield to Van Wert county in the year 1842, and in 1848 he received the appointment as postmaster of the city of Van Wert, proving a most capable and discriminating executive. He had devoted his attention to a careful course of reading in the law, and in 1854 he secured admission to the bar. His personal popularity and integrity, as taken in connection with his marked professional ability, secured to him within the succeeding year the election to the office of probate judge of the county, in which important and exacting position he served with signal fidelity for a term of three years. After his military career (which will be considered later on) was terminated, he was accorded still further public recognition, having been prosecuting attorney of the county from 1864 until 1868; justice of the peace from 1870 to 1873; and having served the municipality of Van Wert both as a member of the common council and in the highest office in the gift of the city, that of mayor, his administration as chief executive of the city's affairs having been one of marked honesty and one in which the best interests of the community were carefully conserved. In 1858 he was associated with other representative men of the city in the publication of the Ohio Weekly Bulletin, which was edited by the late Capt. W. C. Scott and which wielded an unmistakable and beneficial influence in this section of the state.

The thundering of rebel cannon on Fort Sumter raised a responsive protest in the nature of our subject, who was thoroughly patriotic and loyal to the cause of the Union, and whose patriotism was one of decision and action. He was one of the first to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops to assist in suppressing the Rebellion, and he immediately organized and enlisted a company, which was assigned to the Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry and became company E. He was commissioned captain of his company and proceeded with his command into Virginia. They were engaged with the enemy at Philippi and Laurel Hill, and in the conflict at the latter place the Confederates lost their first general, Garnett, who was killed in action. At the close of their three-month term of enlistment, the regiment returned home, and upon the subsequent call for 300,000 more men for a three-years enlistment, Capt. Clark forthwith proceeded to raise another company, his efforts meeting with ready response and the organization becoming company A of the Fifty-second regiment, which was assigned to the army of the Cumberland. Their initial engagement was at Perryville, Ky., where the regiment lost many of its brave men, and where Capt. Clark rendered such valiant service as to secure to him a commission as major of the regiment. His efforts in behalf of the union were zealous and indefatigable, and he endured the dangers and vicissitudes of military life with that fortitude which is begotten of a full sympathy with and determination to defend a righteous cause. Finally the hardships and exposures of the service made such serious inroads upon his health that he was compelled to resign his commission and to bid a reluctant farewell to his comrades in arms, realizing that his usefulness on the field of battle was thus ended by untoward circumstance. He returned to his home, with shattered health, and he never regained his constitutional vigor, but suffered from heart disease and other incidental ills during the residue of his days, bearing the sequelæ of his milatary service with as great patience as had he valiantly borne arms on the field where grim-visaged war reared its horrid front. Such were the defenders of our nation's honor, and to their memory should there be granted a perpetual reverence and homage. Though thus afflicted by disease and attendant suffering, Maj. Clark continued in the practice of his profession, though the organic disorder of his heart compelled him to abandon all active duty at irregular intervals. For a year prior to his demise he was confined almost entirely to his home, but was an heroic sufferer, and uncomplainingly awaited that denouement which could alone bring him relief. He entered into eternal rest on the 9th of January, 1884, aged sixty-three years, eight months and seventeen days, and the community mourned the loss of an honored veteran of the late war and a man of innate nobility of character.

In his political adherency he was a stalwart supporter of the republican party and its principles, and in addition to the various other official positions he had held he also served as United States marshal for some time after his return from the war. He was prominently identified, in a fraternal way, with the Masonic order, being one of the oldest members of the same in Van Wert, as is shown in the fact that the records bear evidence that he was the first man initiated into the mysteries of the order in this city, the date of this ceremonial having been October, 1852. He became a member of the First Presbyterian chnrch at the time of its organization, and continued to be a devoted adherent until the time of his death. He was also one of the honored members of Scott post, No. 100, Grand Army of the Republic.

In conclusion we revert to the domestic chapter in the life history of Maj. Clark, finding that, on the 14th of August, 1877, was consummated his marriage to Sarah M. Pearce, of Willshire, this county. She was born in Champaign county, Ohio, June 5, 1840, the daughter of Lorenzo and Catherine (Bishop) Pearce. Her father came to Van Wert county and settled in Willshire in 1847, and was there engaged in agricultural operations until the time of his death, which occurred June 25, 1882. His wife was born in Champaign county, Ohio, June 29, 1816, and as the result of their union were born the following-named children: Anna E., wife of Dr. N. Croninger, of Kansas City, Mo.; Cinderella, deceased; Sarah M., widow of our subject; Mary C., deceased; Affalander S., deceased; Thomas, deceased; John M., of Elwood, Ind. They were all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The mother died December 14, 1854. Major and Sarah M. Clark became the parents of two children: Roscoe Dille, who died at the age of eight months, and Fred P., who remains as a comfort and solace to his mother. Mrs. Clark and her son are members of the Presbyterian church, with which the honored husband and father was so prominently identified. Maj. Clark left to his widow and son a comfortable competency, Mrs. Clark being the owner of valuable property on South Washington street.

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JAMES H. CLIME, the popular and efficient county auditor of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Mahoning county, this state, March 20, 1840, and is of German descent. His father, Amassa Clime, was a native of Lancaster county, Pa., born in November, 1808, and was a son of Daniel Clime, a native of Philadelphia, Pa. The father of Daniel came from

Germany in 1753 and settled in the City of Brotherly Love, spelling the family name, at that time, Gleim, and this emigrant, or immediate descendant, became prominent during the Revolutionary war, was a paymaster and took part in the battle of Yorktown. Daniel Clime was a miller, was the father of a large family, and settled in Lancaster county, Pa., where he died, a well-to-do citizen: His son Amassa was married in Lancaster, in 1830, to Mary Strunk, and in 1832 came to Ohio and engaged in farming in Mahoning county until 1851, when he came to Van Wert county, farmed here until 1857, when he moved across the line to Allen county, where he died on his farm in 1863, his widow surviving until 1873, when she was accidentally burned to death, having been stricken, it is surmised, with apoplexy, while smoking, and thus setting her clothes on fire.

James H. Clime is the fifth in a family of twelve children and was but eleven years of age when brought by his parents to Van Wert county, where he was educated and lived until twenty-one years old. In September, 1861, he enlisted in company A, Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, but at the end of three months was honorably discharged on account of disability. But his heart had been fired with patriotic ardor, and he soon again enlisted, this time in the 100-day service, company A, Twenty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and served out the term on guard duty at Washington, D. C. He next went to the front as a substitute, and was assigned to a company in the Twenty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, and was on provost and transportation duty until after the close of the war, and was one of those who stood guard over the corpse of President Lincoln. After his final discharge at Columbus, Ohio, in May, 1865, Mr. Clime returned to Van Wert county and farmed for a year, and then began carpentering, which he followed until 1880 in Allen and Van Wert counties, in connection with contracting. In 1880 he made his home in Delphos and began handling lumber in addition to contracting and building, and has been thus engaged ever since, doing a most prosperous business. In 1893 Mr. Clime was elected county auditor of Van Wert, and took possession of this office in October, 1894; he is also a councilman of Delphos, is vice-president of one building and loan association and a director. The marriage of Mr. Clime took place in Piqua, Ohio, March 20, 1873, to Miss Anna E. Merriman, a native of Dayton, Ohio, born August 6, 1845, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two children, viz: Mate DeFrees, now the wife of Charles E. Ward, deputy county auditor; the younger child died at the age of five years, without a name, but fondly called Babe. Mrs. Clime is a devout member of the Presbyterian church and is greatly respected for her many amiabilities.

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MICHAEL CLOUSE.—Among the successful farmers and stock dealers of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, the name of Michael Clouse is deserving of special mention. As the name indicates, Mr. Clouse is of German descent, and traces his family history back to the fatherland, from which his grandparents on the father's side immigrated to America a great many years ago, settling in Pennsylvania. The family afterward located in Wayne county, Ohio, on a farm of 160 acres, which Grandfather Clouse pruchased by the proceeds of his trade of tailoring. George Clouse, father of Michael, was born in the county of Wayne, and there married Elizabeth Kesler, daughter of Jacob Kesler, a native of Pennsylvania. Shortly after their marriage George Clouse and wife came to Van Wert county, and his was the third family in the township of Liberty. On their arrival they began housekeeping in the shade of three large oak trees, and lived thus until a small cabin could be erected. George Clouse began the battle of life with little, if any, assistance, but by energy, and long years of constant toil, succeeded in accumulating a goodly amount of property, including a farm of 160 acres, the greater part of which he cleared and brought to a high state of cultivation. The following are the names of the children of George and Elizabeth Clouse: Jacob, Solomon (deceased), Michael, William, George W., Mary J., Esli, Elizabeth (deceased), Hughey (deceased).

Michael Clouse was born in the township where he now lives March 10, 1841. He attended the pioneer log school-house at intervals during his minority, and remained with his parents until the latter part of the war, at which time he left wife and home in order to do battle for his country. He enlisted October 7, 1864, and participated in a number of campaigns in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, and was with his command in many of the bloodiest battles of the war, in one of which, the engagement at Nashville, he lost the second finger of his right hand. He was also knocked senseless by being struck with a missile on the head, and was reported as dead. After doing service as a brave and gallant soldier, Mr. Clouse was honorably discharged in April, 1865, and immediately thereafter returned to his home in Liberty township and resumed the pursuit of agriculture, which he has since successfully carried on. He owns a beautiful farm of 256 acres, well improved and supplied with good buildings, and also has other lands in different parts of the county and three acres within the limits ot Ohio City. With the exception of about $1,000, Mr. Clouse earned his property with his own hands, and is, in the true sense of the word, one of the successful self-made men of his community. In politics he supports the democratic party and in religion is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Clouse was married October 28, 1862, to Mary, daughter of Simon and Sarah (Newcomber) Clouse, a union blessed with the birth of the following children: Sarah E., George F., William, John W., Oscar A., Dora B., Alice May (deceased), and an infant, deceased.

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DR. S. B. COLLETT, retired physician of Van Wert, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, September 24, 1833, a son of Judge Daniel and Sarah (Kyle) Collett. Judge Daniel Collett was a native of Stanton, Va., and was born October 15, 1809, a son of Isaac Collett, who at one time was also judge of the court of Clinton county, Ohio, for several years, and there owned over 400 acres of fine land. He was the father of ten children, named as follows: Daniel, the father of our subject; John, who was an attorney for forty years in Lima, Ohio, and for several years filled the office of judge; Isaac, Frederick, Joshua, Moses, Jacob, Mildred, Mary and Catherine, all deceased. The father of this family was in religion a Presbyterian and in politics a whig, while in worldly affairs he was quite successful. Judge Daniel Collett was reared and educated in Clinton county, and at eighteen years of age began the study of law in Wilmington, Ohio; he was admitted to the bar at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1831, and began practice at Wilmington, where he resided until the breaking out of the late war, when he went out as a nurse and general assistant in hospitals, and remained out three years, although not a participant in any battle. He returned to Ohio, and purchased 125 acres of land in Greene county, on which he resided until his death, which took place in 1866. The marriage of Judge Collett took place in Xenia, Ohio, in 1830, to Sarah Kyle, who was born in that town February 24, 1808, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Smith) Kyle, the result of the union being eleven children, viz: James I., deceased; Samuel B., the subject proper of this sketch; John, deceased; William, of Van Wert; Seth, of Greene county; Daniel, who commanded a company in the Union army, and died after returning from the war; Joshua, Frank and Mildred, all three deceased; Julia, wife of J. O. Stout, justice of the peace and attorney at Lima, Ohio, and Ella, deceased. Mrs. Collett, the mother of this family passed away at her late residence on East Main street, Van Wert, June 4, 1895, in her eighty-eighth year. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was her husband. Daniel Collett was a republican in politics, and under the auspices of his party served as judge of Clinton county, Ohio, for several years.

Samuel B. Collett was reared to manhood in Clinton county, and remained with his parents until twenty-four years of age. He received his preparatory education in his native county, and at the age of twenty-two entered the Ohio Medical college at Cincinnati, from which he graduated in 1857, and at once began practice in Walkerton, Ind., where he had a most successful career for fourteen years; he then removed to Huntertown, Ind., where equal success attended him for ten years, and then, in 1881, came to Van Wert, where he achieved a fine reputation and continued to practice until 1887, when he retired.

The first marriage of Dr. Collett took place in Jamestown, Ohio, May 20, 1857, to Miss Susie Alexander, who was born in Jamestown in 1843, a daughter of Matthew Alexander. This lady, after a life of connubial bliss of nearly a quarter of a century, died at Huntertown, Ind., leaving one child, Blanche, now postmistress at Jamestown. The second marriage of Dr. Collett took place in Van Wert, April 11, 1885, to Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, widow of Simon Fox and daughter of John Zimmerman. The present Mrs. Collett was born in Washingtonville, Ohio, September 11, 1828, and comes of a very prominent family. Dr. and Mrs. Collett are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are highly esteemed by the public at large. The doctor, in politics, is a republican, and is a Freemason fraternally. He is passing his declining years at his home on the corner of Fulton and Caroline streets, Van Wert.

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OREN J. COMER, proprietor of the popular cigar and tobacco establishment on Main street, opposite the court house, Van Wert, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, May 4, 1838, a son of Joshua and Leticia (Bryant) Comer. The father, Joshua Comer, was born in the Shenandoah valley, Va., and after reaching his majority came to Ohio, and engaged in the grocery business in Dresden, Muskingum county, and also kept a hotel until his death in 1850. He was also married in Dresden, about 1834, and to his marriage were born four children, viz: Martha, Oren J., Louisa and John. The mother of this family survived until 1872, when she expired in Dresden, a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Oren J. Comer was but twelve years of age at the death of his father, and remained at home, aiding his widowed mother, until his marriage, in February, 1861, of which important event mention will be made further along, but it must not be surmised that he neglected his maternal parent after the happy event occurred. Four years after his marriage he went to Roscoe, Coshocton county, Ohio, where for four years he was general superintendent of a woolen-mill; he then went to Bucyrus, and was there employed in a similar position until 1869, when he came to Van Wert and assumed the superintendency of the Buckeye woolen-mills, and retained this responsible position until the plant was destroyed by fire two years later; then, in company with others, he erected the Van Wert woolen mill, which Mr. Comer conducted for one year, when he was appointed deputy sheriff for four years under Fred Billman, and also acted as coroner a part of the time. In 1878 he began handling tobacco and cigars with a very limited capital, but he was a good business man and was affable and obliging to his customers, and his trade steadily increased. In 1883 he began a tobacco jobbing business throughout the surrounding counties, handling about eighty different brands of tobacco and selling some 30,000 pounds per annum.

The marriage of Mr. Comer, before alluded to, took place in Dresden, Ohio, February 6, 1861, to Miss Annette Chamberlin, who was born in New York, November 18, 1838, and to this union was born one child—Norma C., wife of William A. Bickford; Mr. Comer also adopted, in 1874, his brother's son, Oren J., Jr., who has been with him ever since. Mr. Comer is a thirty-second degree Mason, and in politics is a republican, and during 1894 was a cemetery trustee, his term of appointment being for three years, but he resigned in the spring of 1895. His stock in trade is extensive and choice and his business is constantly on the increase. In religion Mrs. Comer is a member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Comer is a "mighty hunter," and since 1880 has explored the north and south woods in search of game and has a large collection of birds and beasts of his own catch, including eight bears, and he has preserved the antlers of most of the deer he has killed. In 1894 he captured in Washington county, Miss., an alligator gar that measures six feet, nine inches, and this ichthyological specimen of his powers he has had nicely conserved, or mounted.

William A. Bickford is a native of Ohio, was born August 10, 1860, and is a son of Frank C. Bickford, of Van Wert. He was educated in the city schools and here learned the printer's trade, becoming an accomplished journalist. February 23, 1887, he married Miss Norma C. Comer, who was born October 22, 1861, a daughter of Oren J. Comer, whose biography is given above. To Mr. and Mrs. Bickford has been born one child, Annette, September 2, 1889. In religion he is a Lutheran and in politics a democrat, and is in all respects a useful and highly esteemed citizen.

* * *

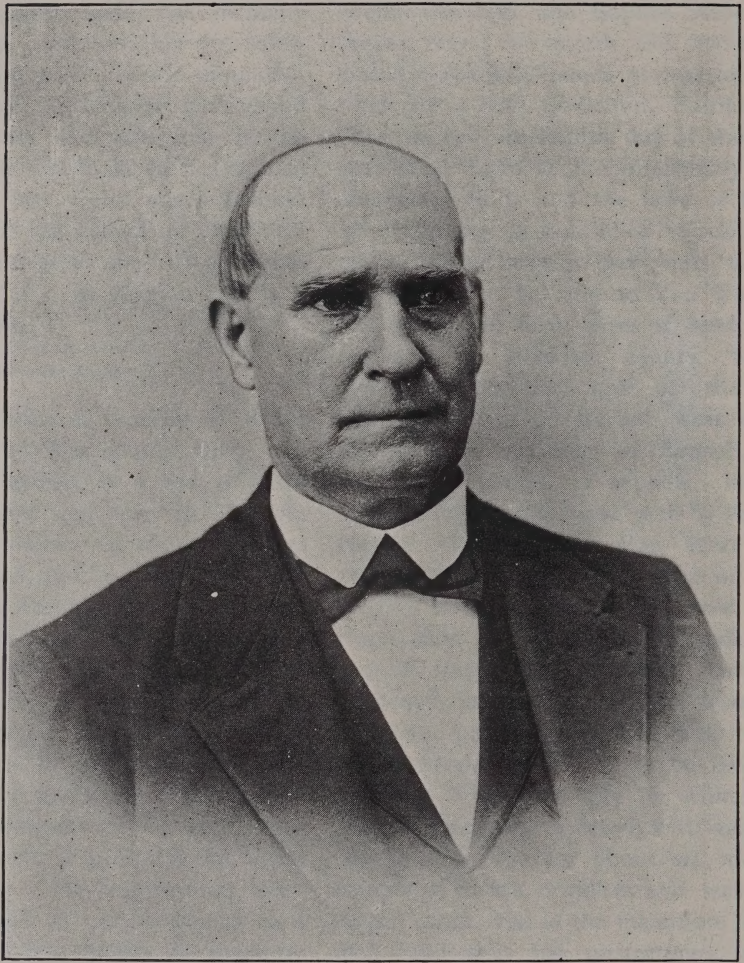
ROBERT CONN, deceased, was born in Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, July 19, 1828, and was a son of Andrew and Margaret (Patterson) Conn, well known residents of Mansfield and highly respected throughout Richland county.

Robert Conn, our subject, was reared to manhood in his native county, was educated in the public schools, and at the age of twenty-one left the parental roof and came to Van Wert. Here he became quite well known as a dry-goods merchant and also as a handler of grain. He was married, in Van Wert, May 12, 1861, to Miss Catherine Slater, who was born in Fayette county, Pa., April 10, 1831, and is a sister of Mrs. O. W. Rose, whose biography appears on another page—the fruit of the union being one child, Andrew P., now an insurance agent of Van Wert. November 7, 1864, Robert Conn was untimely called away, dying in the faith of the Presbyterian church. He was a democrat in politics, and had accumulated considerable property.

Mrs. Catherine (Slater) Conn, after her husband's death, engaged, in 1866, in the millinery business, which she followed with rare success until 1890, when she sold, but in 1894 resumed the business, and being a lady of most engaging manners and of exquisite taste, has as many patrons as formerly. She owns her own salesroom on Washington street, beside three residence properties, all of which she has secured through her own tact and enterprise in the millinery business, in which she carries a stock valued at $2,000. Mrs. Conn was a teacher for nineteen terms in the schools of Van Wert county, in which profession she was also phenomenally successful. In religion she is a Christian spiritualist.

* * *

JOHN COLLINS, a pioneer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a thriving farmer, is a son of Samuel Collins and was born in Hocking county, Ohio, September 24, 1824. Samuel Collins owned no land, and he and his son John made their living by working out by the day or month until the latter reached his majority. John then started out on his own account, and until twenty-three years of age worked principally for three men—Samuel Strous, John Strous and Solomon Riegle—in the meantime working hard and faithfully and living economically. As fast as he earned twenty-five or fifty dollars he would place the sum at interest in the hands of some good farmer. His first earnings, however, he had invested as part payment on a forty-acre farm, and this money he made by cutting corn for Hiram Flanagin, who married Polly Strous. Corn-cutting was the harvest of Mr. Collins, the season lasting about three weeks, during which period he made as much money as he otherwise could in two months. To use his own expression he "would make his ties and cut the inside round after night, ready for a big day's work on the morrow." This was his course of life until his marriage. To again quote Mr. Collins: "Seeing it was not good for one man to be alone, John Collins, aged twenty-three years, five months and twenty-five days, and Sophia Stebelton, aged sixteen years, one month and two days, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at the residence of Jesse Stebelton, Fairfield county, Ohio, on the nineteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord 1848, comformably to the ordinance of God, and the laws of the state." After marriage he continued to reside in Fairfield, Hocking county, four years, and then in October, 1851, he came to Van Wert county, and purchased forty acres of land; he then returned to Hocking county, where he passed the winter, and on the 12th of Mrarch, 1852, he started west again with his family, consisting of himself, his wife and three babies, a nephew, his mother and one dog, and a hired man by the name of Hayne. They reached Van Wert on March 21, rested in town awhile, and on the 27th arrived safely on his forty acres. On the twenty-first day of August following, he purchased forty-acres, of which twenty were deadened, just across the road from his first forty, and paid for it in full, with the exception of $100, which was to be paid in nine months. The same day on which he made this purchase he was seized with inflammatory rheumatism, and for about six months was compelled to use crutches and was unable to do any work, and in the meantime his mother died—and thus his misfortunes were augmented; but his determination and will were strong, and his arms sinewy, and as soon as he recovered from his rheumatic attack he took a job of wood-chopping for Robert Conn at thirty-seven and a half cents a cord, and averaged four cords a day in the winter. He walked a mile night and morning to



JOHN COLLINS.

MRS. SOPHIA COLLINS.

and from his work, and when his job was completed he was ready to make the last payment on this part of his farm, and his eighty acres are now free of debt. To clear this land up, however, he worked from four o'clock in the morning until twelve at night, but now he has something to be proud of. In 1857 he bought sixty additional acres of John Hire, adding to the old farm on the east, making in all 140 acres in Ridge township, of which over 100 are under a state of cultivation, are thoroughly underdrained, and improved with buildings costing over $7,000.

Mr. Collins has had born to him seven sons and seven daughters, of whom eleven still survive—all married and themselves heads of families. The names of these children are as follows: Mary E., I. N., Andrew J., Martha E., Daniel W., Anna, Franklin, Lucinda, Jasper, Lovina, Dora, Ida, John and Perry. The integrity, industry and morality of Mr. Collins are well recognized in his community, and none stand higher in the esteem of the people of Ridge township than he and his family. As Mr. Collins naively quotes, "My life has been checkered with darkness and light, but the sweet star of hope was always in sight; though oft I have erred—I confess it with tears—sustained by God's grace, I have reached seventy years."

* * *

HIRAM R. CONN, one of the prominent citizens of Van Wert and an ex-soldier of the Union army, who served his country well in its hour of need, was born May 10, 1833. He is a son of John Conn, who was born in Scott county, Va., in 1790.

John Conn was of German and French ancestry, was reared on a farm, and was married, in 1807, to Miss Elsley Carter, of Scott county, Va. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in 1851. By her Mr. Conn had the following children: Lucinda, John, William, Jessie, Benjamin, Melvin, Mary, Louisa, Hiram and Joseph. Five of these nine children are dead, viz: Jessie, Mary, Louisa, Melvin and Lucinda. All were married but Melvin, who was killed in the late Civil war at the battle of Richmond. John Conn married for his second wife Miss Melissa Bryant, of Tennessee. She was and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is still living in Jackson county, Ohio. By his second marriage Mr. Conn became the father of five children, viz: Levi, Martin, Lydia, Daniel and Lavinda. One of these five, Martin, is dead, having been killed in a coal mine. He was married; all the rest are living and are all married. John Conn was a whig in the early day, was a patriot and volunteered to fight for his country in the war of 1812-15. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was a good-hearted and liberal man, and was highly esteemed as a man and as a citizen by all who knew him.

Hiram R. Conn was born in Scott county, Va., and when twelve years of age began driving stock for a living. This business he followed for about eight years, driving sometimes a distance of 420 miles in one direction. When he was twenty years of age his mother died and then he removed to Greene county, Ohio, where he remained for twelve years. He was engaged in Greene county in farming until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted, at Grape Grove, in company E, Ninety-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and went direct from camp at Piqua to the battle of Richmond, where, the third day after leaving camp, a ball passed so close to his lips as to make them bleed a little. He went then to the battle of Perryville, Ky., which took place October 8, 1862. Here he suffered a bad rupture, but remained in the army until December 8, 1862.

At a bridge across the Cumberland river, near Edgeville, Tenn., he had his left leg broken and ankle dislocated and right arm and hand partially paralyzed. He was first taken to the Masonic temple at Nashville, Tenn., and thence transferred to hospital No. 13, Louisville, Ky., and then to the Marine hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received his discharge in February, 1863. He is now receiving a pension of $17 per month in compensation for his injuries. Having been discharged from the army, Mr. Conn went to Greene county, Ohio, but later, in the same year (1863) removed to Van Wert, where he has since lived.

Mr. Conn was married February 18, 1852, to Miss Lucinda Shigley, of Greene county, Ohio. To this marriage there were born seven cdildren, viz: Virginia O., Ersley R., Flora L., Franklin L., Cornelia N., Ulysses E. and Elmer N. Of these seven children three are dead, viz: Virginia O., Franklin L. and Flora L. All of the seven married and reared families of their own. Mr. Conn is a true and strong republican, and is now retired from active business and living a quiet, retired life, in Van Wert, with his wife.

Miss Lucinda Shigley, his wife, was born June 12, 1828. Her father, George Shigley, was born in Pennsylvania in 1802. He was reared on his father's farm, followed the occupation of a farmer during his entire life, and died in Greene county, Ohio, in 1880. He was married when he was eighteen years of age to Miss Olive Franklin, who was a distant relative of the great Benjamin Franklin, and by her became the father of eleven children, viz: Polly, Nancy, James, Betsy, Joseph, George, Lucinda, Rhoda, Nelson, Benjamin F. and Adeline. Of these eleven the following are dead: Polly, Betsy, Nancy, Joseph, James, Rhoda, Adeline, and all the family married except Rhoda. George Shigley was a volunteer in the army of the Union during the war of 1812-15, and served three months. In politics he was a whig, but in later life became a republican. In religion he was a Methodist, and a consistent member of his church. He was a very conscientious man, and a liberal and a charitable christian gentleman in every way. Mrs. Conn was born in Greene county, Ohio, and resided at home with her parents until she was married to Mr. Conn. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a most exemplary christian lady.

DANIEL M. CONROY, of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Ireland, was born December 4, 1840, and is a son of Michael and Ann (Delaney) Conroy. The father, Michael, brought his family to America in 1849, and this family at that time consisted of himself and wife and children, named James, Mary, Elizabeth and Daniel M. The father was a farmer in the old country, but in America worked on a railroad until his death in Delphos, at the age of about fifty-seven years. He was a devout Catholic and a much respected citizen, and gave his two sons to the defense of the Union, viz: James, who served throughout the struggle in company F, Twenty-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry, was in many severe battles—among them Gettysburg—was more than once wounded, and for a long time a prisoner in the Libby den in Richmond; he died some years later in Paulding, Ohio, from the effects of his wounds; Daniel M., the younger son and the subject of this mention, enlisted at Delphos, Ohio, in the Dennison guards, in 1862, for a term of three years or during the war. He served at Camp Dennison and in Kentucky on guard duty until seized with a complication of the lung fever and measles, and was confined in hospital over two months, his weight being reduced from

140 to 105 pounds, and the result being nearly fatal. On partial recovery he was found unfit for a soldier's duty, being almost totally deaf as well as emaciated, and he was therefore honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, in January, 1863, after six months of army life.

Daniel M. Conroy, our subject, was between eight and nine years of age when he came with his parents to America, received a common-school education at Delphos and Van Wert, and learned the stone-mason's trade, and up to the date of his enlistment his life was uneventful, or, at least, was not marked by any special incident. After his army experience he at once returned to Delphos, but it was some time before he was capable of doing any work. In due course of time, however, he resumed his trade of stone-cutting, and March 4, 1867, married Miss Sarah Ann Gilliland, who was born in Ridge township, Van Wert county, June 8, 1836, a daughter of Thomas and Catherine Gilliland. Thomas Gilliland was a pioneer of Ridge township, coming, in November, 1835, from Fredericksburg, Md. He had married, in Maryland, October 29, 1831. Catherine McCann, a native of Fredericksburg, born December 7, 1811, and to this union were born seven children, who grew to maturity, viz: Robert, Edward, Maxwell, Mary, Martha, Henrietta and Sarah. Thomas Gilliland cleared up a farm of 170 acres, became an influential citizen and a justice of the peace, and died on his farm at the age of about fifty-one years, a member of the Presbyterian church. For further information regarding this prominent pioneer family the reader is referred to the biographies of E. B. Gilliland and others to be found elsewhere in this volume.

After marriage Mr. Conroy continued to work at his trade in Delphos until 1873, when he removed to Van Wert, and in 1882 came to his present farm in Washington township, where he owns twenty-nine and one-half acres, and has a pleasant home. He has been quite successful as an agriculturist—drawing from his early experience—and makes the pursuit profitable, and to the income derived from his farm he has been remembered by the government with a pension of $22 per month. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Conroy has been blessed by the birth of five children—Catherine, Mattie, Mary, John, and one who died young. The Conroy family are all devout members of the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. Conroy is a republican. He has been a very industrious man, and has always been an upright and respected citizen, but is now unable to any longer labor, and his deafness has become almost total. One of his daughters is now the wife of John Fawcett of Middlepoint, and has one child.

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WILLIAM H. CORBET, manager and superintendent of the People's mill, Van Wert, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 12, 1856, a son of Rev. Thomas W. and Elizabeth A. (Robins) Corbet, now residents of Lafayette, Allen county, Ohio, and of whom a more detailed account is given in the Allen county department of this volume. William H. Corbet was but five years of age when brought by his parents to Allen county, where he attended the public schools until the death of his mother when he was fourteen years old, when he came to Middlepoint, Washington township, Van Wert county, and engaged as a general assistant in the stave factory for a year, and for another year was employed in cutting stave timber; he then studied at the Ada (Ohio) normal school for six months, when he again returned to Middlepoint and served as clerk in a general store until 1879, when he was employed in buying and shipping grain, cattle, sheep and swine until 1883, when he was elected county treasurer by the democracy, and entered upon the duties of his office in September, 1884. To this office he was elected two consecutive terms, was the youngest man whoever held the position, was the only democrat on the ticket elected the second year, and can boast of being the only treasurer to go out of office without being compelled to correct an error the first year. At the close of his second term he engaged in buying and shipping grain for eighteen months, then moved to his farm of 160 acres in Washington township, where he still resides. In June, 1894, he accepted the position of manager of the People's mill, in which position he fulfills the function of purchasing agent and salesman of grain, etc.; he is also engaged quite extensively in feeding sheep during the winter season, and is likewise the owner of some very fine Jersey cattle.

Mr. Corbet was united in matrimony at Middlepoint, Ohio, December 27, 1876, to Miss Mandane Calhoun, born in Van Wert county April 29, 1857, and a descendant of the celebrated statesman, John C. Calhoun. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Corbet have been two children—Zenan, attending the Chicago university, and Verna, at home. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and fraternally Mr. Corbet is a knight templar Mason; he has served, also, on the school board and as a member of the town council several terms.

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DAVID COUNSELLER, an influential citizen of Union township, and representative farmer of Van Wert county, is a native of Ohio, born in the county of Auglaize, February 23, 1843. His father, William Counseller, was born in New Jersey September 9, 1809, and married in that state, May 17, 1832, Temperance Girtin, also a native of New Jersey, where her birth occurred on the 18th day of September, 1813. William Counseller followed farming in New Jersey until his removal, in 1835, to Auglaize county, Ohio, where he remained until 1877, in which year he became a resident of the county of Van Wert, locating in Ridge township, where both he and wife died in May, 1891. William and Temperance Counseller reared a family consisting of the following children: Elias; Rebecca, deceased; Benjamin, killed in the battle of Nashville, Tenn.; Mariah E.; Isabella, deceased; David, the subject of this memoir; William H., killed at Culpeper Court House, Va.; Levi, Emily A., Josiah, Charles, Jennie and Temperance. Both Mr. and Mrs. Counseller were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he held the position of class leader, and for many years was a local preacher.

David Counseller remained with his parents until eighteen years of age, and received from them valuable lessons of industry and morals, factors which have contributed much to his subsequent success in life. At the age above named, he went to Allen county, where he remained with his brother until the breaking out of the war, at which time he responded to the country's call for volunteers, enlisting in September, 1862, in company E, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years' service, his regiment forming a part of the Fourth army corps, western division. He was with his command through all its varied experiences and took part in a number of the bloodiest battles of the war, including Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Peach Tree Creek, Buzzard's Roost and other engagements of the Atlanta campaign. While with Sherman in his operations around that city, Mr. Counseller was taken quite sick, which necessitated his being sent to the hospital at Nashville, where he remained until sufficiently recuperated, when he was removed to Jeffersonville, Ind., remaining in the latter place for a period of three months. Subsequently he rejoined his regiment at Willmington, N. C., and continued at the front until honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service, after which he returned to Allen county, Ohio, and resumed his chosen calling of farming. In 1867 Mr. Counseller changed his residence to the county of Van Wert, purchasing a small place consisting of forty acres in Union township, to which he has from time to time made additions, until he is now the owner of a fine tract of 200 acres, all well underdrained and in an excellent state of cultivation. In addition to general farming he pays considerable attention to the raising of fine stock, being a large breeder of thoroughbred China hogs, and also deals extensively in hay, handling upon an average from 150 to 200 car-loads per year.

Mr. Counseller is a thoroughgoing man of the times, keeps pace with all modern improvements pertaining to agriculture, and possesses rare business acumen. He is a man of fine address, exceptional personal appearance, and in the community few people stand as high in the estimation of the public. On the 25th day of July, 1865, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Counseller and Elizabeth Shockey, who was born March 24, 1843, the daughter of Abraham and Rachael (Smith) Shockey, natives of Ohio, of Irish and German descent, respectively. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Counseller consists of eight children, viz: Franklin C., William H., Josephine L., Thomas A., Ada, Eva B., Rufus H. and Ora B.

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GEORGE COVER, a substantial farmer and respected citizen of Washington township, Van Wert county, is of sturdy Pennsylvania-German descent and was born in Perry county, Ohio, February 11, 1845. His father, Henry Cover, also a native of Perry county, was born March 12, 1819, a son of Jacob Cover, who was born in Fayette county, Pa., but was one of the original pioneers of Perry county, Ohio. Henry Cover was a farmer, and married, in Perry county, Mary M. Foster, daughter of George Foster, to which union were born three children who grew to maturity, viz: George, Francis and Christian.

In August or September, 1849, Henry Cover came from Perry county to Van Wert county, Ohio, and located on 160 acres of land in Ridge township, of which he had become possessor through his wife, and which was situated deep in the forest. This land he improved in every respect necessary to make a first-class homestead, and by the exercise of well directed energy and industry became the owner of 657 acres of good farm land, all in Van Wert county, with the exception of 160 acres, which lay in Grant county, Ind. Of this property he has donated to his children about 300 acres, retaining the remainder for himself, and so shaping up his home place that it now comprises 200 acres. He is a good farmer and an intelligent manager, and consequently has been very successful in his undertakings. In politics he is a republican, and in religion is a Lutheran, of which church he has been a trustee, and is likewise an influential and highly respected citizen.

George Cover, the gentleman whose name opens this sketch, was about five years of age, it will be noticed, when brought to Van Wert county by his parents. Here he received such educational advantages as were afforded by the pioneer schools, and here, also, he was trained to the vocation of farming. At the age of about twenty-four years, December 27, 1868, he married, in Van Wert county, Elizabeth A. Crooks, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 5, 1848, a daughter of Robert E.

and Mary A. (Foster) Crooks. The father of this lady was born in America, but was the son of a native of county Donegal, Ireland.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cover settled on 100 acres of land in Washington township, on which they still reside, and which Mr. Cover has cleared up, improved with a substantial dwelling and out-buildings, and thoroughly drained—making one of the neatest and most profitable farms of its dimensions in the township. Here have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cover five children, viz: Mary E., Lawrence A., Marion F., George L. and Nettie L. In politics Mr. Cover is a republican; in religion, he, wife and two elder children are members of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Cover has been a trustee and treasurer, and from the members of which he has received many other evidences of the high esteem in which he is held. For nearly half a century Mr. Cover has been an eye-witness of the thousand and one metamorphoses that have taken place in Washington township and Van Wert county, and has, indeed, been himself an important factor in bringing about many of these changes, thus earning the high position in which he stands in the estimation of his fellow-citizens.

NOAH CRAWFORD, an old resident and prosperous farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Walnut township, Fairfield county, Ohio, November, 5, 1833, a son of John H. and Margaret (Buriff) Crawford, who were natives of Pennsylvania, but who were married in Fairfield county, Ohio, whither they had come when still young, and to whose union were born the following children: Thomas, who died after attaining manhood; Sarah, who died in girlhood; John, who owns and resides on the Fairfield county homestead, which comprises 109 acres; Adam, who was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion and was killed in the battle of Bull Run; Sophia Jane, who died in girlhood; Noah, the subject of this sketch, and Peter Monroe, who was also killed at Bull Run.

Noah Crawford remained on the home farm until his marriage, March 26, 1857, to Christiana Alspach, daughter of David and Mary A. (Stouder) Alspach, who were the parents of three children, beside Mrs. Crawford—Frank, Sylvester and Alpheus. In 1857, also, David Alspach came with his family to Van Wert county from Perry county, and settled near the county line of Allen county, a short distance from Delphos, and there improved a fine farm, now the property of his son Frank, with whom Mrs. Alspach now makes her home. Noah Crawford, who came to Van Wert county in the same year with Mr. Alspach, rented what was then known as the Pat Sheeley farm, in Washington township, on which he made his home for four years, and then rented the Binkley farm in the same township, and here farmed for two years. The following spring, at the earnest solicitation of an old friend of his boyhood days, named Charles Denman, he purchased a tract of forty acres in Ridge township—the tract being then a dense forest, through which not even a pathway had been hewn out. Here Mr. Crawford toiled assiduously until he had wrought out a charming home, to which he has added thirty acres, the whole improved with every modern convenience and underdrained with over 1,700 rods of tiling. His dwelling is notably neat and attractive, and the farm phenomenally productive under its owner's skillful management. To Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have been born three children, viz: Ida, who is the wife of William Spridgeon; Charles Ellsworth, who married Mary Neiswitz, and Francis Marion, who married Dora Whers—and no more respected family than that of Mr. Crawford exists within the limits of Ridge township.

JOHN CREMEAN, of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in German township, Allen county, December 24, 1841, and is one of the oldest soldiers of the late Civil war, in which he served over three years, and is now a prosperous farmer of his present county.

Smith Cremean, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Maryland, married a lady of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, and came to Ohio at a very early date, eventually settling in Allen county. Edward Cremean, son of Smith and father of John, our subject, married, in Allen county, Mary Povenmire, daughter of John Povenmire, who was also of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and after marriage settled on 104½ acres in Greensburg township, and cleared up a good farm from the woods. He was a volunteer in the Mexican war, but although he was willing to fight, saw no active service. To Mr. and Mrs. Cremean were born thirteen children, named as follows: James, Maggie, Mary J., Martin Van Buren, John, Elizabeth, Henry, Daniel, Ellen, Sarah A., Lucetta, Abraham and Lavina. Mr. Cremean sent five of his sons to the Civil war, viz: James, Martin, John, Henry and Daniel, of whom three—Martin, Henry and John—were in company K, Sixty-sixth Illinois volunteer infantry, while James and Daniel served in an Ohio regiment. The father of this family was a democrat in politics and died on his farm in Allen county about 1868, at the age of forty-seven years, a member of the United Brethren church.

John Cremean, our subject, received the usual common-school education granted to farmer lads and enlisted, before he was twenty-one years of age, March 31, 1862, at Lima, Allen county, for three years, in the first Ohio sharpshooters, under Capt. S. A. Taylor, served out his term of enlistment, veteranized in the same organization, and served until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge at Springfield, Ill., April 26, 1865. He fought at Corinth, Iuka, Lookout Mountain, Pea Ridge, Cedar Bluff, Sandy Point, Duck Diver, Ostenado River, and at other points, and he was on the famous Atlanta campaign, in which he was under fire continuously for nearly four months, and fought at Dalton, Resaca, Pumpkinvine Creek, Buzzard Roost, Kenesaw Mountain and other points; also at the battles of Atlanta, where, being close at hand, he saw Gen. McPherson fall. Mr. Cremean was also at Jonesboro, as well as on the renowned march with Gen. W. T. Sherman to the sea; took part in the fall of Columbia, and in skirmishes unnumbered, marching through to Goldsboro, N. C. Mr. Cremean passed all through the war without a wound, and during all his services was confined to hospital only one week.

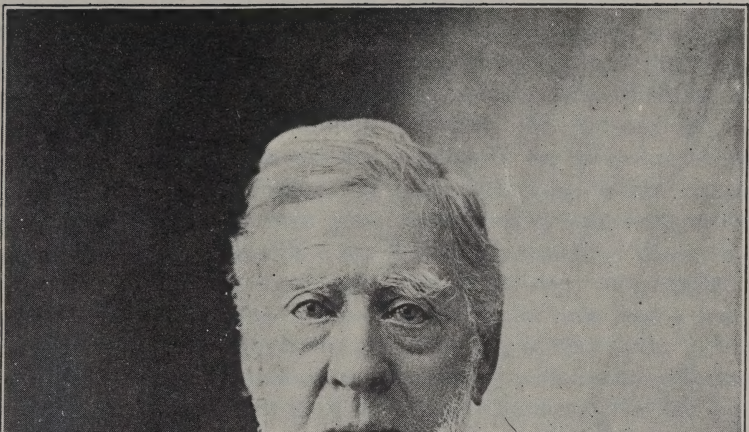
After his return from the army, Mr. Cremean married, September 28, 1865, Miss Lucinda Brand, who was born January 31, 1843, in Allen county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Harriet (Creger) Brand, and after marriage lived on the Brand homestead for two years, and then, in 1867, came to Van Wert county and located in York township on a tract of forty acres, which he cleared of the heavy timber and developed a farm that any man might be proud of—all well drained and fenced. To Mr. and Mrs. Cremean have been born the following children, all still living to bless the household: Dora, Alpha, Charles, Daisy, Minnie, Thomas, Jessie, Molly and Myrtle. In politics Mr. Cremean is a democrat and has served as school director. He is a man who advocates the cause of education and moral progress and public improvements, and has won the esteem of the public for the interest he takes in the public welfare, and for his personal character as an upright and conscientious citizen and kind-hearted neighbor.

ALONZO CONANT, president of the First National Bank of Van Wert, Ohio, and one of the most enterprising business men in the state, descends from one of the oldest families in the country, of whom any record is extant. The Conant family appears to be, primarily, of Celtic descent, for the name Conan, or Conon, from which the name is derived, is found at every early period among various races of Celtic origin, including the Britons, Welsh, Irish, Gaels and Bretons. Nobody knows when the Celts first settled in Britain, for at the beginning of authentic history the island was inhabited by them. When Britain was invaded by the Anglo-Saxons, these Celtic inhabitants retreated before them into Cornwall and Wales, where they retained their language and customs for a long time. Some crossed the English channel southward and joined their kinsmen in Armoric Brittany, and others found homes elsewhere.

Whether the family was of the Britain, or Cornish, branch of the Celtic race it is impossible to say; as the name is somewhat Gallic in form, it is possible the family is descended from some Breton follower of William the Conqueror. At all events, members settled in Devonshire as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century. Three hundred years later, in the very vanguard of English emigration to America, two brothers of the name left Devonshire for the new world, from the youngest of whom nearly all the Conants in America are descended. The Conants almost invariably married into families of English descent, and moreover, into families long settled here, so that the branch of the family on this side of the ocean may be regarded as typically American.

Records remain to show that the name Conant, in very nearly its present form, has existed in England for over six hundred years, and a more extended search would doubtless reveal its earlier existence. This is, however, a very respectable antiquity for the name, when the difficulty of tracing any particular name, and the fact that surnames, which have been in use for only eight hundred years, are considered.

Roger Conant, the emigrant and ancestor of most of those bearing the name in America, was baptized at All Saints church, in the parish of East Budleigh, Devonshire, England, April 9, 1592. He was the youngest of the eight children of Richard and Agnes (Clarke) Conant, who were esteemed for their exemplary piety. He was married in London, in November, 1618, and remained in London until he emigrated to New England in 1623. The name of the vessel in which he came is not certainly known, but it is extremely probable that it was the Ann, which arrived at Plymouth about July, 1623. He did not, however, remain long at Plymouth, owing to a difference of religious belief between himself and the Pilgrim fathers. They were Separatists, and he a non-Conformist or Puritan. The ship Charity arrived in March, 1624, bringing supplies to the colonists, and also bringing the Rev. John Lyford, a Puritan minister, who was sent at the company's expense. Soon Rev. Lyford and the leaders of the colony began an intrigue against the colonists, which ended in their expulsion in July, 1624. Roger Conant was not expelled with them, but joined them soon after at Nantasket, where they had settled from a dislike of the principles of rigid separation which prevailed at Plymouth. It was probable, while at Nantasket, that he made use of the island in Boston Harbor, now called Governor's Island—but then, and sometime after, was known as Conant's island. During the winter of 1624–5, Rev. John White of Dorchester, and his associates, hearing of the settlement at Nantasket, and of



ALONZO CONANT.

Roger Conant, chose him to manage or govern their affairs at Cape Ann.

Although he is not universally recognized as the first governor of Massachusetts, Roger Conant is fairly entitled to that honor, for the colony of which he was the head made the first permanent settlement in the Massachusetts territory, which settlement was the germ from which the Massachusetts Bay colony sprung. His influence in calling the attention of prominent persons in England to the advantages of Massachusetts for purposes of colonization was greater than had been previously recognized, and we have seen that, but for him, the colony would have soon been abandoned. Upon good authority it is stated that Roger Conant was made governor of Salem, Mass., in 1625, and in 1628 was superseded by John Endicott; he also built the first frame house in Salem.

Benjamin, the grandfather of Alonzo Conant, our subject, was born August 29, 1756, in Bridgewater, Mass. In April, 1775, he was one of Capt. Nathan Mitchell's company that marched to Cambridge on the Lexington alarm. About 1795, he removed from Bridgewater, Mass., to Turner, Me., where he died. His son Benjamin, father of our subject, was born September 24, 1794, in Bridgewater, Mass., moved to Turner, Me., with his parents, where he received his education and engaged in farming, and there married, October 30, 1816, Althea Staples, who was born in Massachusetts July 8, 1793; there they lived the remainder of their lives—his death occurring in 1868—his wife having died October 8, 1848. They were the parents of nine children, of whom but two are now living, viz: Louis and Alonzo (our subject). The parents were Universalists in religious belief, while in politics the father was a democrat.

Alonzo Conant was born March 17, 1817, was reared on the farm in Maine, and received his education in the common schools of that day, which he attended until his twenty-first year, when he spent several months as a member of a militia company in his native state, and then engaged in various pursuits of business until 1839, when, in company with several companions, he came to Ohio, stopping near Columbus, and there engaged as a laborer in a stone quarry, where he was employed six months; the succeeding winter he taught school in the same neighborhood. For five years following he was engaged in clerking in and about Columbus; then went to Sunbury, Delaware county, Ohio, in company with David Heyden, and engaged in the grocery business for one and a half years; then, in 1852, our subject came to Van Wert, and in company with Simon Swineford engaged in the grocery business, in which he continued until 1868. At this time a stock company was formed by the business men of Van Wert for the purpose of manufacturing staves, of which he was elected principal manager, and held this position for three years; he then became interested in the First National bank, in 1871, and acted as a director of the same until its reorganization in 1878, when he was made its president, which position he has since held. Mr. Conant was married, November 22, 1849, in Delaware county, Ohio, to Miss Esther A. Clark, who was born in Zanesville, Ohio, September 13, 1825, and by this union four children have been born, viz: Mary E. (deceased), Myrtle A., Ione E. (deceased) and Lida E. Mr. Conant is one of the oldest members of the I. O. O. F. lodge in this city; in politics he is a stanch republican, and has served as common councilman, and also on the board of education, and is interested in many of the more important enterprises of the city and county. The business career of Mr. Conant has been marked throughout by the purest integrity, and his name is a synonym of all that is honorable in mercantile or other transactions, and that he enjoys the highest regard and most implicit confidence of his fellow-citizens "goes without saying."

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ROBERT L. CROOKS, M. D., of Convoy, Tully township, Wan Wert county, Ohio, is one of the leading practitioners of the county, and with one exception the oldest in practice in Convoy, his experience having extended through a period of eighteen years. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, January 17, 1853, a son of Josiah F. and Catherine (Walters) Crooks, pioneers of Pennsylvania. The grandfather of Mrs. Crooks, Lancaster S. Walters, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution; the paternal grandfather of the doctor was Robert E. Crooks, who was a pioneer of Tuscarawas county, Ohio.

Rev. Josiah F. Crooks, father of the doctor, was born near New Philadelphia, in that county, in 1831, was highly educated, and was chaplain of the Ninety-eighth Ohio infantry, having been promoted from the ranks of company H, in which he had enlisted to serve during the Civil war. After his return he entered the ministry of the Methodist church, moved to Van Wert county with his family, and was first placed on the Coldwater circuit and afterward on the St. John circuit, and in these groups of adjoining counties preached for the remainder of his life, dying in Elida, Allen county, at the age of sixty-two years. He and his wife were parents of five children—Annie, Laura, Louise, William and Robert L. He was very patriotic and was in constant demand at G. A. R. camp-fires, and on decoration days, as orator.

Dr. Robert L. Crooks received a liberal education; he attended the Normal college at Lebanon, Ohio, and graduated from the Eclectic Medical institute at Cincinnati, March 13, 1872; from the Fort Wayne Medical college in February, 1878, and from the Chicago Polyclinic, February 11, 1889. He began practice at Gilbert's Mills, Paulding county, Ohio, in 1872, and four years later came to Convoy, Van Wert county, where he has met with phenomenal success down to the present time. He is a member of the Northwest Ohio Medical society and the Van Wert County Medical society, and is the advisory surgeon of the leading life insurance companies doing business in Van Wert and adjoining counties. He is a patron of the leading medical periodicals of the United States and Europe and is a frequent contributor to several of the more important of them; is still a hard student and keeps well abreast with the progress made in medical and surgical science and practice; he has a fine library of medical and other works, and is well read in scientific as well as lay literature and history. When the doctor began practice in Van Wert county the primeval forest reached the very streets of Convoy, and he was forced to make his visits on horseback to the pioneer cabins through dense woods, occasional clearings, and over the most ill-conditioned roads, in winter and in summer, and in daytime and at night, to attend his meager clientage, but his practice now extends through Allen county, Ind., and Mercer, Allen, Paulding and Van Wert counties, Ohio, and his mode of conveyance is more convenient than of old. The doctor has been an extensive traveler and has visited every state in the Union. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Convoy, in which he has held all the offices, and is a member also of the I. O. R. M., in which he has been chief of records. In politics he is a republican and has been a member of the town council of Convoy four years, and he served on the United States pension board during the administration of President Harrison. The marriage of Dr. Crooks took place November 11, 1872, to Rachael I. Little, to which union were born three daughters—Hiley M., Cleo and Leo—all now dead, Mrs. Crooks having died August 19, 1875.

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**THEODORE CULP**, an enterprising farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, was born in Salt Creek township, Pickaway county, Ohio, October 27, 1843. His great-grandfather, Boyleston Culp, was a native of Pennsylvania, but early entered land in Salt Creek township, Pickaway county, Ohio, where he ended his days. Peter Culp, subject's grandfather, also born in the Keystone state, settled with his father in Pickaway county, Ohio, and there also died, a prominent church member. James A. Culp, son of Peter and father of Theodore, our subject, was born in Pickaway county, August 12, 1822, married Ann Crouse, of Ross county, and had born to him the following children: Jerome, Theodore, George, John, Maria (deceased), Henry, Mary (deceased), Jacob and Jane. The parents remained on the home farm, in Pickaway county, until 1848, when they removed to Auglaize county, where he is now a wealthy land owner, but lost his wife March 3, 1894. Fraternally he is a Freemason and politically a republican.

Theodore Culp was reared a farmer, and in February, 1865, enlisted in company C, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio volunteer infantry, did gallant duty in the campaigns of Virginia and Maryland, and was honorably discharged September 5, 1865. The marriage of Mr. Culp took place in Allen county, Ohio, September 16, 1866, to Miss Marimna Long, daughter of Jacob and Rebecca A. (Westerfield) Long, the former of whom was born in Clermont county, Ohio, December 1, 1821, and the latter, in the same county, February 14, 1826, and whose marriage took place December 22, 1844. Mrs. Long died in Allen county, Ohio, January 6, 1890, where Mr. Long died July 31, 1895, the owner of a fine farm of ninety-six acres, where he had his residence for over forty-two years. He was quite prominent in the Methodist church and in politics was a republican. In 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Culp settled on their farm in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county. This farm comprises eighty acres of excellent land, is finely tilled and is adorned with a neat and tasty cottage residence. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Culp are three in number, viz: Effie L., Ollie A. and Daisy O. Of these, Effie L. is in Toledo, taking lessons in music, and the other two are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Culp are both members of the Methodist church and highly respected members of society. In politics Mr. Culp is a republican, and is a member of Zeller Hamilton post, No. 260, G. A. R., and few men stand higher in the esteem of the citizens of Hoaglin township than he.

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**AMOS T. DAILEY**, ex-probate judge of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Athens county, in the same state, March 16, 1832, a son of Esaias and Mary Ann (Thompson) Dailey. The father, Esaias, was born in Harrison county, Va., now W. Va., December 6, 1805, and was a son of Thomas and Mary (Majors) Dailey. Thomas Dailey was born in Delaware about 1775, and his parents, who were natives of Ireland, were married in that country. Thomas was reared in Virginia by his aged mother, was married in 1798, and lived in Virginia until 1820, when he moved to Meigs county, Ohio, where he farmed until his death in 1860, his wife surviving until 1864. Thomas and Mary (Majors)

Dailey were the parents of ten children, viz: Nimrod, Robert, Mary, Matilda, Eliza, Esaias, William, Julia, David and James. Their son, Esaias, the father of Amos T. Dailey, was reared in Meigs county, Ohio, but was married in Athens county, May 20, 1831, to Mary Ann Thompson, who was born in Virginia in October, 1810, a daughter of Amos and Jane (McBain) Thompson, also natives of Virginia and of Irish and Scotch extraction, and to this marriage were born the following children: Amos T., whose name opens this paragraph; Jane, now Mrs. John Smith; Nimrod, deceased; Esaias, of Kankakee, Ill.; Albert William, of Walkerton, Ind.; Victoria, wife of Joseph Foster, of Adams county, Ind.; Clayton, of Decatur, Ind., and Mary Ann, wife of D. Foor. After his marriage Esaias Dailey remained in Athens county for a year, engaged in farming; in 1833 he moved to Auglaize county and stopped a year at Saint Mary's; thence moved to Willshire, Van Wert county, in 1834, and a short time afterward entered land two miles west, just across the Indiana line, and farmed until his death, October 14, 1869, having lost his wife from cholera July 22, 1854. Mr. Dailey was a republican in politics, and was a successful business man, and, in connection with farming, kept an old-fashioned country tavern from 1837 to 1850.

Amos T. Dailey enjoyed the advantages of private schools, and at the age of twenty-four years engaged in buying and driving stock, taking several droves of horses and cattle to Chicago in 1853. July 14, 1856, he married, in Van Wert, Miss Eliza Jane Ainsworth, who was born in Madison, Ohio, January 1, 1831, a daughter of William and Susan Ainsworth—this marriage resulting in the birth of the following children: Orsini and Susan, deceased; Laura B., Sara G., William H., and Esaias. Immediately after marriage, Mr. Dailey located in Adams county, Ind., where he engaged in farming until 1864, when he embarked in general merchandising at Pleasant Mills, Ind., and did a successful business until 1870, when he located in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and re-engaged in farming until 1882, when he assumed the office of probate judge, and filled that responsible position until 1888, then, until 1889, he employed himself in buying and shipping stock, when, in the latter year, he was appointed postmaster in Van Wert, and for four years faithfully and satisfactorily performed the duties of the arduous position, and then retired from the active business affairs of life. In politics Mr. Dailey is a stanch republican, and fraternally he is a chapter Mason, and is highly respected by the citizens of Van Wert county, in which he stlll owns a fertile farm of 150 acres.

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JACOB DANNER, one of the oldest and wealthiest agriculturists of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Shenandoah county, Va., October 9, 1824, a son of Jacob and Catherine (Cullers) Danner, both also natives of the Old Dominion. In 1829 the parents came to Ohio and settled in Licking county, bringing with them their children—John, who became, later, a Union soldier, and died of disease contracted in the army—his brother Jacob, our subject, having brought him from Camp Dennison to his, Jacob's, own home in Ridge township, where John expired; Mary, the second in the family, was married to Basil Tracy and is now deceased; Nancy, married David Tracy, and is also deceased; Susan was married to Lanty Shannon, and both are now deceased; Sarah, married to John Hann, is also deceased; Elizabeth died as the wife of Abraham Inlow; Jacob, our subject, and Isaac, the youngest of the family, who died in infancy. The father of this family was a shoemaker by trade and both he and wife died in Licking county.

Jacob Danner was but eleven years of age when he lost his father, and, his mother being in cramped circumstances, he hired out to work at $6 per month, and continued to work out until his marriage, October 27, 1846, to Miss Hannah Ships, daughter of John and Elizabeth (McCague) Ships, natives, respectively, of Virginia, and Washington county, Ohio, and both of whom were brought to Licking county in childhood. To the marriage of Mr. Shipps, who was a farmer, were born six children, all now deceased, with the exception of Mrs. Danner. In 1848, Mrs. Danner's parents came to Van Wert county, buying lands in York township, and in the following spring bought in both York and Jennings townships, and there lived for six years, then bought, in 1857, what is known as the Griffin farm, where they lived until their retirement to Van Wert, where Mr. Ships died October 2, 1872, and Mrs. Ships, November 9, 1873. September 10, 1848, Mr. Danner settled in Allen county, where he lived until 1849, when he came to Van Wert county, in the spring, and here purchased a farm on Jennings prairie, which farm he later sold and bought eighty acres, in 1861, in Ridge township, all in the woods, but now a well improved and elegant farm; added to which, also, is a portion of a 100-acre tract that had been purchased some years ago by Mrs. Danner's father. The family born to Mr. and Mrs. Danner comprise the following children: Elizabeth Catherine, deceased wife of John Parent; Mary Ann, wife of J. F. Anschutz, of Van Wert; Sarah Emily, who died in infancy; J. S., of Harrod, Allen county; Nathan Ira, of Van Wert; David Marion, who died in infancy, and Milton Asbury, still at home. The political affiliations of Mr. Danner are with the democratic party, but he never excites himself over party affairs. He is an excellent farmer, however, and is, in every sense in which the term is used, a self-made man, and stands most deservedly high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

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WILLIAM DAVIS, a substantial farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, was born in the south of Wales, June 5, 1837, and is a son of Thomas Davis, who, by his first wife, was the father of four children, who grew to maturity and were named Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth and Margaret; by a second marriage, to Elizabeth Williams, he became the father of two children—William and John; this wife died in America, and by his third marriage, to Sarah J. Gloss, a widow, there were born one child—Celissa.

Thomas Davis came to America in 1842, bought land in New York state and cleared up a farm; later he sold his place and came to Ohio and located in Darke county, and still later, in 1863, came to Van Wert county and purchased land in Washington township, on which he resided a number of years, but again sold out and settled in Ridge township, where his life terminated at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was a substantial farmer and a respected citizen, a pious member of the Congregational church, a democrat in politics, and furnished to the defense of the flag of his adopted country two sons—Thomas and William, the former of whom served under the 100 day service, in an Ohio regiment.

William Davis, the subject proper of thi memoir, was but five years of age when h came to America with his parents, and afte the death of his mother came with his fathe to Ohio. In Butler county, Ohio, he enlisted October 3, 1861, in company I, Fourth Ohi cavalry, to serve three years or until the con clusion of the war. Serving out the full term of his enlistment and receiving his honorable discharge, at Columbia, Tenn., October 20, 1864, he re-enlisted, entering company K, Thirteenth Ohio cavalry, February 27, 1865, and serving about six months, when he was again discharged in Virginia, August 10, 1865, the war having been triumphantly ended. A partial enumeration of the terrific contests in which he took an active part comprises only Stone River, Chickamauga, the Atlanta campaign and Kenesaw Mountain, but he was never off duty in any skirmish or engagement in which his regiment was called to serve, save when confined in hospital. As a cavalryman he was always in the advance and much exposed, and at Huntsville, Ala., was shot through the right thigh, but after recovery rejoined his regiment and followed its fortune with fortitude and genuine courage.

After the war Mr. Davis returned to Butler county, and was there married to Amanda Addison, who was born in Butler county, May 11, 1845, a daughter of Timothy and Sarah (Gallaway) Addison. The father of this lady, Timothy Addison, was born on the island of Nantucket, Mass., September 20, 1816, and was a son of Archibald Addison, a seamen of Baltimore, Md., but whose shipping point was Nantucket. The protection papers of Archibald were issued by Daniel Coffin and dated September 2, 1806, and were granted for his safety, as an American citizen and seaman, from impressment by the British—the outrageous conduct of Britain in this particular being the prime and detestable cause of the war of 1812. Archibald, however, was an Englishman by birth, and while on a voyage to South America was seized, with three others, impressed into the British service, but after three years of the degrading servitude, he escaped with a comrade and succeeded in reaching the United States. Although he had at the time about 500 doubloons to his credit in the Bank of England, he so keenly felt the indignity that had been placed upon him, and was so imbued with the spirit of American independence, that he never condescended to apply for it. Archibald Addison married, in Nantucket, Mary Meeder, the union resulting in the birth of six children, viz: William, Sarah, Timothy, Lewis, John and Lucy. Archibald Addison, in course of time, came to Ohio and was a settler in Cincinnati in its primitive days, but afterward removed to Butler county, Ohio, and settled in the wilderness, where he cleared up a farm of eighty acres, on which he passed the remainder of his life, dying about the year of 1847.

Timothy Addison was a boy of twelve years of age when he reached Cincinnati with his father, there learned the cooper's trade, and in Butler county married Miss Sarah Gallaway, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Montgomery) Gallaway—the Gallaway and Montgomery families being of Scotch-Irish descent; to this union six children were born—Jane, Amanda, Lewis, John, Franklin, and Susan—all born in Butler county. About 1872 Mr. Addison came to Van Wert county, and lived in retirement at Middlepoint until his death, at the age of seventy-two years, in the Presbyterian faith. In politics he was a democrat, and for eighteen years was a constable in Butler county and was once mayor of Middlepoint.

Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery, the maternal grandmother of Mrs. Davis, came from Pennsylvania, was a cousin of the late president of the United States, James K. Polk, and had five brothers in the Revolutionary war, one of whom was shot seventeen times, but nevertheless recovered; she had, also, two brothers in the old French-Indian war. Henry Gallaway, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Davis, was also from the Keystone state and an old pioneer and Indian fighter. The Montgomerys, indeed, were a fighting family. Some of them were with Brady, the famous Indian scout; others were captured and killed by Indians, while others made terrible retaliation. The female members of the family were nowise lacking in those grand qualities which charcterized the early matrons of the colonies and the infant republic, and would often resist Indian attacks on their cabins in the absence of their husbands and brothers, already at war, until compelled to flee, with their children in their arms, to forts or block houses for protection—as did the grandmother of Mrs. Davis, on one occasion at night while at another time the great-grandmother of Mrs. Davis in a similar attack, brained an Indian with a slop bucket.

> "The mothers of our forest land—
> Stout-hearted dames were they,
> With nerve to wield the battle-ax
> And join the border fray."

* * *

DAVID O. DAVIS, one of the old settlers and substantial farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Wales, November 29, 1833, and is a son of Evan O. and Mary (Jenkins) Davis. The father, Evan O. Davis, was born in southern Wales in 1807 and was a blacksmith and farmer. He and wife were the parents of seven children, viz: Thomas, David O., Ann, Elizabeth, Thomas, Mary and Jenkins. In 1841 the family came to America in a sailing vessel, landing in Philadelphia after a voyage of seven weeks. Coming to Ohio, they settled in Jackson county on 100 acres of partly cleared land, which the father later cleared in full and on which he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1867 at the age of sixty years, a member of the Calvinistic Methodist church and in politics a republican.

David O. Davis, as will have been seen, was but eight years of age when brought to America by his parents in 1841, but yet remembers the voyage and the home he left in Wales. He received his education in the district schools of Jackson county, Ohio, was there reared to farming, and there married, March 31, 1862, Miss Ann Alban, who was born in Jackson county, Ohio, September 12, 1835, daughter of Thomas and Annie (Morgan) Alban, the union resulting in the birth of six children, viz: Thomas, Evan, John (died at twenty-four years of age), Mary, Alban and David. The father of Mrs. Davis, Thomas Alban, came from Wales to America about the year 1834, was a farmer, and settled on a partly cleared farm in Jackson county, to which he gradually added, through his skill and well directed industry, until he owned about 300 acres, all well improved and cultivated. He and wife were parents of eight children, who were named as follows: David, Thomas, John, Evan, Ann, Sarah, Mary and Elizabeth. Mr. Alban was one of the pioneers of Madison township, Jackson county, Ohio, and was an honored member of the Calvinistic Methodist church, of which he was an elder for many years, and in the faith of which he died, leaving his property to be divided equally among his children.

For three years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. David O. Davis resided in Jackson county, and in April, 1865, come to Van Wert county and bought 175 acres of their present farm in Washington township. Mr. Davis has finished clearing up the heavy timber from this land and transformed it into a productive farm, which he has increased to 225 acres, and improved with a tasty and substantial dwelling and good out-buildings, fenced off the fields, and placed them all under a good state of cultivation. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis are active and devoted members of the Calvinistic Methodist church, of which Mr. Davis has been an elder for several years; he also assisted in the building of the first church of that denomination in the neighborhood and always aids it liberally with his means. In politics Mr. Davis is a strong prohibitionist and is a stanch advocate of the cause of temperance. He takes an active interest in the cause of education, and was for many years a school director in his district. He is one of the most respected Welsh residents of Washington township, and, assisted by his faithful wife, has reared a most excellent family. He is a self-made man, and, guided by a keen perception and a well developed intelligence, has made a competence that in the near future will fructify in ease and comfort for the remainder of a peaceful and happy life.

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JAMES S. DAVIS (deceased) was a prosperous young farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, born in Jackson county, in the same state, in 1852. His father, James Y. Davis, was a farmer and coal miner of Jackson county and was born in 1818. While working in a field he received an injury which resulted in the loss of a limb, but he is still living. The mother of our subject died when the latter was an infant of eighteen months, and until five years of age he was taken care of by relatives; he then went to live with Mr. Hugh Anderson, of Allen county, Ind., with whom he remained eleven years; he next started out as a farm hand, working in Allen county, Ind., Van Wert county, Ohio, and in Michigan. In 1880 he was united in marriage with Minerva J. Hoaglin, born March 31, 1859, a daughter of David E. and Elizabeth (Snyder) Hoaglin, to which union three children were born, viz: Orel J., Lota M. (deceased) and Anna G. After his marriage Mr. Davis lived on a rented farm until 1892, when he bought his home. He was essentialy a self-made man, in the sense in which that term is usually used, never knew parental care or training, and was compelled to rely upon his own energies and industry and native-born intelligence and sagacity to attain a position among men and to become the prosperous and respected farmer that he was. Mr. Davis, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics was a democrat; he was liberal in his support of church and school, and took a lively interest in whatever tended to promote the general welfare of the township and county, and, indeed, of the whole country. His untimely death took place January 23, 1896, and his loss was a most severe blow to his afflicted widow and children, as well as to a wide circle of sincere friends. His widow is also a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a highly respected lady.

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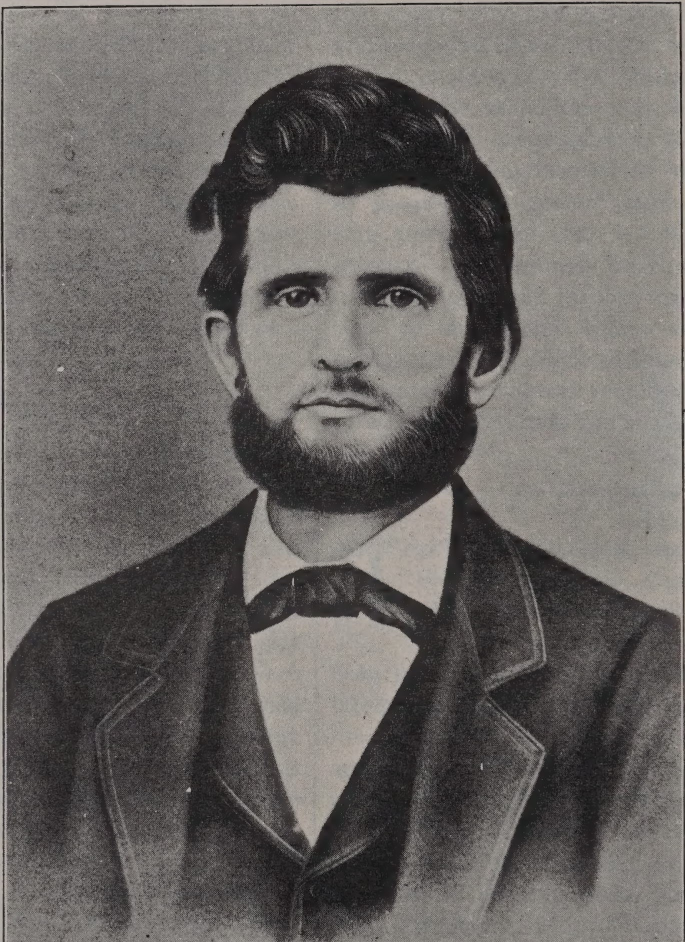
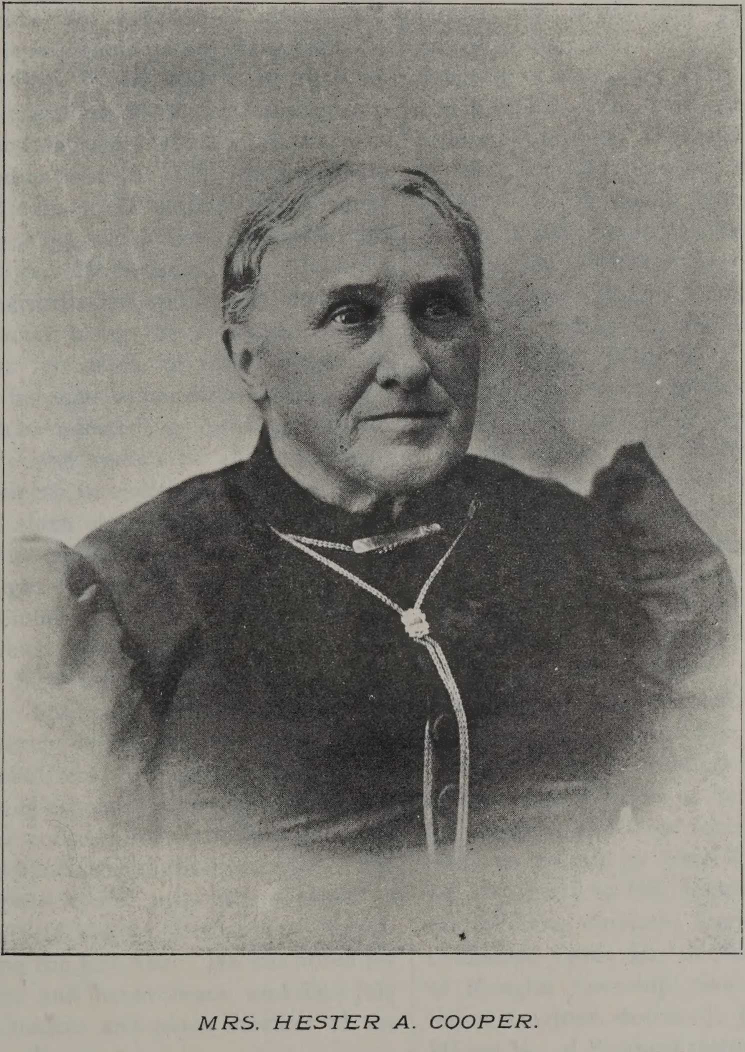
JESSE K. COOPER, deceased citizen of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was a son of Archibald and Margaret A. (Kilgore) Cooper, and was born July 21, 1827, in Fairfield county. The father, Archibald, was born in Maryland October 29, 1801, of sterling English ancestry, and when he had reached the age of four years, or in 1805, the family moved to Virginia, where he was educated in the common schools. On the death of his mother, in 1819, he moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled on a farm; October 5, 1826, he married Miss Kilgore, the union resulting in the birth of four children. In 1875 Mrs. Cooper was called away, and the following year Mr. Cooper married a Mrs. Powers. Mr. Cooper was a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he served as a ruling elder for thirty-five years, and died in that faith December 8, 1881, an honored and respected gentleman.

Jesse K. Cooper was educated in his na-



JESSIE K. COOPER,
DECEASED.



MRS. HESTER A. COOPER.

tive county and distinguished himself, also, at the high school of Reynoldsburg, Franklin county. In the days of his youth he learned the carpenter's trade and also that of millwright; became an inventor of more than ordinary pretensions and patented the first successful grain-drill in the state. In 1856 he began the manufacture of this agricultural implement at Lancaster, Ohio, which he successfully conducted until 1864, when he came to Van Wert county and settled on a farm in Pleasant township, which farm his father had entered in 1836. He became one of the most prosperous agriculturists and largest land owners in the county, being the possessor, at one time, of over 700 acres, of which he gave to each one of his sons a fair-sized farm, which he himself had assisted in clearing and improving. He was systematic and progressive in all his business transactions, and Van Wert county owes much of its business prosperity to his thoroughly practical efforts. Fraternally he was a knight templar Mason, and was also a charter member of Van Wert grange, No. 82, P. of H., which was organized in 1873, and was held in high esteem by the members of both orders. Politically he was a republican and was ardently interested in the success of his party, but was by no means an office seeker—having espoused the republican cause simply from conscientious conviction of the justness and beneficence of its principles. He was a true patriot, and with others passed a week in Fairfield county in search of Morgan raiders during the last war. He was noted for his generosity and benevolence, and died July 26, 1891, a sincere and pious member of the Presbyterian church.

Hester A. (Kistler) Cooper, relict of Jesse K., was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 25, 1831, a daughter of Samuel and Eliabeth (King) Kistler. Samuel Kistler, the father, was born near Reading, Pa., about the year 1805, his father, Henry Kistler, being of good old Dutch stock and an early settler of the Keystone state and also a pioneer of Fairfield county, Ohio. Samuel Kistler was a prominent farmer and a saw-mill operater, and was united in marriage, in 1825, to Elizabeth King, daughter of Philip and Mary (Wright) King, to which union were born eleven children, as follows: Caroline, deceased wife of Henry Weisley, of Cass county, Ind.; Matilda, deceased wife of James Holmes, of Fairfield county, Ohio; Aaron B., deceased; Hester A. Cooper, the subject of this paragraph; George W., deceased; Samuel A., of Lancaster, Ohio; Oliver P., of Danville, Ill; Elijah, of Fairfield county, Ohio; John W., of Clinton, Mo.; William, who died in childhood, and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Newkirk, of Fairfield county, Ohio. The mother of this family, Mrs. Elizabeth (King) Kistler, was an ardent and active member of the Lutheran church, and always contributed liberally to its support. Mr. Kistler was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, was a captain in the state militia, and was honored and respected as one of that class which played so prominent a part in the development of Fairfield county. His wife died in 1870, and he about 1879.

Mrs. Hester A. (Kistler) Cooper was reared in the country home of her parents in Fairfield county, and there received her education. She was married to Jesse K. Cooper, October 14, 1852, and to this happy union were born the following children: Darius O., of Pleasant township; Cyrus D., deceased; George W., of Hoaglin township; Samuel A., deceased; infant daughter, deceased; Jesse K., deceased; Hiram V., of Pleasant township; Alva A., deceased; Nora E., and an infant daughter, deceased. Of these, Norah E., married to Samuel Grunewald, a successful farmer, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1861, a son of Henry and Anna K. (Trull) Grunewald.

Henry Grunewald was born in Germany about the year 1829, and in 1850 married Miss Trull, who bore him eleven children, as follows: Ellen L., deceased; Adam, a farmer of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio; Harmon, of Cleveland, Ohio; John H., of Ashland county, Ohio; Jacob, deceased; an infant that died unnamed; Samuel, who married Miss Cooper; Christian, of Ashland county, Ohio; George G., a teacher, of Pleasant township, Van Wert county; Lydia, wife of Milton Shambarger, of Ashland county, and Anna L., wife of William Milligan, also of Ashland county. With his young wife Henry Grunewald came to America soon after marriage and settled in Ashland county, Ohio, with the agricultural interests of which he has since been thoroughly identified. He and wife are both members of the Presbyterian church, and in politics he is independent. Samuel Grunewald was educated in Ashland county and grew to manhood on his father's farm. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, having a natural aptitude in the use of tools, and followed this calling until his marriage to Miss Nora E. Cooper, October 9, 1885, to which filicitous union have been born the following children: Anna M., Amy F., Henry R. and Jesse K. After marriage Mr. Grunewald relinquished his trade and undertook the cultivation of the old Cooper homestead, in which occupation he has made a complete success, being both practical and progressive in his ideas. Mr. and Mrs. Grunewald are members of no church, but are liberal in their contributions to that and every other good cause, and both are members of the Van Wert grange.

George W. Cooper, son of Jesse K. and Hester Ann Cooper, was born September 4, 1857, in Lancaster, Fairfield county. Spent his boyhood at home and attended the public schools. He came to Van Wert with his parents, lived at home until married, March 10, 1881, to Adeline H. Custer, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Jane (Smith) Custer, old residents of Van Wert county. Mrs. Cooper was born February 28, 1860. After marriage, Mr. Cooper took sixty acres of his father's land south of Van Wert and farmed it successfully until Aplil 17, 1885, when he bought 160 acrcs in section No. 20, Hoaglin township, where he now lives. He has a comfortable home, new and modern out-buildings, and 100 acres cleared, and in all has a model farm. He also owns forty acres in section No. 17, Union township. Of his 160 acres, only thirty acres were under cultivation when he came into possession of it. His hard work has made it the farm it is. Mr. Cooper is a member of Hoaglin grange, No. 400. In religious belief, while not a member of any church, he inclines to and attends the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. In politics he is a republican, but always takes into consideration the man he is voting for. Nine children have been born to this marriage: Norah Lillian, Anna Sarah (deceased), infant (deceased), Florence Ellen (deceased), Mabel Victoria, Bessie Marie, Earl Cecil, Edna Blanche and Hazel.

Hiram V. Cooper, one of the most successful young farmers of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Van Wert July 3, 1864. He was well educated in the common schools and grew to manhood on the old homestead, receiving a first-class training in agricultural pursuits. September 6, 1888, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella Gilliland, daughter of John and Lucy (Cavett) Gilliland, of Ridge township—one of the oldest families of Van Wert county, and whose name meets with frequent and honorable recurrence on the pages of this volume. To the happy union of Hiram V. and Ella Cooper have been born two children—Velma A. and Doit—both bright and promising little ones.

Mrs. Ella Cooper was born May 25, 1867, and interesting details of her parental history may be found in the elaborate sketch of the Gilliland family on another page, to which the reader is respectfully referred. After his marriage, Hiram V. Cooper was presented with 160 acres of good farming land, by his father, and to this tract he has since added forty acres by purchase, making a most excellent farm of 200 acres, all well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are not members of any religious denomination, but are liberal contributors to all, and both take a deep interest in the welfare and prosperity of the community, and Mr. Cooper is an active member of the Van Wert grange. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are highly esteemed throughout the township and county, coming, as they do from the oldest and most respected families, and living well up to the esthetics and morality that so well become good citizens, here or elsewhere.

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PERRIN DePUY, deceased, was born in Stark county, Ohio, April 23, 1814, and was a son of John and Julia DePuy, who were farmers of that county until 1855, when they retired to Canton and there passed their lives in quietude until their death in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of the following-named children: Perrin, the subject of this sketch; William, Lucette and Charles, deceased; John, a well-known citizen of the city of Wabash, Ind., and George, of Chicago. In politics the father was a republican.

Perrin DePuy, the deceased subject of this memoir, was reared to manhood on the home farm in Stark county, Ohio, and received his education in the pioneer schools of his early boyhood. He early began the study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in Stark county, where he successfully followed the profession, making a fine reputation, until about 1849, when he came to the city of Van Wert and was here soon at the head of his profession, which, with repute and lucrative prosperity, he followed until his death, which occurred February 4, 1871, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was a democrat, and filled several of the minor city offices, not for the emolument attached to them, but from a sense of duty as a good citizen. At his death he left $40,000 in trust with the school board for educational purposes—a munificent sum at that period. His marriage took place in Mansfield, Ohio, October 25, 1859, to Miss Maria L. Barr, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 28, 1836, a daughter of Col. Jacob and Elizabeth (Rice) Barr, natives of Hagerstown, Md., and members of the Dunkard society.

Col. Jacob Barr was a gallant soldier and patriot in the war of 1812, having raised a company for the defense of American rights, and entering the United States service as captain. For conspicuous bravery on the field and other meritorious conduct, he was advanced to the rank of colonel, and held this position on being retired from the service at the close of hostilities. He was a whig in his politics, was a phenomenally successful business man and was highly respected wherever known. To Col. Jacob Barr and his wife, were born a family of seven children, as follows: Samuel W., of Mansfield, Ohio, inventor of a cash carrier, now in general use; Susan A., wife of R. M. Coulter, of Richland county, Ohio; Maria L., widow of Perrin DePuy, our subject; Amanda, wife of M. H. Bonner, a contractor of Van Wert; Jacob H., of Mansfield, Ohio; Frances J., wife of Dr. J. A. Jones, of Mansfield, and Elizabeth, deceased. Mrs. Maria L. DePuy is now living in retirement in her pleasant home at the corner of Main and Cherry streets, Van Wert, honored and respected by the entire community, of which she has so long been a member. She is a faithful adherent of the Presbyterian church, is very benevolent, and is a member of the Home and Foreign Missionary society.

**WILLIAM WILSON DePUY, M. D.,** deceased, formerly one of the most distinguished physicians of Van Wert, was born May 13, 1824, in Stark county, Ohio, and was a son of John DePuy, who was of German ancestry, and was born in Pennsylvania October 22, 1787.

John DePuy was a farmer by occupation during his entire life, and followed that occupation both in Pennsylvania and Ohio, removing to the latter state in 1821, and locating in Stark county. Politically Mr. DePuy was an old-line whig until the organization of the republican party, and he then became a republican, as he was strongly opposed to slavery and was equally as strongly in favor of the preservation of the Union. In matters of religion he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a very liberal-minded and charitable man, both in matters of money and in matters of opinion. Straightforward and upright in his character, he was respected by all as a good citizen, a good neighbor and a patriotic man. He was married to Miss Julia Housel, of Pennsylvania, who was born November 15, 1792, and who died in November 1857. By her he had the following children: Lucetta, Perrin, John H., Charles, William W., Elizabeth, George and Jacob. George and John H. are the only ones now living, but all were married and became heads of families. John DePuy remained in Stark county from the time he removed from Pennsylvania, in 1821, to his death, which occurred July 10, 1863, and left his family comfortably situated so far as this world's goods are concerned.

William Wilson DePuy was born in Stark county, Ohio, and was reared upon his father's farm. His early education was obtained in the common schools, and later he had the advantages of a college training; graduating in 1846 from school, he located in Stark county, Ohio. Almost immediately afterward he removed to Van Wert county, and there began the practice of his profession, continuing thus engaged for two years, when he removed to Whitley county, Ind.; there he remained two years, going from there to Wabash county, Ind.; and later returning to Van Wert county. This was in 1868, and the city of Van Wert was thenceforth the scene of his labors until his death, January 14, 1891. Of his qualifications as a physician too much can not be said. In his youth he was a thorough student and he was devoted to his profession, which he ever looked upon as a means of doing good, rather than as a means of livelihood. To the poor he was as atttentive as to the rich, because he realized that besides medicine they needed sympathy and a kind word often as much or more than the medicine itself. He was always liberal and was always charitable, and always kind. No man feared him, all men loved him, and none felt his loss when he died more than those who had felt in kindness the touch of his hand. The government of the United States, in its great struggle for existence with the rebels of the south, from 1861 to 1865, knew that his services as a surgeon were constantly at its command, but those services were not called for. In politics he was a republican, in religion a Methodist, and he was true to both his party and his church.

While practicing in Whitley county, Ind., he married Miss Sarah Ellen Bonner, by whom he had the following children: Viola, Ida and

Frank C. Ida died August 18, 1881; the others are living. Frank Conner DePuy was born November 23, 1865, was educated primarily in the schools of Van Wert; later attended the Cincinnati college of pharmacy from 1883 until 1887, in the interval being employed in a Van Wert drug house. April 15, 1890, he was united in marriage with Miss Belle P. Brookes, daughter of W. C. Brookes, and this union has been blessed with two children—William Donald, born February 10, 1891, and Martha Catherine, born January 3, 1896. In politics Mr. DePuy is a republican; fraternally he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias, and he is also a member of Hiestand's band. Frank is a well known and popular young man of most excellent character and qualities, and is now clerking in Pennel's drug store in Van Wert. Viola is married to T. M. Glenn, who is living in Chicago, and is now superintendent of the Union depot in that city.

Sarah Ellen Bonner, who married Dr. DePuy, was born January 26, 1832. Her father, Joseph Bonner, was born in Maryland, in 1793, and was of German ancestry. In early life he learned the blacksmith's trade, and continued to work at that trade until his age compelled him to retire to a farm. Upon coming to Ohio he at first located in Montgomery county, then went to Preble county, and from there to Whitley county, Ind., in this latter county purchasing a farm, upon which he lived till his family were all scattered abroad to homes of their own, when he returned to Ohio, and lived in Troy, Miami county, until his death, which occurred December 6, 1873. He was one of the patriotic men of his country, serving in the war of 1812, and gave liberally of his means to all in need. He married Miss Jane Conner of New York state, by whom he had the following children: John, Michael, Elizabeth, William, Martin, George, Jennie, Charles, Joseph and Sarah. Of these ten children five are yet living—all of them married except Charles, who left home and has not been heard of since. Sarah Ellen Bonner was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, and went with her parents to Whitley county, Ind. This was in 1845, when she was fourteen years old. At the age of eighteen she was married to Dr. DePuy, and is now living quietly in Van Wert, surrounded by a a large circle of friends. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, which she joined in 1874. She and her husband adopted a daughter, Miss Cora, who is now the wife of G. L. Marble, one of the rising young lawyers of Van Wert. Mrs. Depuy is a highly respected lady, kind and charitable in disposition, and always ready to assist her church in its work for the good of humanity, and to aid the poor in their need.

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CHARLES E. DETTER, book and job printer, on Washington street, near the city building, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, February 4, 1859, a son of John and Marie (Frock) Detter. The father, John Detter, was a native of Baltimore, Md., was born in 1824, and there learned stone-masonry, and, later, the trade of millwright. In 1849, he came to Clarke County, Ohio, and engaged in farming until 1855, and then moved to Black Creek township, Mercer county, and re-engaged in farming until 1863, when he removed to Van Wert county and located in Willshire township, where he remained four years, and then moved into the town of Willshire, and operated a saw-mill until his death, in October, 1873. His marriage took place in Baltimore, and there were born to him eleven children, viz.: Alice, deceased; William H.; John T. and Anna, twins; James P., of Willshire; George G., of Van Wert; Ella, of Willshire; Thomas

T., deceased; Charles E., our subject; Clara, of Mercer county, and Clinton, deceased. The mother of this family died in 1864, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which church her husband had been a class leader for many years. In politics Mr. Detter was a republican, and fraternally was a Mason.

Charles E. Detter was but four years of age when brought to Van Wert county. He received his preliminary education in Willshire and at the age of fifteen years went to live with his grandfather, Frock, at Springfield, Ohio, where he attained school until twenty-one years old, and then for two years attended the Ada Normal university. Returning to Willshire, he became editor of a local newspaper, of which he was part owner, but a year and a half later came to the city of Van Wert, and for one year read law under the prosecuting-attorney, A. L. Sweet; then, for six moths, he acted asted as local editor of the Republican; he then went to Los Angeles, Cal., and was on the staff of the Valley Echo and the Monday Morning News until May, 1885, when he returned to Van Wert county and published the Willshire Gazette until 1887, when he sold out, came to Van Wert city and purchased the Daily Gazette, which, a year later, was absorbed by the Daily News. Mr. Detter was then for a year a general correspondent, and in the interval attended the Tri-State Business college at Toledo and took a full course in stenography; he then returned to Van Wert and bought the job printing office, established by Dannecker & Baker, taking possession in 1893, and now doing a very prosperous business, although he still continues his duties as correspondent for several prominent daily newspapers at different points.

The marriage of Mr. Detter took place in Van Wert, Ohio, in 1889, with Miss Anna Hartzog, who was born in this county in April, 1870, and his daughter of Banjamin Hartzog. The children resulting from this union were three in number, and named Lulu V., Correl V. (deceased) and Hazel K. Mr. and Mrs. Detter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a republican; fraternally he is a Mason, a Knight of Pythias and a Red Man.

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ELI DOWNING, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born August 4, 1841. He is a son of William and Catherine (Coonfare) Downing, natives of Delaware, county, Ohio, and respectively of Scotch-Irish and German descent. By occupation William Downing was both a carpenter and a farmer, and followed these pursuits until he retired altogether from active life. He still lives on the old farm in Delaware county at the age of seventy-eight, his wife having died in September, 1893, when she was seventy-seven years of age. In religious belief she was, and Mr. Downing is, a Presbyterian, and in politics he is one of the old-time democrats.

Eli Downing, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest of seven children born to his parents. He spent his early boyhood on the farm, attending school as opportunity offered and circumstances permitted, a few weeks at a time in the winter season, but not every winter. After he reached the age of seventeen his services were demanded on the farm, and he managed the home place until he was nineteen years of age. In 1861 he removed to Van Wert and entered into contract to cut a quantity of wood, and returned to Delaware county in the succeeding fall. In the fall of 1861 he again came to Van Wert, and remained this time until December 6, 1861, when he went to Lima, Ohio, and enlisted in company D, Fifty-fourth Ohio zouaves, for three years.

His regiment having been ordered to Camp Dennison, remained there until February 17, 1862, when it was ordered to the front, going first to Paducah, Ky., and after remaining there thirty days being ordered up the Tennessee river, where it participated in the battle of Pittsburg Landing both days of the fight. From Pittsburg Landing they went to Corinth, Miss., remaining until that place was evacuated by the rebels, when they went to Chewalla, Tenn., destroying railroad bridges, etc. While at this latter place Mr. Downing was taken sick with jaundice, which terminated in or was followed by typhoid fever, and he was placed in the regimental hospital. From Chewalla he was taken in an ambulance to Memphis, Tenn., and there he remained until November, 1862. In October, however, Mr. Downing was taken ill with spinal trouble, and remained in the hospital until February, 1863, barely alive. In this last-named month all the convalescents were sent up the Mississippi river to Saint Louis, and placed in Jefferson barracks, Mr. Downing being one of the number. He was getting along nicely until April 9, 1863, when he was taken down by small-pox and was sent to Duncan's island small-pox hospital, where he remained until June 24, losing through this disease the sight of one eye and having the sight of the other much impaired, and was physically enfeebled for life. After being out of bed four days Mr. Downing started to rejoin his regiment, then at Vicksburg, and arrived there just after the surrender of that rebel stronghold. He went then with his regiment to Jackson, Miss., where Gen. Johnston was routed, and thence to Black river, Miss., where they rested until November, 1863, and then returned to Memphis, thence to Corinth, Iuka, and Cherry Run station, at the latter place having a battle with the enemy. At this time, Mr. Downing's eye becoming troublesome, he was sent for by the surgeon, who placed him on board a steamboat and sent him to Paducah, Ky., where he entered an improvised hospital, in which he remained until January 1, 1864, when he was so far recovered as to be sent back to his regiment, then at Larkinsville, Ala. In the meantime his regiment had veteranized; but, when Mr. Downing made application for permission to veteranize also, he was refused on account of physical disability, and was furloughed home, and arrived in Delaware county February 7, 1864. He remained at home forty days, and then met his regiment at Camp Dennison, when he found out that without his knowledge he had been transferred to the invalid corps. He was thus obliged to remain in Camp Dennison while his regiment returned to active duty in the field. In April he was sent to Cincinnati, where he remained twenty days; was then sent to Washington, D. C., and thence, on May 4, to Alexandria, Va., where he was made a member of company B, Second regiment of the First battalion, with which he served three months, when an abscess on his side and hip, a result of small-pox, becoming troublesome, he was sent to Lincoln hospital, at Washington, D. C., where he remained until honorably discharged, January 7, 1865. At that time, however, he could not walk, and his father had to go to Washington to bring him home. He reached Delaware county January 21, 1865, and was compelled to walk with two crutches for two years, and then for one year with a crutch and cane. Thus terminated Mr. Downing's army service, and for the most part his sufferings, but he still feels the results of the trials and hardships experienced in army life.

While at home on furlough, in 1864, Mr. Downing was married, February 25, to Miss Martha E. Miller, in Van Wert. She is a daughter of John and Samantha (Harris) Miller, both residents of Van Wert county. His wife went to Delaware county just after her marriage, where she remained until his return from the army. As soon as he was sufficiently recovered to do any kind of work, Mr. Downing engaged in huckstering and followed this business four years. In 1870 he removed to Van Wert county, and has resided here ever since. Most of the time he has been engaged in farming in Pleasant township, but he was six years thus engaged in Middlepoint. Upon the organization, several years since, of the Soldiers' relief commission of Van Wert county. Mr. Downing was made a member thereof, and is still a member. In 1893 he was nominated by his democratic friends for county recorder, but notwithstanding he made a strong fight for election, he was defeated, with the rest of the ticket, by a small majority — the majority against Mr. Downing being the smallest but one on the entire ticket. Mr. Downing lives with his wife and two children, that still remain unmarried, in a new and comfortable home, just completed, one mile west of Van Wert. He and his wife are the parents of seven children, as follows: Will W., of Van Wert; Addie Louella Nance, of Van Wert; Sarah Ellen Foster, of Middlepoint; Alvin Russell, Lemuel Eli, Date and Bessie, the last four of Van Wert.

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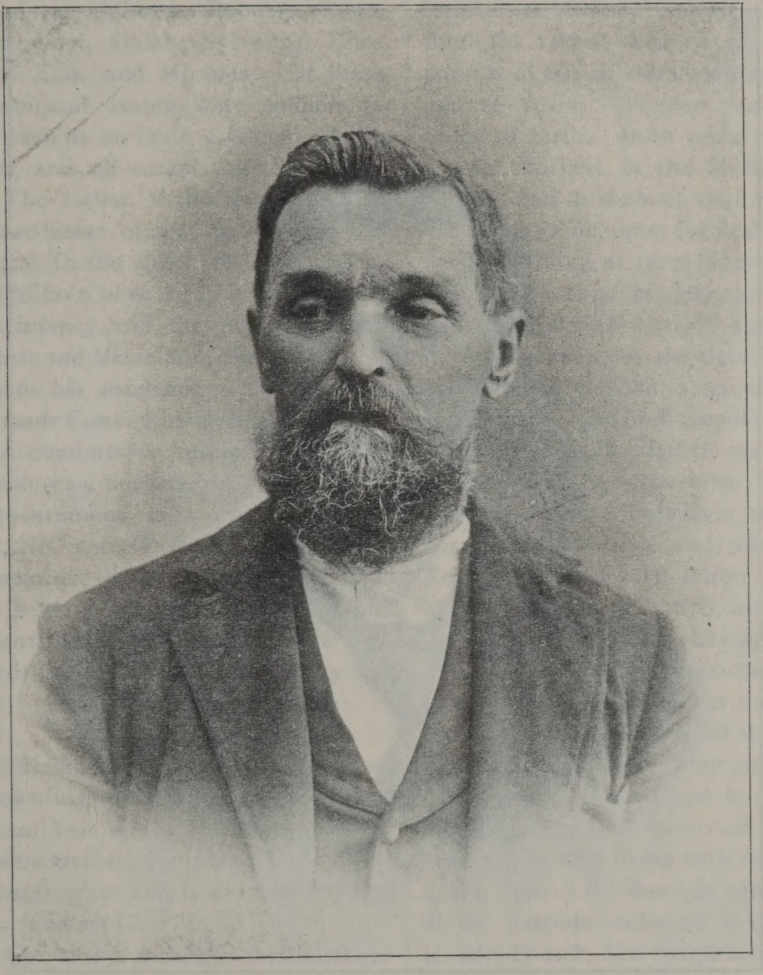
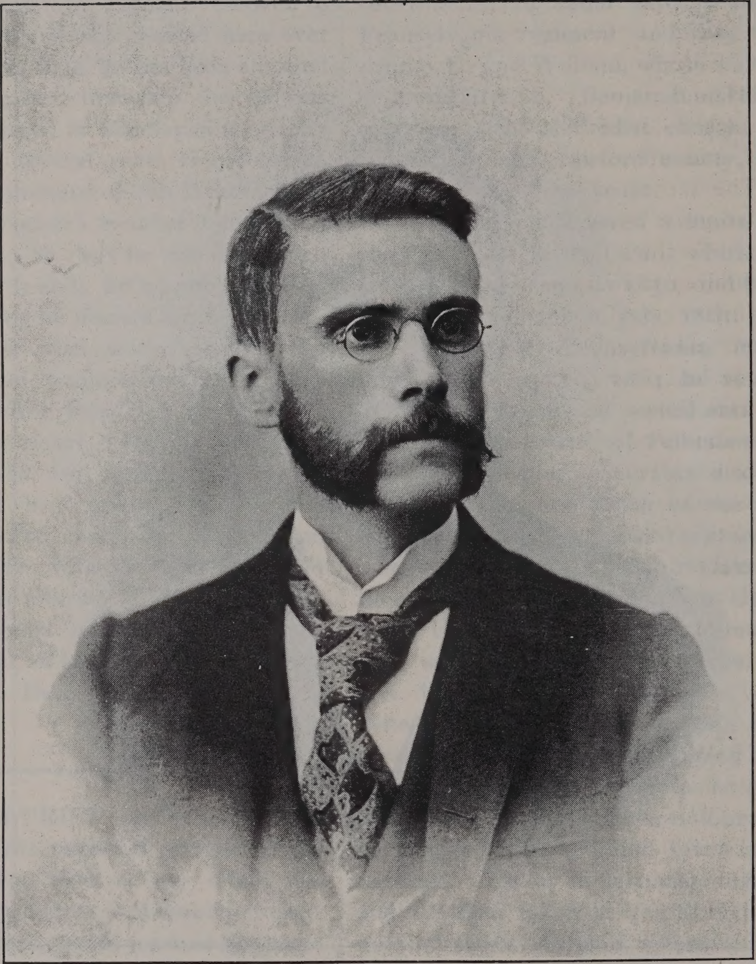
WILLIAM CRIST, an ex-soldier and one of the respected citizens of Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born on a farm in Mahoning county, Ohio, April 28, 1841, and is a son of Benjamin and Mary A. (Settger) Crist. Benjamin was also born in Mahoning county, a son of German pioneers, and to him and his wife, Mary A., were born the following children: Martin, William, Brownson, Samuel, Amelia, Anna, Susanna and Henrietta. The last two were born in Crawford county, Pa., whither Mr. Crist moved in 1850, and the others claim Mahoning county, Ohio, as their birthplace. Benjamin was a wagon-maker by trade, was a democrat in politics, but was a strong Union man and had two sons in the late war—Martin, who served about three years, first in a Pennsylvania regiment and then in an Ohio regiment—and William, whose war record will be found later on. Benjamin and his wife were members of the Methodist church, and in this faith he died in Crawford county, Pa., at the age of seventy-three years.

William Crist received a limited education in Crawford county, Pa., whither he was taken by his parents in 1850, and there reared until his enlistment, in July, 1861, in company I, Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania infantry, for three years. April 1, 1864, he veteranized in the same regiment and served until he lost his left leg in the battle of Petersboro, June 16, 1864, receiving an honorable discharge from the hospital in September of the same year. He had served at Patrick, Yorktown, Chickahominy, Cold Harbor, Fair Oaks (or Seven Pines), in front of Richmond, Charles City Cross Roads, in McClellan's retreat, Malvern Hill, second Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam, first battle of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg (where he was slighty wounded), the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and in many skirmishes. At the battle of Petersboro he was finally struck by a shell, and twenty-four hours later his left leg was amputated seven inches below the knee. He lay in field hospital fifteen days, and was then taken to the Christian Soldiers' hospital at Philadelphia, where he received his final discharge. He was a brave, active young soldier, weighed 200 when he entered the army, and was ever prompt in attendance at roll-call, but his shattered limb has seriously interfered with his life prospects. On his return home he was compelled to resort to hard work for a livelihood, and in 1866 found employment



WILLIAM CRIST.



A. N. Fax

in a saw-mill; in 1867 he came to Ohio and worked at wood chopping in Van Wert county.

October 1, 1867, Mr. Crist married, in Tully township, Miss Miranda Cook, daughter of Levi and Nancy (Detzler) Cook, who were the parents of ten children—Rebecca, Emanuel, William, Levi, Isaiah, Sylvester, Elizabeth, Emma, Ella, and Miranda. Of these, William, Levi and Isaiah were soldiers for three years, each in an Ohio regiment, during the late war, and all escaped without being wounded. The father of this family lived to be seventy-two years of age, and died in Van Wert county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Crist three children have been born, of whom one died in infancy and the other two were named Thomas and Blanche. For many years Mr. Crist made his residence at Dixon, Ohio, but in 1894 made Convoy his permanent home, purchasing a comfortable residence and two lots. He receives a pension of $30 per month from the government, is a member of the Capper post, No. 236, G. A. R., and with his wife is a member of the Methodist church. The family is very highly thought of in the community and Mr. Crist has one of the best soldier records in this or any other county.

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ALMER W. COX, member of the well known insurance firm of Cox & Lawrence, Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Jeffersonville, Fayette county, was born in September 19, and is a son of Wesley and Mary C. (Porter) Cox.

Wesley Cox was a man of that dauntless spirit which quails not before adversity; of that ambition and energy which make fortunes for their possessors, and which raised him high in the estimation of his fellow-men. Until he reached his thirteenth year he was reared to agricultural pursuits upon his father's farm, in the meantime, however, obtaining a much better education than was then, or is now, common to boys at that age. He was a son of John and Isabella (Arlington) Cox, both natives of Maryland, and the former a farmer by occupation. Removing to the west, they located in Madison county, Ohio, and lived there the rest of their days. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom reached mature years. Wesley was the eighth in order of birth. Both were members of and earnest workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, and died about 1846.

Wesley Cox, upon the death of his parents, began working at farm labor on his own account and was so industrious, economical and endued with such a manly spirit, that, with a little assistance, by the time he had attained his majority he had acquired a comfortable competence. So well supplied was he with this world's goods, that he married, at the age of twenty-three, November 13, 1858, Miss Mary C. Porter, of Madison county, who was born June 4, 1839, and was a daughter of Robert and Mary H. Porter. They lived in Madison county until 1870, when they removed to Jeffersonville, Ohio, having up to this time followed agricultural pursuits. At Jeffersonville Mr. Cox embarked in the coal and lumber business, and continued thus engaged until the death of his wife, May 29, 1893, when he disposed of his coal and lumber business in Jeffersonville, and removed to Van Wert, where he is now living with his son. Mr. Cox in the time of the war was one of the strongest of the patriots, enlisting in company D, One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, a hundred-day regiment, and serving until the expiration of his term. He then desired to re-enlist, but was rejected on account of defective hearing, which defect appears to have been overlooked when he first presented himself for enlistment. He is a member of Scott post, No. 100, G. A. R. In politics Mr.

Cox has always been independent. He is a patriot rather than an intense partisan, and has always supported those whom he has considered the best qualified for the office, whether republicans or democrats. Mrs. Cox was a member of the Methodist Protestant church and of the S. A. Gilbert relief corps of Jeffersonville. The children born to the marriage of Wesley Cox and wife were three in number, as follows: An infant that died September 16, 1858; Lucina, born September 8, 1859, and died March 27, 1864, and Almer W., the subject of this sketch.

Almer W. Cox was reared to manhood in Fayette county, Ohio, and received an excellent education in the common schools. He was married March 6, 1889, to Miss Gertrude F. Carnes, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa, August 19, 1868, and is a daughter of William and Lucie (Fewell) Carnes. To this marriage there have been born four daughters, as follows: Clara B., born March 6, 1890, and died June 4, 1891; Ruth Agnes, born March 3, 1892; Mabel, March 11, 1894, and Hazel, born March 18, 1896.

After locating in Van Wert Mr. Cox purchased the interest of J. Q. Augustine in the insurance business, December 1, 1892, which he thereafter conducted on his sole account until May 1, 1894, when he associated with himself W. C. Lawrence, and has since conducted the business under the firm name of Cox & Lawrence, who are now doing the largest business in the line in the city of Van Wert, being the agent for the following substantial companies; Royal Insurance company, of Liverpool, Eng.; Insurance company of North America, Philadelphia; National, of Hartford, Conn.; Commercial Union Assurance company of London, Eng.; Northern Assurance company, of the same place; North British and Mercantile Insurance company, of the same place; Home Insurance company and Continental Insurance company, of New York; Aetna Insurance company and Phœnix Insurance company, of Hartford, Conn.; Hartford Insurance company, of same place; Dayton Insurance company, of Dayton, Ohio; Concordia, Milwaukee; Mechanics and North Western National Insurance companies, of Milwaukee, Wis.; Hanover Insurance company, of New York, and the Western Underwriters Insurance company, of Chicago. The firm of Cox & Lawrence undoubtedly do the largest business in the line in Van Wert, their premiums in 1894 alone amounting from $22,000 to $24,000, and the solidity of the companies they represent is a sufficient guarantee of the responsibility of themselves individually. Both partners as genial and agreeable gentlemen, and well deserve the popularity they have achieved both in business and social circles. Fraternally, Mr. Cox is a Mason, Knight of Pythias, and a Knight of Maccabees.

CAPT. DAVID P. DUNATHAN, one of the most prominent business men of Van Wert, Ohio, and ex-postmaster, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, April 17, 1840, a son of Robert H. and Mary E. (Protzman) Dunathan. Robert H. Dunathan was a native of Franklin county, Pa., born March 7, 1810, to John and Sarah (McQuown) Dunathan, of whom the former was born in Scotland, early came to the United States and settled in Franklin county, Pa., on a farm, where Mrs. Sarah Dunathan died in 1812, after which all trace was lost of her husband, but it was supposed that he was killed by the Indians while boating on the Mississippi river. They were the parents of two children—Robert H., and an infant, deceased. Robert H. Dunathan was reared by an uncle, Jacob B. McQuown, until twenty years of age, when he left his native state, came to Ohio and located in Montgomery county, where, in 1835, he married Miss Protzman, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of John and Frances Protzman. Soon after marriage, Robert H. and wife moved to Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, where he followed his trade of weaving until 1839, and then moved to Mercer county, Ohio. By his marriage with Miss Protzman there were born nine children, who were named J. H., Sarah F., David P. (our subject), James M., Jacob B., Robert L., Edward P., Johnson L., and Harmon. The mother of this family was called to her final rest in 1855, and in 1856, in Mercer county, Ohio, the father married Nancy Moore, to which union were born two children—George M. and Mary. The father died in Mercer county in 1872, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics a democrat, while his widow, also a Methodist, still resides in Mendon, Mercer county.

David P. Dunathan, the subject proper of this biography, was reared to manhood in Mercer county, was there educated, and on September 10, 1861, enlisted in company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, and was assigned to the Fifteenth army corps, under Gen. Logan, and first fought at the battle of Shiloh; was then actively engaged in the siege of Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg, and at Jackson, Miss.; was then on a forced march to Knoxville, and also fought at Chickamauga; in February, 1864, he veteranized at Huntsville, Ala., and served as sergeant of his company until August, 1864, when he was commissioned first lieutenant, for meritorious conduct on the field; February 2, 1865, he was promoted to the captaincy of company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry. His original company veteranized, and served in the hundred days' fight from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and thence marched with Sherman to the sea, and onward to Washington, D. C., witnessing and participating in all the historical episodes of the triumphal march of the victorious troops until they culminated in the grand review at the national capital, May 23–24, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Returning to Mercer county, Ohio, Mr. Dunathan employed himself in farming until 1869, when he removed to Van Wert and formed a partnership with Lester Patterson, and for seven years was engaged in the manufacture of burlaps, and in 1870 added to the business an interest in a drug store, in partnership with Dr. C. B. Stemen, which interest he retained two years; he also formed a connection with J. J. Humphreys in the retail grocery trade, which lasted until 1883, when, under the presidential administration of President Garfield, he was appointed postmaster of Van Wert for the usual term of four years, but before the expiration of his term united with Dayton Hard, under the firm name of Dunathan & Hard, in the handling of agricultural implements, in which business he is still prosperously engaged. The marriage of Mr. Dunathan was celebrated in Van Wert, in August, 1865, with Amanda Gilliland, a native of the city, born April 9, 1843, of whom mention will be found in the sketch of the Gilliland family. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dunathan there have been born three children, of whom Charles W. is deceased and Laura R. and Jessie are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Dunathan are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally Mr. Dunathan is a knight templar Mason. He is progressive and public spirited in his impulses, and has been president of the school board for eight years. He has, beside his interest in his city business, a neat little farm of eighty-five acres in the county, and is universally honored for solid citizenship, excellent business qualifications and his brilliant military career.

RUFUS DUPREY, who has been a resident of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, since 1857, and has been successfully engaged in farming, beginning as a pioneer at the woodlands, was born in Gallia county, Ohio, March 28, 1830. His father, Abraham Duprey, was born on the island of Jersey, an English possession, to which place his ancestors had sought refuge from the religious and political persecutions of France, their native country. From the age of seventeen until thirty-three Abraham Duprey passed his life as a seaman, but during this interval married, on his native island, Miss Mary DeMarrick, and on this island were born to the marriage the following-named children: Abraham, Mary, Nancy and Jane. In 1817 he brought his family to America and located in Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, and for seven years was a river man, freighting flour, corn, pork, whisky and other products down the Scioto, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, whence he returned by steamer to Louisville, Ky., and thence walked the way home. About seven years later he became the owner of 160 acres in Gallia county, where he resided until his death, March 4, 1869—his wife having preceded him to the grave in July, 1852. The eleven children born to these parents were named Abraham, Mary, Nancy, Jane, Eliza, Susan, Ellen, Philip, Rufus (our subject), Elizabeth and one that died on Jersey island in infancy. The survivors of this family are Jane, Rufus and Elizabeth.

Rufus Duprey, our subject, has passed his entire life in agricultural pursuits. He was married in Gallia county, when a young man, to Miss Rebecca Neal, daughter of Vance and Nancy (Daniels) Neal. On coming to Van Wert county, in the fall of 1857, Mr. Duprey purchased 120 acres of land in the woods and at once erected a log cabin for the protection of his family, which consisted of himself, his wife and three children, born in Gallia county. Mr. Duprey set dilligently to work to clear his farm. That he succeeded is proven by a glance at his present estate of 160 acres, of which 130 are well tiled and well tilled, and adorned with a magnificent dwelling and improved with fine barns and all modern conveniences. The children born to Rufus and Rebecca Duprey were named as follows, in order of birth: Nancy Jane, who married George Morris and became the mother of six children—Blanch Altha, Pearl, Perry, Gale, Agnes and James; Mary Ellen died in childhood; Francis Marion, an inmate of his father's house; Emma, wife of Thomas J. Owens and a mother of two children—Arthur and Oscar; Lavina, wife of Richard T. Owens and the mother of a deceased son; William F., who married Sarah Montgomery, and is the father of one daughter—Fay; George W., who is married to Carrie Johantgen; Ellsworth G. John G. deceased, and Almira Alice and Oscar, both deceased. Mr. Duprey is an out-and-out woman's rights man, and is a strong prohibitionist, frequently attending the state conventions of these parties. In his religious affiliations he and his children, with the exception of William, are Methodists, while Mrs. Duprey and her son William worship with the Presbyterians. Mr. Duprey is a useful citizen, is popular with his neighbors, and is greatly respected throughout the community, of which he has been so long a member.

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GEORGE FOX EDSON, deceased, was born July 28, 1827, in New York, a son of Hon. Charles P. and Caroline Edson, and when a mere child in arms was brought by his parents to Portage county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a tinner. In 1846, he accompanied his parents to Van Wert, where he followed his trade as an assistant until 1855, when he united with G. W. Day in the tinware and stove trade, the partnership lasting until 1861, when Mr. Edson withdrew from the firm and engaged in the livery business, and subsequently in various other vocations and lines of trade, being an energetic and enterprising man in all respects. He was very popular as a citizen and equally popular as a democrat. He served as deputy sheriff under Sheriff ———— and also under Sheriff Stith, in all four years; he was next route mail agent on the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago railroad, from Crestline, Ohio, to Chicago, Ill., for a year; was next deputy postmaster at Van Wert under Samuel Neel for two years. He was an investigator of Spiritualism, and with his wife attended the services of the Spiritualists at their hall. The marriage of Mr. Edson took place in Van Wert, Ohio, March 29, 1857, to Miss Elizabeth Slater, who was born in Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, February 7, 1840, and who is a sister of Mrs. O. W. Rose, whose genealogy on another page will show that of Mrs. Edson, and to this union were born two children — Frank P. and Emma C. Mrs. Elizabeth (Slater) Edson is a firm believer in Christian Spiritualism, is being developed in one of the many phases of mediumship, and takes an active part in the building up of the church and in the demonstration of the truth of its doctrines. She enjoys the esteem of the community and has a pleasant home, comprising four acres, at the corner of Main and Burt streets.

Hon. Charles P. Edson, father of the late George F. Edson, was born in Vermont, in 1809, and lived there until he was nineteen years of age, when he went to New York state and shortly after came to this state. After the usual course of reading, he was admitted to the bar in 1843. After 1846 his permanent residence was in Van Wert. He represented Van Wert and Mercer counties in the state assembly two terms, was appointed by Gov. Bishop to fill the probate judgeship of Van Wert county made vacant by the death of A. W. Baker, and filled other positions of honor and responsibility with honor to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Aggressive in politics and firm in his convictions, he took an active interest in the democratic party, whose cause and principles he warmly espoused to his latest day. His death occurred February 22, 1885, at the age of seventy-six years, one month and twenty days, and his remains were interred in Woodland cemetery. Resolutions of respect and honor to his memory were passed by the members of the Bar association of Van Wert on his demise, and his loss was deeply deplored by the entire community.

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FRANK P. EDSON, eminent as an attorney of Van Wert, was born in the city, April 22, 1858, and is a son of George F. and Elizabeth (Slater) Edson, of whom a biographical sketch immediately precedes this notice. Frank P. Edson attended the schools of his native city until he had attained the age of eighteen years, when he entered the Cincinnati Law school, from which he graduated with honors in 1881. He immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in his native city, and assiduously followed it until 1888, making a decided mark through his abilities as a lawyer. He then accepted the position of deputy county auditor under L. A. Harvey, the duties of which position he performed in a most satisfactory manner for six years, when he resumed the practice of law, having his office with H. G. Richie. While in the auditor's office Mr. Edson went to Columbus and represented Van Wert county, before the state board of equalization, and succeeded in having the county assessment largely reduced. In 1892 he secured the passage of a bill through the state legislature, by which the money collected on the bonds of the county was transferred to the tax inquisitor, and thus saved the people of the county $32,000. So efficient and diligent was he in the performance of his duties as deputy county auditor, that he received the nomination by the democrats for county auditor, in 1893, but the republican party was too powerful, and he met the general fate of his own party.

Mr. Edson was happily married, in Van Wert, February 22, 1893, to Miss Elizabeth Baird, who was born in Jennings township, Van Wert county, July 26, 1873, a daughter of Jesse Baird, a sketch of whose life will be found elsewhere in this volume; one child, Helen B., has blessed this union. Mr. Edson is a knight templar Mason, and as a citizen is considered as progressive and useful, while his reputation as a lawyer is widespread and solid; his merit as a statesman is universally recognized, and there can be no doubt that he will frequently be charged with the best interests of his fellow-citizens in offices of the highest responsibility.

WILLIAM G. EDWARDS, an enterprising and popular young grocer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Upper Canada, February 13, 1845, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (George) Edwards, natives of England. Henry Edwards, son of James and Elizabeth (Bray) Edwards, was born in Cornwall, England, and was there killed in a mine disaster; his widow then came to America and died in Wisconsin, in 1870, at the remarkable age of ninety years, the mother of the following children: Henry, father of the subject of this sketch; William, killed in a mine accident; John, a miner of Wisconsin; Joseph, of Wisconsin; Thomas, of the same state; Elizabeth and Mary, deceased, and Nanie, also of Wisconsin. The father of our subject, Henry Edwards, came to America 1843 and located in Canada, where he engaged in contracting and building until his death in 1870; his widow, whom he had married in Redruth, Cornwall county, England, survived till November 16, 1879, a member of the Episcopal church, of which her husband had also been a communicant. The children of these parents, numbered nine, and were named as follows: James, a butcher of Detroit, Mich.; William G., our subject; Britannia, deceased; Mary, wife of W. R. Wilson, of Canada; Bray, a baker of Canada; Albion, wife of John Reid, a carpenter of Canada; Patty, wife of James Rogers, a baker of Hamilton, Canada, and Arthur, with our subject.

William G. Edwards was reared in Waterdown, Wentworth county, Canada, and at thirteen years of age began clerking, following this vocation until 1869, when he came to Van Wert, Ohio, and succeeded George Hull in occupancy of a grocery store on West Main street, where he remained two years, when he removed to the west side and carried on business in Clarke's building until 1889, when he erected a store building of two stories, 24x80 feet, which he now occupies, having both floors well filled with a choice stock of goods, valued at $5,000, and doing a trade of $20,000 per annum. His business card read as follows: "W. G. Edwards, grocer, No. 33 West Main street, dealer in staple and fancy groceries and provisions, and teas and pure spices."

Mr. Edwards was united in wedlock, in Grimsby, Canada, September 16, 1867, with Miss Anna M. Shepard, who was born in Toronto, Canada, November 16, 1850, a daughter of Daniel and Kate (McNamara) Shepard, natives of Canada, the later being of

Irish extraction. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Edwards are Presbyterian. In politics Mr. Edwards is a republican, and is serving his third term as councilman for the Second ward, and has also been a member of the board of health. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow, and a charter member of the Van Wert lodge, I. O. R. M. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, and he and family enjoy the respect of all who know them.

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ARTHUR R. EDWARDS, the affable and popular clerk in the grocery store of William G. Edwards, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Waterdown, Canada, January 25, 1865. His genealogy will be found in the sketch of his brother, William G., which precedes this notice. He came to Van Wert in 1880, attended school one year, then entered his brother's store as clerk, and has made himself almost indispensable to his relative. He is polite and accommodating to customers, intuitively comprehends their needs and supplies them with celerity. He is a republican in politics, but is hardly active as a partisan, being satisfied with the simple exercise of his franchise. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and since his coming to Van Wert has won friends on every side, who admire him for his intrinsically sterling merits as a man and gentleman. He married in Van Wert, April 17, 1895, Mary M. Coleman, who was born in Delphos, Ohio, May 28, 1870, a daughter of L. O. Coleman, of Van Wert. Subject and wife reside on West Main street.

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WALTER EMERSON, of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, is a native of Union county, Ohio, where his birth occurred February 10, 1837. His father, Francis Emerson, was born in Kentucky, about the year 1812, and was a son of one of the sturdy pioneers of that state. When eight years of age Francis Emerson was brought by his parents to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, and at an early age, owing to the death of his father, was obliged to assume almost the entire responsibility of supporting the family. He acquired a limited education in the indifferent schools of that period, and in 1830 entered into the marriage relation with Alletha Smith, who bore him eleven children, viz: Jacob, William, Francis, Isaac, Walter, Thomas, John, James, Nancy, Sarah J. and Mary A.

After his marriage Francis Emerson engaged in farming in Union county, where he remained a few years, thence moved to the county of Logan, later to Champaign county, and in 1858 became a resident of the county of Van Wert, purchasing a tract of woodland in Pleasant township. Here he cleared a farm upon which he lived until his death, in 1872. Politically he was a stanch democrat, from early youth belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and is remembered as a public-spirited and highly respected citizen. His wife was born in Licking county, in 1814, and is still living, having reached the ripe old age of eighty years. Like her husband she early united with the Methodist church, of which she is still a devout member.

Walter Emerson, under whose name this sketch is written, was reared on a farm in his native county, laid the foundation for his education in the common schools, and was early taught the lessons of industry by which his subsequent life has been characterized. He accompanied his parents to Van Wert county in 1858, and began life for himself as a farm laborer, working early and late, and husbanding his means for the purpose of procuring a home of his own, which, in time, he succeeded in doing. In 1875 he purchased the land on which he now resides and began life upon his own responsibility, erecting a log house, and clearing around the same a field, to which additional acres of cultivated land were added in due time. He married, June 12, 1870, Paulina E. Drake, daughter of Oliver F. and Nancy (Mosier) Drake, and became the father of four children—William H., Oscar, Francis M. and Moses. Mrs. Emerson was born in Miami county, Ohio, grew to womanhood at the country home of her parents, who were natives respectively of New Jersey and Maryland and early settlers of the county of Miami, Ohio. She came to the county of Van Wert in 1860, and has resided here ever since; she is a woman of many excellent qualities, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and wields an influence for great good in the community. Mr. Emerson is also a Methodist in his religious belief, and in politics supports the democratic party. He has made a success of his chosen calling, owns a good farm with substantial buildings, and ranks among the enterprising citizens of Pleasant township.

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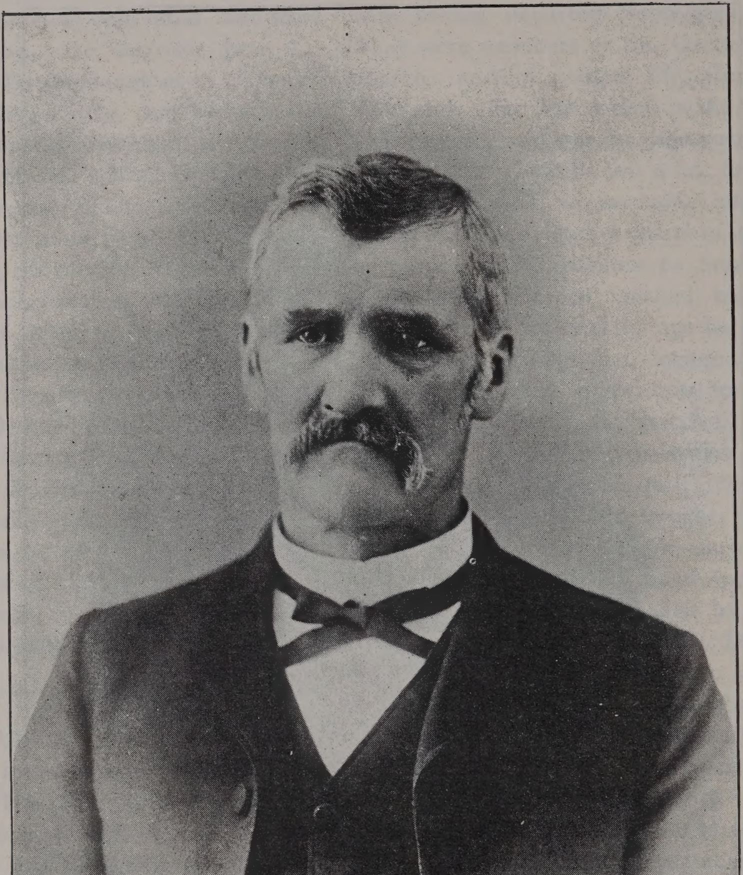
JOHN CRAMER, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in York county, Pa., October 9, 1822. His father, John Cramer, Sr., also a native of York county, Pa., was born in 1792, a son of Helfar Cramer, who came from Germany and who took an active part in the American Revolution, and after the war settled in York county, where he died, leaving seven children. John Cramer, Sr., was married in York county, Pa., in 1816, to Catherine Schlote, by whom he had nine children, viz: Daniel, of Fostoria, Ohio; Henry, also of Fostoria, Ohio; John, our subject; Mary, deceased; Emanuel, of Ionia, Mich; Adam, of Fostoria, Ohio; Sophia, wife of P. Wickerham, of Seneca county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Augustus Elliott, of Ionia, Mich.; and Levi, deceased. John Cramer, Sr., came to Ohio in 1840 and settled on a farm in Seneca county, where he died June 29, 1856, his wife having departed September 16, 1854. They were members of the German Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Cramer was a democrat. He had served in the war of 1812 as a captain, and was an honored man in his community, where he left a fair fortune.

John Cramer, whose name introduces this biography, was eighteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Seneca county, Ohio, and had then finished his education. Until twenty-one years of age he remained on the home farm, and then engaged as a laborer in a saw-mill in Seneca county for two years, and then, in 1847, he married, and bought eighty acres of land, on which he at once located and cultivated until 1864, when he came to Van Wert and bought 120 acres in Pleasant township, where he now resides and still owns seventy-five acres of finely improved land. His marriage, alluded to above, took place in Seneca county, Ohio, December 29, 1847, to Ann E. Shaffner, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, September 17, 1830, a daughter of Martin and Ann E. (Wert) Shaffner. Martin Shaffner was born in Lebanon county, Pa., February 27, 1795. His father, Martin Shaffner, Sr., married Frances Halderman, who was born September 30, 1762; Martin, Sr., and his wife resided for some years in Lebanon county and then moved to Dauphin county, where they both died; they were the parents of nine children, viz: Jacob, Nancy, Martin (father of Mrs. Cramer), Henry, Frederick, John, Christian, Frances and Elizabeth. Their son, Martin, Jr., was married in Dauphin county, Pa., to Anne E. Wert, and to this union were born three children, viz: Levi, deceased; John F., of Willshire, Ohio, an Ann E., wife of Mr. Cramer. The parents

Ann E. Cramer



John Cramer

of the above settled in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1829, where the mother died September 22, 1831, and the father, September 17, 1870, both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To the marriage of our subject and his wife have been born nine children, viz: John W. and William J., both deceased; Sarah C., wife of John W. Balyeat, nurseryman of Ionia county, Mich.; Frank A. and Ralph W., of Van Wert; Irene H., wife of J. W. Kensler, of Ridge township, Van Wert county; Anna E., at home; Martin S., M.. D., of Ohio City, and Charles B., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church at Celina, Ohio. The family all worship in the Methodist Episcopal faith, and in politics Mr. Cramer is a prohibitionist; he is also a member of grange No. 82, of which he was treasurer fourteen years.

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DAVID J. EDWARDS, deceased, an enterprising and substantial farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was a native of Wales, was born in 1840, and was a son of Josiah and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Mr. Edwards was an infant when brought to this country, and came to Ohio with his mother in 1859, who brought with her, beside our subject, a daughter, Ellen. She was the mother of three sons and one daughter, viz: Josiah, who preceded his mother to America five years, and is now a farmer in Putnam county, Ohio; John, who died in 1880; David J., our subject, who worked out by the day until the breaking out of the late war, when he enlisted in company H, Fifth Ohio cavalry; he was mustered in August 14, 1861, and served until October, 1865; fought at Shiloh, was wounded in the left knee at Corinth, and sustained a saber scalp wound, from which he never fully recovered. He was at Chattanooga and Resaca and in all the engagements to the sea-board; in 1864 he received a veteran furlough and married Jane C. Jones, returning again to his regiment, and serving until the time mentioned above. After the war was over he returned to Ohio and lived on rented land in Allen county until 1875, when he moved to Jennings township, Van Wert county; here he lived on rented land for ten years, when he came to York township and bought a farm of 120 acres. Mr. Edwards and wife had born to them the following children: W. Charles, who married May Miller—later dying in the fall of 1894; Richard, who married Mary Thomas, of Allen county; Maggie Jane, married to Moses George; John S.; Martha Ann, married to Robert Morgan; Mary Elizabeth, Katie, Ela, Edna, Ruth G. and Bessie. Mr. Edwards was in sympathy with the Welsh Congregational church, and in politics was a stanch republican; although very popular in his township, he was by no means an office seeker. The home farm is one of the best cultivated in the township, and the social standing of the family of Mr. Edwards is all that can be desired. His lamented death took place December 26, 1895.

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REV. THOMAS ELCOCK, A. M., one of the most eminent and worthy citizens of the city and county of Van Wert, is a native of Pennsylvania, was born October 16, 1811, and is a son Richard Elcock, a native of Ireland, and a weaver by trade, who came to the United States at an early day, landing in Philadelphia, Pa., but soon removing to York county, that state, where he followed his trade for some years, and then purchased and settled down upon a farm. He was a man liberal in his views, and identified himself with the whig party, a thing very unusual in those of his nationality. Miss Mary Wagoner, whom he married in York county, Pa., was a native of Pennsylvania of

German parentage, and a most worthy woman. To their marriage were born seven children, viz: William, John, Elizabeth, David, Jane, Thomas and Joseph, all of whom are dead, with the exception of the latter two, Thomas and Joseph, the former of whom is the subject of this narrative, and Joseph the head of a family and living in Pennsylvania.

Thomas Elcock was born in York county, Pa., on his father's farm, upon which he labored until he was twenty-three years of age. A part of his time he attended the district school three months in the winter season of each year, the other nine months being devoted to clearing land, plowing, putting in the crops and gathering them in their season. Strength of body, however, came from this life and experience, and with it the power of endurance which in later years stood him in such good service. Arriving at the age mentioned above, twenty-three years, he entered the preparatory department of Lafayette college, a Presbyterian institution where he studied two and a half years, and then entered the college proper, whence he graduated, at the end of four years of careful and patient study. In order to the more thoroughly prepare himself for the work of the ministry, he attended Princeton Theological seminary, at Princeton, N. J., three years more, making in all nine and a half years spent in two of the highest-grade educational institutions of the land.

Thus qualified to spread the good news of the gospel, he removed in 1844 to Urbana, Champaign county, Ohio, where he served as stated supply for six months, and thence he removed to Logan county, where he also preached six weeks. From Logan county he went to Covington, Miami county, where he preached some time, and then he was for seven years stationed at Gettysburg and Mount Jefferson. In 1852 he went to Delphos and afterward to Van Buren. where he remained nine years, preaching at many of the surrounding towns and in country districts. In 1861 he went to Decatur, Ind., where he was stated supply and pastor of the Presbyterlan church five years, at the end of which time he returned to Van Wert, where he has since been in the missionary field. During all these years his journeys, many of them, were made on horseback, and his experiences were those of the old time circuit rider. Large extents of timber had to be penetrated, often swollen streams had to be forded, and withal the privations of pioneer life had to be borne; but with all this the people were uniformly hospitable and the preacher was always peculiarly welcome to their humble homes; for he brought consolation in affliction and sorrow, and was always in their eyes a superior being, because of his intelligence and calling. During the twenty-seven years of his pastorate at Rockford his labors were crowned with unusual success, as may indeed be said of his entire fifty-two years' service in the ministry.

During his earlier life Rev. Mr. Elcock was an adherent of the whig party, but upon the organization of the republican party he became one of its members, and has since been a consistent supporter of its principles and policies.

In 1846 Mr. Elcock was married to Elizabeth H. Moodey, a native of Pennsylvania, and a most excellent woman. To their marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Edward, who is a minister of the gospel at Galion, Ohio; Mary, who taught in the public schools of Van Wert several years, was assistant teacher in the high school three years, and is now married and living in Omaha, Nebr.; Elizabeth, a school-teacher of Omaha, Nebr.; Anna, living at home with her parent; Lucy, who taught in the public schools in Van Wert nine years and is now a school-teacher in Omaha, Nebr.; Carrie, now deceased, who was a teacher in the public schools at Van Wert, Ohio; and Thomas, who died when four years of age. Anna was the first graduate of the public schools in Van Wert, and is a most estimable young lady.

Rev. Mr. Elcock is a man of high standing in the community, has always been liberal in his dealings with his fellow-man, and charitable in many ways. He has assisted in founding numerous Presbyterian institutions, educational, religious and charitable, and has made donations to many others of the same denomination; and, taking all things into consideration, both himself and his family are among the most highly esteemed in Van Wert county.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. (Moodey) Elcock, wife of the subject of this memoir, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., and is of Scotch-Irish descent. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and held the office of elder, as well as other positions of honor, in the Presbyterian church. In political relations he was a whig. He was married to Miss Jane Quigley, a native of Pennsylvania, who died when their daughter Elizabeth was quite young, his death occurring before the war of the Rebellion broke out. He was the father of nine children, viz.: Robert, Mary, Jane, Nancy, Margaret, Elizabeth, Joseph, John and one that died in infancy. Two of the nine are still living—Nancy and John. Elizabeth removed to Ohio in 1838, and there, some years later, met Mr. Elcock, to whom she was married as related above. She died in Van Wert, Ohio, March 23, 1889, leaving a most worthy name and estimable record as a woman full of good deeds and of a most unselfish disposition.

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DAVID W. EVANS, farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales and was born in the year 1838, a son of William and Jane Evans, who came to America when our subject was but one year old. They located in Jackson county, Ohio, where the father bought land near Oak Hill, and also became manager of the Cambria furnace, and in 1854, while superintending the building of a stack, a rope that had been made fast to a lever snapped in two, killing him instantly. There were born to William and Jane Evans four sons and two daughters, as follows: David W., our subject; Thomas, who died at the age of twenty-seven years; Jane, the widow of David E. Evans; John W., a druggist of Van Wert; William W., a farmer of Jennings township, and Annie, who died in childhood. After the death of her husband Mrs. Evans was married to Isaac T. Jones. William Evans had been a successful man in his lifetime, and at his death was the owner of 600 acres of land in York township, which land our subject, David W. Evans, had partitioned in 1859, leaving to him as his part 106 acres, to which he has added by purchase with money saved from school-teaching eighty acres more. Mr. Evans enjoyed more than the ordinary advantages for education, and saved over $1,000 from his salary as a school-teacher, with which he purchased his farm and located thereon in 1861, in which year he married Miss Jane Bebb, daughter of William and Margaret Bebb. The children of this union were born and named as follows: William B.; Margaret J., wife of Elmer R. Owen, a merchant of Newark, Ohio; Thomas Charles and John Elias, twins, both very talented in vocal music. Thomas Charles, however, while out boating with some friends in the Blanchard river, near Findlay, Ohio, was drowned June 17, 1890; Laura Ann, was the next child of this family; Martha died an infant; David is at home, and Mary is deceased. The mother of these children died February 10, 1887.

Mr. Evans is a republican in his politics, and held office as justice of the peace for fifteen years, successively, and after an interregnum of some years was re-elected in 1895. He has ever been a public-spirited citizen, and the residents of his village accord him the credit of bringing the Clover Leaf railroad to Venedocia. During his absence and without his knowledge he was first elected to the office of justice of the peace, and later elected a trustee. Mr. Evans has been very active in the Welsh Presbyterian church, serving as deacon and elder for many years. He controls over 300 acres of land, all well tilled, and improved with a substantial brick residence and fine out-buildings. Of such men as he the substantial citizens of York township are constituted.

* * *

W. W. EVANS, present trustee of Jennings township, Van Wert county, is a native of Jackson county, Ohio, a son of W. William and Jane Evans, and a brother of David W. Evans, above. He was born about 1857, close to Oak Hill, Jackson county, Ohio, and spent his early life in the vicinity of Cambria furnace, in which his father, a notice of whom appears elsewhere, lost his life. At the age of sixteen, Mr. Evans came to the county of Van Wert and engaged in farm labor, following the same in different parts of the county, until his marriage, which occurred on the 1st day of March, 1873, with Miss Ann Alban, born in April, 1852, a daughter of Thomas Alban, a biography of whom is also given in this volume. Mr. Evans began the pursuit of agriculture upon his own responsibility, on a part of the place originally purchased by his father, but he subsequently disposed of this and bought his present farm in Jennings township, which consists at this time of 117 acres of highly cultivated and otherwise well improved land. Mr. Evans manifests exceedingly good judgment in the management of the farm, is a man of good taste, and his buildings and other improvements are of the latest modern design. He is now serving his third term as trustee of Jennings township, and his management of the office has been creditable to himself and satisfactory to the people who repose the utmost confidence in his honor and business integrity. In politics, Mr. Evans is a stanch supporter of the republican party, the principles of which he believes to be for the best interests of the country. The Calvinistic Presbyterian church represents his religious creed, and his life, as well as that of his wife, has been in strict accord with his christian profession. He is a gentleman of unimpeachable character, moral and upright in all his dealings, and his name well deserves mention among the representative citizens of the township of Jennings. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have an interesting family of three children—Thomas Walter, born February 3, 1874; Annie Jane, born March 22, 1877, and Maud, born April 20, 1887,—all of whom are still with their parents.

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EVAN A. EVANS, a well known citizen of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, and was born March 21, 1841, in the suburbs of Mestlyn Tydfil, Coed Cymmar, a son of Arthur Gwenfred (Jones) Edwards, who came to America in 1841, and in 1842 reached Granville, Licking county, Ohio, where Arthur Evans worked at shoemaking. Shortly afterward he moved to Putnam county, and entered forty acres of government land, but shortly afterward removed to Chatham, Canada, where, in 1848, he bought in McGillery township, eighty acres, and where he resided until May, 1850, when he returned to Ohio and settled on his forty acres in Putnam county

In 1851 he removed to Delphos, where he worked thirteen years at shoemaking, and where his death took place August 10, 1864, his widow finding her final home, February 13, 1870. To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans were born three children, Elizabeth, John and Evan A. Elizabeth and John died in childhood and were buried at Cefen Coed Cymmar.

Evan A. Evans gained his early education in the common school, which was finished at Dennison university, Granville, Ohio. Mr. Evans was employed as drug clerk in Delphos, Ohio, for two years, and then undertook to learn milling, at which he was employed three years; he was then employed as a clerk in a dry-goods establishment until 1863, when he enlisted in an independent military company at Camp Dennison, which company was known as the Dennison guards, but this was shortly afterward disbanded, and after a brief interval our subject enlisted, in the spring of the same year, in comany A, One Hundred and Fifty-first O. V. I., with Ed. King as his captain and J. M. C. Marble as his colonel. After his discharge from the army, Mr. Evans returned to Delphos and was employed in the dry-goods house of Chamber, Roebuck & Co., with whom he remained until the spring of 1866. September 5, 1865, he married Maria G. Whittington, of Cincinnati, Ohio, adopted daughter of R. J. and Mary Whittington, and had born to them three daughters—Elizabeth Winnie, Flora Anna, and one that died in infancy. In 1866 Mr. Evans and R. J. Whittington located at what is now the site of Venedocia, Ohio, where they erected the first dwelling and business building in the village, and there embarked in business as country merchants, under the firm uame of Evans & Whittington, the copartnership lasting three years. During his residence in Venedocia Mr. Evans purchased his present farm of eighty acres in York township, Van Wert county, known as the Jeremiah Perry farm, which, in connection with 105 acres purchased by his father, known as the Baldridge farm, he has consolidated into one tract, making one of the most beautiful and productive farms in the township. During his business life Mr. Evans served as treasurer of Jennings township, and most faithfully filled the position until the expiration of his term. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church, and socially are esteemed by all who know them. Mr. Evans is recognized as one of the most public-spirited citizens of York township, and has won the respect of the entire community through his unvarying uprightness and genial disposition.

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JOHN S. EYLER, a prominent citizen of Van Wert, was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, August 12, 1836. His father, George Eyler, was born April 4, 1787, in Bedford county, Pa., and was a patriot in the war of 1812, and his mother, Sarah (Stewart) Eyler, was a native of Mifflin county, Pa., born April 25, 1807. They were married in the Keystone state October 17, 1833, and came to Ohio, locating at McCutchenville, Wyandot county, where the fathere followed his trade of cabinet-maker until 1848, when the family came to Willshire, Van Wert county, where Mrs. Sarah Eyler died July 25, 1855, at about forty-eight years of age, Rev. N. C. B. Love delivering the funeral sermon, and where George Eyler continued cabinet-making until his death, February 12, 1861, Rev. C. Mounts delivering the funeral sermon. Both parents were members of the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Eyler was a democrat. Their children were: William H., born October 1, 1834, deceased; John S., subject; Susan E., born March 31, 1839, wife of D. Casto, Dayton, Ohio; George W., born

January 30, 1842, deceased, and also a deceased infant.

John S. Eyler was twelve years of age, only, when his parents settled in Willshire, where he was reared and educated. At the age of twenty-one he became a clerk in a general store, and on August 6, 1862, enlisted in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, uuder Capt. William C. Scott, mentioned in the biography of Charles P. Richey, on another page, and was at the side of his captain when the latter was mortally wounded. Mr. Eyler served with his company as a private and quartermaster sergeant until mustered out at Salisbury, N. C., July 26, 1865. On his return to Willshire, Mr. Eyler engaged in the general merchandise business in partnership with D. Casto & Dettmer until 1871, when he sold his interest in the firm, and in 1873 came to the city of Van Wert, where the firm of Casto, Leahman & Eyler was established and continued as such until 1876, when the style was changed to Casto & Eyler. In 1877, Mr. Eyler sold his interest in this concern and began selling, on his own account, a full line of agricultural implements, including reapers, binders, threshers, etc., continuing until 1892; he then retired from business until 1894, when he united with O. D. Billman in his present business, that of handling jewelry, etc., carrying a full and well assorted stock. Mr. Eyler was married, August 12, 1866, in Van Wert county, to Miss Ruth A. Casto, a native of this county and daughter of Amos Casto, the result of the marriage being two children—Frankie and William, both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Eyler are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee or director, and in politics he is a republican. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, is a pensioner, owns a fine residence property on South street, and a business property at the corner of Market and Water streets. The family are highly esteemed in a social sense, and in a business view Mr. Eyler has always been regarded as enterprising and progressive, with a high reputation for integrity and straightforward dealing.

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ASA D. FARNAM, one of the honored citizens of Van Wert and one who has distinction as having rendered his country gallant service in the late war of the Rebellion, is a native of Richland county, Ohio, was born the 27th of March, 1831, and is the son of Solomon and Mary (Cook) Farnam, both of whom were natives of Vermont. The father devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and met his death in Van Wert county, Ohio, as the result of an accident, incidental to the running away of a horse. The mother died in Newaygo county, Mich. They were the parents of eight children, of whom but three survive, viz: Daniel S., who is engaged in farming in Michigan; Sabra, wife of A. J. McQueen, of Michigan, and Asa, the immediate subject of this memoir. The parents were people of inflexible integrity and lived honorable and useful lives, both having been devoted members of the United Brethren church. In politics the father was a stalwart democrat and fraternally was a member of the Masonic order.

Asa D. Farnam was a boy of five years at the time his parents took up their abode in Van Wert county, locating in Pleasant township, where the father engaged in farming. Our subject remained on the parental homestead until he was twenty-three years of age, after which he was engaged in common labor until October, 1861, when he made ready to respond to a higher duty, as the call was made for men to aid in suppressing armed rebellion. He enlisted as a member of company F, Sixty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, for a service of three years, or until the war should close. He was assigned to John Sherman's brigade, in the army of the Cumberland. In the initial stages of the war Mr. Farnam was shot through the left thigh, at Stone river, and was sent to the hospital at Nashville, Tenn., where he was compelled to remain for three months; he then rejoined his command at Stone river, aud re-entered active service, having held preferment in turn as orderly sergeant and as first sergeant. Upon him would have eventually been conferred the rank of captain, had it not been for the fact that his commander and colonel had been killed. He afterward participated in all the battles of his regiment, until the engagement at Franklin, Tenn., where he was wounded in the side by a gunshot and was then sent back to Camp Dennison, where he remained four months, after which he was transferred to the veteran reserves at Rock Island, Ill. When the Confederate soldiers were mustered out, the reserves proceeded to Springfield, Ill., where they remained on provost guard duty until November, 1865, after which Mr. Farnam returned to Van Wert county, where he became concerned in the saw-mill industry and in the operating of stationary engineering work, and continued in these lines of enterprise until 1888, when he assumed charge of the coal and wood yard of his son, J. G. Farnam, in the city of Van Wert, and has since continued in that capacity.

In Van Wert county, on the 26th of June, 1883, was consummated the marriage of our subject to Miss Christina Bearo, who was born in Tuscarawas county, May 26, 1838. The offspring of this union has been four children: Orlando, deceased; John G., of Van Wert; Franklin P., a merchant of Van Wert, and Celestia, wife of I. A. Brown, of Toledo. Mrs. Farnam is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Farnam owns valuable real estate in the city, having attractive residence property on Jackson street and three dwellings on Center street, while his wife owns a residence property on Vine street.

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JOSEPH PRESTON FAUDREE, at present night watchman at the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad yards, Van Wert, Ohio, was born April 17, 1840, in Monroe county, Va., now W. Va. He is a son of John W. and Sarah (Tygert) Faudree, both natives of Virginia and of French descent. The parents of each came to the United States from France. Mr. Faudree was by trade or occupation a miller, running one of the old-time water-power mills. In 1859 he removed with his family to Ohio, settling first in Logan county, where he remained three years. From there he removed to Madison county, where he remained five years. In 1867 he removed to Van Wert county, locating in Union township, where he had purchased a farm, upon which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1888, when he was seventy-two years of age. His widow now resides in Tully township, at the age of seventy-three. Mr. Faudree was a most industrious and honest man, careful in the management of his financial affairs, and one of the kind-hearted and genial men of his day. He had many friends while he lived in Van Wert county, and his memory will long be revered for the good qualities which he possessed.

Joseph Preston Faudree spent his boyhood days in his father's mill, assisting with the work, and as opportunity afforded attending the district school. After coming to Ohio with his parents he remained with them until his marriage, in 1862, at Logansville, Logan county, Ohio, to Miss Catherine Whitman, daughter of Septimus and Lucinda (Warner) Whitman. Both were natives of Kentucky, but at the time of their daughter's marriage they were residents of Ohio. Both are now dead, the mother dying in Van Wert in 1888, at the age of eighty-one.

Mr. Faudree removed to Van Wert county a year after his parents, and engaged in farming about five years. At the end of that time he removed to the city of Van Wert, and accepted a position as janitor of the Third ward school, which was at the time the only school in the place. This position he held three years, the first two of which he had to carry wood for twenty-one stoves, as that was before the present system of heating by steam was adopted. At the expiration of the three years spent as janitor Mr. Faudree accepted the position of night policeman in the city of Van Wert, which he filled to the acceptance of the people for two years, and then he removed to Rockford, Ohio, where he engaged in the manufacture of handles, at which he engaged three years. For some time afterward he was engaged in the same line in Saint Mary's and also in Wapakoneta, and then returned to Van Wert, where he became an employee of the Oil Well Supply company, with which company he remained in different capacities for seven years. He then returned to the school building and was again janitor, this time for one year. In 1890 Mr. Faudree accepted a position with the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company as night policeman for that company's yards, which position he still holds, giving entire satisfaction to all interested in the manner in which his duties are performed. He is also a member of the police force of Van Wert.

In 1863 Mr. Faudree proved his patriotism by enlisting in the Union army, and although he saw but little active service, yet that was not owing to any fault of his. as he was with the rest of his regiment ready to perform any duty they were called on to perform. He was in the company commanded by Capt. Timmons, and took part in the campaign against John Morgan when he made his raid through the southern part of Ohio in 1863. When his term of enlistment had expired he was honorably discharged, and has since been as loyal to private duties as he was at that time to his country.

Mr. Faudree is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and of the Northwestern Ohio Police association. In politics he has always been a democrat, but has never sought after or held office of any kind. He lives his wife and their two children in his comfortable and pleasant home at the corner of Center and Wall streets, and is a highly respected citizen of Van Wert. The children of Mr. Faudree are named John Vallandigham, who is living in Van Wert, and Flora Ellen Crawley, now a resident of Union city, Obion county, Tenn.

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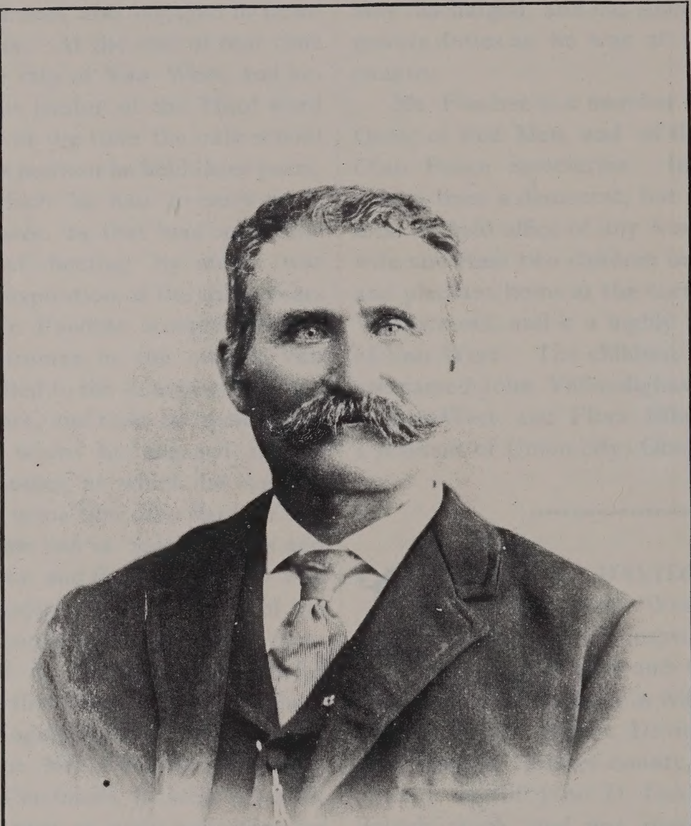
PETER R. DAVIDSON, of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a highly respected citizen, is a son of Joshua and Catherine (Ross) Davidson and was born in Allen county, Ohio, May 3, 1848. Joshua Davidson, the father, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, June 22, 1813, a son of John D. Davidson, of sterling Scotch stock, and was reared on a frontier farm. In 1835 he married Catherine Ross, a daughter of Richard Ross, and to this marriage were born thirteen children. Mrs. Catherine Davidson was born November 8, 1811, in Holmes county, Ohio, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. In 1847 Joshua Davidson purchased a farm in Allen county, on which he built a log house, and then returned on foot to Holmes county, whence he brought his family to the new home, and with their help cleared off the land. He was a successful and influential



P. E. Davidson

Mary E Davidson

farmer, and held a high peace in the esteem of his neighbors. He was conservative in his politics, and leaned toward democracy, but he was a member of no church, although strictly upright in his walk through life, and his death, which occurred in 1866, was sincerely mourned by his acquaintances as well as his immediate family. His widow is a member of the Dunkard church, in which she takes a deep and lively interest and exercises a sincere spirit of christian charity toward all.

Peter R. Davidson laid the foundation for his education in a little log school-house of his native county, and also there learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until 1883, when he came to his present home in Union township, Van Wert county, having purchased 140 acres of woodland, sixty acres of which he has cleared by his own labor, and this he has underdrained and brought to a high state of cultivation. In 1893 he moved to Fulton county, Ind., where he went to recuperate the energies he had expended on his farm, but his business interest demanding his attention, returned to his farm the same year. In 1874, Mr. Davidson was wedded to Miss Mary E. Diltz, a daughter of William H. and Belinda H. (Conrad) Diltz. This lady was born in Allen county, Ohio, in November, 1853, and of that county her father also was a native. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and takes a deep interest in church work. Mr. Davidson is also a member of this church, as well as of the Convoy lodge of I.O.O.F., of which Mrs. Davidson has taken the Rebekah degree. In politics Mr. Davidson is a democrat. No children have as yet blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Davidson. By his own energy and industry Mr. Davidson has made a home from the wilderness of Van Wert county, and may well fell proud of the place he holds in the esteem of his neighbors and the citizens generally.

WILLIS M. FLAHARTY.—He to whose ancestral and personal history we now turn our attention is one of the representative men of the city of Van Wert, holding distinctive preferment as local freight and ticket agent for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad company, and as agent for the Adams Express company, and on this score alone there is imperative necessity that he be accorded attention in this connection. But, superadded to this, there is an element which renders this consideration all the more congruous, in that his genealogy bespeaks a prominent identification with American history from the early colonial days, and which touches the annals of the pioneer epoch in the Buckeye state,

The earliest records extant, as bearing upon the ancestral histroy of our subject, begin with the great-grandfather, Amasa Flaharty, who was born December 25, 1755, and who died July 4, 1841, the place of his nativity being not definitely known. On the 15th of May, 1785, he was united in marriage to Mary Ridgley, who was born April 3, 1860, and whose death occurred February 21, 1843. They became the parents of six sons and three daughters, concerning whom we make record, in order of birth, as follows: Nicholas, grandfather of our subject, born July 14, 1786, died September 8, 1870; Sem, born October 27, 1787, died at Fort Meigs, Ohio, having been a soldier in the war of 1812; Harriet F., born February 22, 1789, date of death not known; Eliza, born May 1, 1790; Ruth, born September 15, 1791; Enos, born March 4, 1793; Elisha, born July 18, 1794; Hannah, born December 29, 1795; and James R., born May 30, 1798; the last named was a citizen of Michigan at the time of his death. Nicholas T. Flaharty, the grandfather of our subject, was united in marriage, November 1, 1810, to Eleanor Israel, who was born June 25, 1789, and who died August 17, 1873, aged eighty-four years one month and twenty-two days. Her husband had passed away September 8, 1870, aged eighty-four years, one month and twenty-four days—in which connection there is a notable coincidence in the fact that there was but two days' difference in the ages of this honored couple at the time of demise. Their children were eleven in number, viz: Josephus, born August 8, 1811; Charlotte, July 11, 1813; Perry, father of our subject, born July 14, 1815; Rachel, July 5, 1817; Zerniah, May 9, 1819; Eleanor, born February 3, 1821; Nicholas, Jr., January 17, 1823; Elzy, January 21, 1825; Isreal, May 12, 1827; an infant, April 6, 1829; and Mary A., May 22, 1831. The great-grandfather of our subject came from Maryland to Belmont county, Ohio, at a very early day, this fact being known only through tradition handed down through successive generations. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis; and A. J. Flaharty, brother of our subject, has in his possession the war pension papers of this Revolutionary hero, together with a certificate as to his having been a soldier. His son, Sem, was an active participant in the war of 1812, having been in the marine service, and having been engaged in that famous battle on Lake Erie, commonly designated Perry's victory. He was on the sloop "Trippe," and the certificate that he was a soldier in this fight, and entitled to prize money, is also in the possession of A. J. Flaharty. Reference has already been made to the death of Sem Flaharty at Fort Meigs, as he had later participated in the Indian war.

The Flaharty family were for many generations identified with agricultural pursuits and have been people of utmost integrity and distinctive intellectuality. The grandfather of our subject was an exceptionally bright man, being well versed in ancient history, and having a marked mathematical ability, originating and practicing many rules in mathematics that would certainly have been of great practical value had they been published, but his natural repugnance to noteriety deterred him from giving his rules to the world. He also had considerable musical ability and composed and arranged a number of excellent scores. Being a neighbor of the late Sam J. Kirkwood, war governor of Iowa, the two amused themselves by writing spicy letters to each other, granting most pleasing reciprocal courtesies.

The grandparents and all the aunts and uncles of our subject in the agnatic line are deceased, unless it may possibly be Elzy, who left this section of the union about 1855, and located in the west, never having returned here except on one occasion, about a quarter of a century ago, when he made a short visit to his relatives here.

Reverting at this juncture to the parentage of our subject, we find that his father, Perry F., was born July 14, 1815, and that his death occurred June 3, 1862, at Nashville, Mich. September 27, 1837, he was united in marriage, in Richland county, Ohio, to Susan Feazel, who was born April 9, 1820, and whose death occurred March 2, 1864, at Bellville, Ohio. Of the eight children of this marriage, we make record as follows: A. J. Flaharty, who was born November 16, 1841, resides at Bucyrus, Ohio, being an official of the Pennsylvania Railroad company; Theresa J., born November 2, 1842; a daughter, born May 11, 1839, died in infancy; Milton E., born May 27, 1845; Miranda M., July 28, 1847; Lucinda E., March 20, 1850; Winfield S., September 30, 1852, and Willis M., May 28, 1859. Of the children the only snrvivors are Adnirum J., Milton and Willis M. After the death of his first wife, Perry F. Flaharty consummated a second marriage, being united to

Maggie Pervine, at Bellville, Ohio, on the 31st of October, 1865, and the children of this marriage were as follows: Nora L., born August 22, 1866; Bird C., February 25, 1871, and Shirley, September 26, 1879. The last named died February 28, 1881, and the other two children are living with their mother at Sandusky city, Ohio. In religion our subject's parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics the father was a stanch republican.

Willis M. Flaharty, the immediate subject of this review, was born at Bellville, Ohio, the date of his nativity having already been noted. His father, at the time, was engaged in the grocery and provision business at Bellville, but, about 1878, he disposed of his interests and removed to Nashville, Mich., at which place his death occurred. Willis was about five years of age when his mother died, and after the death of his father he was taken to the home of his brother, A. J., and there remained until he had attained maturity, securing such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools. For a time he attended the schools during the winter and devoted his attention during the summer months to bricklaying, being at that time a resident of Nevada, Ohio. He next secured employment in the freight office of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railway, and was eventually transferred from Nevada to Bucyrus, where he was freight clerk for the same company four years, and also held for three years the position of ticket agent. In February, 1884, there came a further recognition of his ability and fidelity in his promotion to the agency at Nevada, and in 1887 he came to Van Wert and assumed his present important office, which he has since filled to the entire satisfaction of the company and the public, enjoying a marked popularity in the community. The marriage of Mr. Flaharty was solemnized at Bucyrus, Ohio, June 12, 1883, when he was united to Miss Mettie Weber, a native of Crestline, Ohio, and a daughter of Ludwig and Jerusha (Martin) Weber, and this happy marriage has been blessed by the birth of two children, Donna and Marguerita. Our subject and his wife are devout members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Flaharty is a trustee. In politics he renders an unswerving allegiance to the republican party, and in his fraternal relations he is identified with the Masonic order, in which he has advanced to the knight templar degree, and also with the Knights of Pythias. The attractive family home, in which a gracious hospitality is dispensed, is located on North Washington street.

JAMES FEGLEY, one of the substantial farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family, but is a native of Ohio and was born on his father's farm in Delaware county, March 27, 1836.

Henry Fegley, the father of our subject, was born in Berks county, Pa., and was a son of Henry Fegley, one of the most extensive farmers of the county named. Henry, Jr., the father of James, our subject, was married in Berks county to Rebecca Miller, a native of the same county, the marriage resulting in the birth of eleven children, of whom nine reached maturity and were named Charles, Maria, Jacob, Caroline, Nate, James, Sophia, Henry and Rebecca. At an early day Henry Fegley, Jr., came to Ohio and settled on 100 acres of land in the woods of Delaware county within a mile and a half of the court house, and there all his children were born with the exception of the eldest three, who were natives of Berks county, Pa. The parents were influential members of the German Reform church, of which he was an elder, and in the faith of which he died at the advanced age of eighty-one years. He was a democrat in politics, a useful citizen, a well-to-do farmer, was honored for his upright character, and died without an enemy in the world.

James Fegley, the subject proper of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Delaware county, received a good common-school education, and was married to Elizabeth Bell, also a native of Delaware county, born July 11, 1842, a daughter of Samuel Bell. Mr. Bell was also a native of the Keystone state, was of Scotch-Irish descent, and was an early settler of Delaware county, Ohio. He was a very successful farmer, and was the father of six children, named as follows: Jackson, Robert, Martha, Mary, Elizabeth and Jeremiah. Mr. Bell died in Delaware county at about the age of seventy years, a member of a branch of the Presbyterian church, and a highly respected citizen. His son Robert served through the late Civil war, was a brave soldier, and died at home during the war from the effects of exposure while in the army.

After marriage Mr. Fegley continued to reside on a farm in Delaware county until October 31, 1875, when he came to Van Wert county and bought his present farm in Washington township—the entire eighty acres being covered with a wild forest growth, interpersed with ponds of stagnant water. But Mr. Fegley was a practical farmer, and soon erected a log cabin, by degrees drained the ponds and quagmires, hewed away the forest and rank undergrowth, and now has as fine a farm as one would wish to look upon—the spots where his horses would mire down now producing the most luxuriant crops of corn. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Fegley, Estelle is still at home but a widow, Delpha Dora died at the age of twenty-one years, and Charles is married to Dora Carmean, and is settled on a farm in Washington township; the deceased husband of Estelle was Sherman Klinger, a grandson of Joseph Klinger, whose biography appears on another page. Mr. and Mrs. Fegley are strict members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Fegley is a trustee. In politics he is a democrat, but is content to let others hold the offices. He is a most skillful farmer, and beside his eighty-acre farm in Washington township, he owns a forty-acre tract in Jackson township. He is a gentleman of the most rigid integrity, is charitable to all, and his neighbors respect him in the highest degree for his unusually good qualities of mind and heart.

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JAMES K. FERGUSON.—He to whose career we now briefly turned attention is a native of the Buckeye state, having been born in Richland county, Ohio, on the 13th of August, 1822, and is justly entitled to consideration as one of the honored pioneers of the state. He was one of the seven children of William and Amanda (Dround) Ferguson. William was a direct descendant of James Ferguson, the Scotch historian. Of the family we make a brief record as follows: James K., the immediate subject of this review; Sarah, the wife of Andrew Campbell, a resident of Kenton, Ohio; Mary, wife of Dr. George W. Cady, of Chicago; and Ellen, Elizabeth, William and Joseph, deceased.

James Ferguson lived in Richland county until he attained the age of fifteen years, when with his father he moved to Kenton, Hardin, county, where his father owned and conducted a tannery. James learned the cabinet making. August 14, 1845, at Mansfield, Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage to Henrietta Stout, and in 1851 he sold his furniture store and purchased a farm in Union township, Van Wert county, to which the following year he moved his family. As the occupation of farming did not agree with him, he moved to Van Wert in 1861. James became a member of the Masonic order in 1856 Of the children born to James and Henrietta Ferguson we make the following brief record: William, retains his residence in Van Wert, and on the 9th of April, 1884, was united in marriage to May Grady; Stout died in 1850; Mary was united in marriage to George Torrey, July 1, 1875; Laura is the wife of Brough J. Johnson, to whom extended reference is made on another page of this volume; John, who is a painter by trade; Celina, who has been for the past eight years a teacher in the Van Wert public schools, is now instructor of the seventh grade and has worked her way from the bottom up, and is known as one of the most efficient and earnest workers retained in the excellent schools of the city; Charles E., a compositor of the Van Wert Times, was married on the 4th of August, 1891, to Bertha Rice, and Maud is a capable teacher of music.

Henrietta Ferguson, the wife of our subject, was the daughter of William and Catharine (Rayboldt) Stout, born at Hagerstown, Md., September 3, 1824, the parents of the latter having been William and Ann (Strickland) Rayboldt. William Stout's parents were Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Moltz) Stout, the former of whom had the honor of having been acquainted with George Washington. William Stout was born in Newmanstown, Pa., April 17, 1790, and for a number of years was engaged in school-teaching, a vocation which his father had also followed. War breaking out with England in 1812, he enlisted in the army and served until peace was restored. A few months previous to his enlistment as a soldier he joined the Masonic order at Baltimore, Md., and remained a true Mason throughout his entire life. For two terms he held the office of sheriff in Washington county, Md., from which state he moved to Mansfield, Ohio, in 1830, where he was engaged for many years in the dry-goods business. His wife died the next morning after his arrival in the new home. They became the parents of seven children: Maj. Aaron R., Maria, William H., Catherine, Sarah, Henrietta and Elizabeth, all of whom are deceased except Henrietta. William Stout's second marriage occurred in 1831 to Mrs. Mary Van Horn Sanderson, who died in 1848. The venerable father passed away September 8, 1874, having been known and honored as a man of sterling character and one prominently identified with the history of the Buckeye state.

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MATTHEW FILES, a substantial farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and father of Dr. Charles A. Files of Van Wert city, was born in Ross county, Ohio, June 25, 1825, a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Mahan) Files. The father, Robert, was born in Rockbridge county, Va., and about the year 1778 came to Ross county, Ohio. He enlisted under Capt. McDonnell in the war of 1812, and in recognition of his services was awarded a land warrant for 160 acres, but his warrant he sold. He farmed in Ross nntil 1835, when he moved to Greene county, where his death occurred in 1848. Mrs. Elizabeth (Mahan) Files was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1782, her father, Matthew Mahan, being a Methodist minister, who devoted much of his time to the conversion of the Indians. Robert and Elizabeth were married about 1800, the issue being eleven children, viz: Ruth, deceased wife of Ephraim Simpson; Polly A., wife of James Kennedy, of Michigan; Margaret, wife of Jacob Kennedy, of Michigan; Catherine, deceased wife of Samuel McClellan: Matthew, our subject; Betsey A., deceased wife of George Neidy: Jacob, of Nebraska; Sarah, who died in childhood; James, deceased; and Nancy, who also died in childhood; and Eliza, deceased wife of John Morris, of Greene county, Ohio. The mother of this family died in Michigan in 1875. She had been a life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal church, although her husband had held to the Quaker doctrine.

Matthew Files was reared on a farm in the woods of Ross and Greene counties, Ohio, and was deprived of all opportunities for gaining an education until after he reached his majority. In 1846, he went to Carroll county, Ind., where for three years he kept a ferry on the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers, then came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and engaged in farming in Ridge and Union townships, and has since been identified with the agricultural interests of the county. His marriage took place, in 1853, with Amarilla Snodgrass, daughter of Joseph and Eliza (Ballard) Snodgrass, two children being the result of the union—Dr. Charles A., mentioned above, and Joseph A., a farmer of Union township. Mrs. Files is a native of Greene county, Ohio, born in 1836, her parents having been early settlers of that county. Mr. Files has reached his three-score-and-ten, but is still hale and hearty, and is bringing his present farm, which he purchased in 1893, in the newest section of the county, to a high state of cultivation. He is greatly respected by his neighbors, and considered to be one of the most useful and substantial citizens of his township.

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CHARLES A. FILES, M. D., of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Xenia, Greene county, in the same state, May 13, 1857, and is a son of Matthew and Amarilla (Snodgrass) Files, at present residing in Union township, Van Wert county, where they first made their home when Charles A. was a lad of but nine years of age. Here our subject was reared and attended the neighboring district school until he reached his eighteenth year, when he began teaching; in 1883, he was chosen principal of the Van Wert city schools, and held the position until 1890. On his assumption of the principalship of the public schools, Mr. Files began to devote his attention, during vacations, to the study of medicine under Dr. W. H. Christopher of Van Wert, pursuing this course of instruction until 1887, when he placed himself under the tutelage of Dr. G. J. Eblen, with whom he studied until 1890, and then attended the Fort Wayne Medical college one term, and next passed two years in study at the Ohio Medical university of Columbus, from which he was graduated March 13, 1894, and immediately entered upon the practice in Van Wert, where a bright future evidently awaits him. The doctor was united in marriage April 2, 1880, with Miss Carrie C. Frazer, a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with the birth of two daughters—Rilla and Mabel. Mrs. Files is a sincere member of the Christian church, and the doctor is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men. In politics he is a republican and his social standing is with the best citizens of Van Wert.

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REV. J. H. FITZWATER, D. D.—A man whose life has been consecrated to the cause of humanity and the service of the Master, whose days have been filled with ceaseless toil and endeavor, whose intellectual attainments are of high order and whose efforts have been so earnestly and devotedly directed as to insure the goodly harvest in its time, is peculiarly deserving of having incorporated into this volume a review of his life. Dr. Fitzwater holds distinctive preferment as presiding elder of the Lima district, Central Ohio annual conference of the

Methodist Episcopal church, maintaining his residence on North Jefferson street in the city of Van Wert.

He was born in Alleghany county, Md., June 1, 1851, being the fourth child of Nelson and Sarah A. (White) Fitzwater, the former of whom was born in Hampshire county, Va. (now W. Va.), May 31, 1817, being a blacksmith by trade, a man of strong individuality and of the most sturdy integrity. He followed this trade the greater portion of his life, and lived to attain a venerable age, his death occurring in 1893; his widow still survives him, and retains her home in Beverly, W. Va. They became the parents of ten children, of whom a brief record is as follows: Lydia died in infancy, as did also William, who was the second in order of birth; Martha, born in 1847, is now widowed and has one child, and they also reside in Beverly; James H. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Clay, born in 1854, married Anna Daniels, and is a resident of Beverly; Lucy married Frank Scott, of Beverly, at which place she died in February, 1891; Jasper, Clarence, Err and Joseph died in infancy. Of the ten children but three—Martha, Jame H., and Clay—survive.

Rev. James H. Fitzwater received his fundamental education in the common schools of Beverly, W. Va., and later entered the State Normal academy at Fairmont, that state, in which institution he graduated with high honors in 1878. Thus reinforced in a practical way, he prepared to enter upon that line of technical study which should fit him for that high calling to which he had determined to devote his life. He accordingly entered Drew Theological seminary, the central theological school of Methodism, pursued his studies with earnestness and zeal, and graduated in 1883. In the year of 1895, in recognition of his distinguished services, the degree of doctor of divinity was conferred upon him by the faculty of Taylor university. Our subject's first ministerial work had antedated to his graduation in theology; since, in 1875, he was licensed to preach, and thereafter served four years as a local preacher—one of these as pastor of Whitehall M. E. church, Whitehall, N. J. He entered the Central Ohio annual conference in in 1883, having, however, served as pastor of the church at Delta for six months prior to this.

As a clergyman of the Central Ohio conference, Dr. Fitzwater's labors have been of great magnitude and productive of great good in furthering the interests of the church in both a spiritual and temporal way. His first pastoral call was to Arcanum, Darke county, Ohio, which charge he assumed in 1883 and retained until 1886. Here, as in after life, the doctor not only demonstrated his right to precedence in the ministerial functions and as a pulpit orator, but also proved himself superior as an organizer and builder of church institutions, showing marked discrimination and potent executive abilities. Beside adding to the strength of his congregation in a numerical way, he also brought about the erection of a fine church edifice in Arcanum, the cost of said structure having been $6,000.

Wauseon, Fulton county, was our subject's next field of labor. He here found the church property encumbered with a debt of $5,000, which had been standing for the long period of fifteen years. With his characteristic and almost inimitable energy, he plunged into this labyrinth of difficulty, and so assiduously he applied himself that at the expiration of his three years' pastorage, the entire debt had been liquidated and the church interests advanced in every phase. His next call was to Van Wert, whither he came in 1889, and assumed the pastorage of the First Methodist Episcopal church, which incumbency he retained three years. As indicative of his remarkable ability as a preacher and organizer, it is herein noted that he increased the church membership by 300 individuals within the three years. Equally significant was his work in connection with the organization of the young people of the Lima district into a district Epworth league—a work to which he was appointed in 1890. So rapidly did he perform his duty that the first convention of the association was held in Van Wert within the same year, and so staple was the foundation on which the organization was erected that the association has grown to immense proportions, now having a membership of 5,000 individuals.

In the fall of 1892 Dr. Fitzwater was transferred to Ogden, Utah, and assumed charge of the First Methodist church of that place. In less than one year he effected the liquitation of the $30,000 debt which had been held against the church. He was recalled to Ohio in 1893 and was appointed presiding elder of the Lima district Central Ohio annual conference, which position he now holds. The district is the largest one in the conference, comprising the counties of Allen, Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert, and having twenty-eight pastoral charges, and an aggregate of not less than 9,000 communicants.

Turning, in conclusion, to the domestic chapter of the life of our honored subject, we find that on September 26, 1883, Dr. Fitzwater was united in marriage to Mary. A. Clark, of Shinnston, W. Va., the daughter of Leonard and Mary (Rone) Clark, of Harrison county, that state. Her father was a farmer and continued his operations in this line until 1861, when he enlisted for service in the late war of the Rebellion, as a scout, under Gen. George B. McClellan. He was captured, and for twenty months was confined in the Libby prison. Upon his release he was promoted to a captaincy in the Third Virginia cavalry, and was killed in active service at Moorefield, W. Va., in 1865. His widow is now living in Weston, W. Va.; their children were four in number—Margaret, Arthur, Mary A. and Martha—the last named of whom died in infancy. Dr. and Mrs. Fitzwater are the parents of six daughters, viz: Margaret, Mary, Lucy, Florence, Helen and Winfred.

Rev. J. H. Fitzwater is a member of the order of Odd Fellows at Arcanum, Darke county, Ohio, in which order he was initiated in the Tygarts Valley lodge—Beverly, W. Va., in 1874. He is also a member of the Masonic Van Wert lodge, having been received into the Blue lodge at Ithaca, Drake county, Ohio, and has attained to the degree of royal arch in Van Wert, Ohio.

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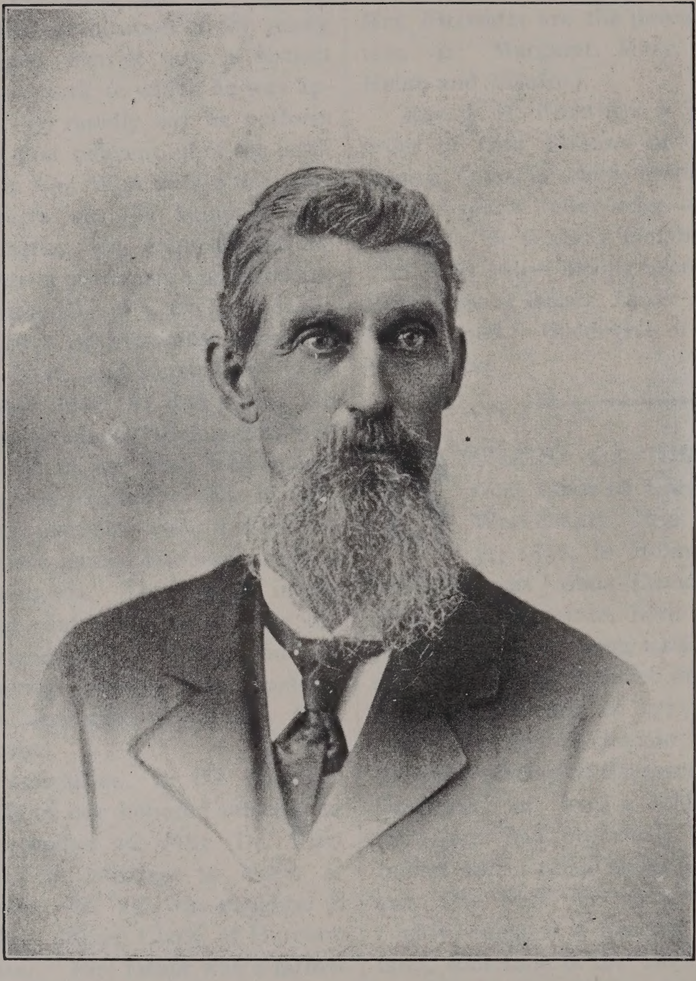
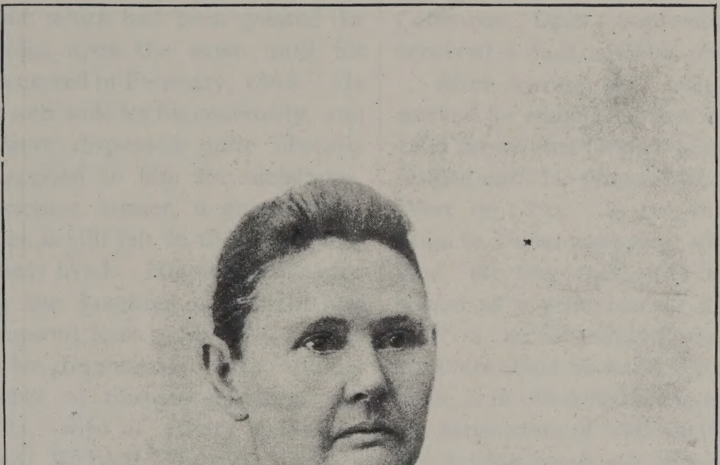
RICHARD DAVIDSON, farmer and stock raiser of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born January 31, 1838, in Holmes county, Ohio. His father was Joshua Davidson, also a native of the Buckeye state, born in the county of Jefferson in 1813, being a son of Joshua Davidson, whose birth occurred on Long Island, N. Y., about the year of 1775. The Davidson family is of Scotch descent, and were among the early settlers of the eastern states. Joshua Davidson, Sr., was a soldier of the war of 1812, and had previously taken part in the Indian war of 1794, under Gen. W. H. Harrison. He lived for some time in Jefferson county, engaged in hunting and farming, and later, sometime in the 'twenties, moved to the county of Holmes, of which he was one of the pioneers. His death occurred in Holmes county about the year of 1850. Joshua Davidson, Jr., father of the subject of this biography, was reared to manhood on the frontier farms of his father, in Jefferson and Holmes counties, Ohio. About 1848, he purchased a farm in Coshocton county, but soon after disposed of



R. Davidson



Louisa Davidson

the same, and in 1848 moved to the county of Allen, where he purchased a small place and began clearing a farm. Subsequently he sold this land and took a claim of eighty acres of government land, which had been granted the canal, and resided upon the same until his death, which occurred in February, 1866. He was known far and wide for his generosity, and his charities were dispensed quite liberally upon all who applied to him for assistance. He was a progressive farmer, a good citizen, and his influence is still felt in the community where he formerly lived. His wife, Catherine Davidson, was the daughter of Richard and Violetta (Thompson) Ross. She was born in 1811, married Mr. Davidson in 1833, and became the mother of thirteen children, viz: James; Lucinda, wife of Henry Gallespie; Hugh, deceased; Richard; Margaret, wife of William P. Neely; John; George W. died in the Confederate prison at Salisbury, N. C., William; Peter; Mary A., wife of Charles Peterson; Catherine, wife of Stephen Cremean; Joshua, and Elizabeth, deceased. Richard Ross served in the Indian war under Gen. Harrison, and in the war of 1812, and died in Jefferson county, at an early age, from injuries received while in the military service in defense of the honor of his country.

Richard Davidson, whose name introduces this sketch, and whose birth is noted in the opening paragraph, attended such schools as the country afforded in his youth, and while still a mere lad was apprenticed at the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1861. In that year he laid aside his tools and responded the country's call for volunteers, enlisting in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio infantry (First Zouaves), for three years' service. He was mustered in at Cincinnati, thence accompanied his command up the Kanawha river into West Virginia, where he participated in a number of minor skirmishes. He took part in the Shenandoah valley campaign, and Hunter's expedition against Lynchburg, in the battles of Panther's Gap, and many other engagements, and was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, September, 1864, having acheived a most enviable military record.

After leaving the army Mr. Davidson, worked for some time as a day laborer, and in 1866 farmed his father's place, upon which he resided until his removal to the county of Van Wert in 1870. In the year last named he came to Union township, where he purchased land, erecting thereon a log house, which served as a residence for a number of years until a more comfortable and pretentious structure could be built. He has made a good farm, is in comfortable circumstances, and has the satisfaction of knowing that all he has of this world's goods was acquired by his own unaided efforts. He is a democrat in politics, takes a lively interest in the success of his party, and has served in various official positions, including those of township trustee and infirmary director, also as township treasurer three terms—the duties of which offices were filled with great credit to himself.

Mr. Davidson was married, in 1865, to Louisa Dunn, daughter of Beracha and Anna (Clark) Dunn. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have had seven children: Edwin James, Mary L., wife of E. G. Linder, Charles R., Clarence W., Marion M., Burton and Alta C.—the last two deceased. Mr. Davidson has been a hunter of considerable note and has many trophies to show for his skill, and once killed a catamount with an old-fashioned trapper's spear. He was a brave and valiant soldier, and now draws $12 pension. He stands high in the esteem of his neighbors as a citizen and business man, and his services to his country and his efforts to advance the prosperity of his township and county are not without recognition.

SAMUEL WATSON FLEMING, of Van Wert, was born August 16, 1851. He is a son of Samuel Fleming, who was born in Pennsylvania, was of Irish descent, was reared on a farm, and followed farming all his life. Mr. Fleming, the father, was one of those whole-souled Irishmen that it is always a pleasure to meet, genial and kind-hearted, and way always striving to find some duty that he could perform for a fellowman. In politics he was a republican, but cared more for family, home and friends than for official position, though he was true to his party convictions, and performed his duty as a private citizen in politics as well as in other and perhaps more important things. He was a member of the Christian church, and was married to Miss Lafferty, of Pennsylvania, who was also of Irish descent. To their marriage there were born the following children: William H., who is married and living in Kenton, Ohio; James S., who is also married and living in Kenton; Samuel W., married and living in Van Wert; Jane Ridney, married and living in Mansfield, Ohio; John, who died a single man. All the rest are living. Samuel Fleming, the father of these children, came to Ohio and married at an early day, settling in Hardin county, near Dunkirk. There he lived the rest of his life, his wife dying before him. John, his eldest son, enlisted in the war of the Rebellion, and died from the effects of a wound received in battle.

Samuel Watson Fleming, the subject of this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania, was reared on his father's farm, where he remained until he grew to mature years, and until his marriage, which occurred in August, 1871. His wife was Miss Alice Arnold, of Hardin county, Ohio. By her he had the following children: Esta M., siggle; Maud, born April 15, 1875; Fern, born February 11, 1880; James W., and Deborah J., the latter two both single. Two of these children are dead, Fern and Maud. The mother of these children died in 1880, a good woman and a faithful mother, earnest in her religious convictions and always striving to impress her children with correct ideas concerning life and its duties. She was a member of the Methodist church, and died near Dunkirk, Ohio. Mr. Fleming's second marriage was with Mrs. Mary Gordon, a daughter of Alexander L. Strothers, this marriage taking place in 1891. In 1887 Mr. Fleming removed to Van Wert, where ever since he has been employed as car inspector for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad company. He is a republican in politics, and is in every way a very liberal man, as to his views and as to his means, as in all other things. He is in very comfortable circumstances, and is living in his beautiful home in Van Wert.

Mrs. Mary (Gordon) Fleming, his second wife, was born in Van Wert county, April 30, 1851. She lived with her father until her marriage, in 1871, to Charles Gordon, of Cincinnati, a very highly respected and popular man. He was a member of the Independent Order of Red Men; of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Odd Fellows. He died in 1891 and was buried with appropriate ceremonies all the lodges of which he was a member participating. Her father, Alexander L. Strothers, was born in Hancock county, Ohio in 1820. He was educated and reared upon the farm, but in early age mechanical ability developed to such a degree and it was so pleasureable for him to exercise that ability, as compared with working on a farm, that he learned the trade of a machinist, and followed it all his life, or rather until late years, when he began to cultivate a market garden, in which he has been unusually successful. In politics he is a republican, and is a very charitable and liberal-minded man. He was married to Miss Hannah Arnold, of Van Wert county, by whom he had six children, viz: Mary, Amanda, Marion (died in infancy), Harriet, Charles and Bertie (deceased). Those still living are all married. Alexander L. Strothers came to Van Wert county in 1832 and bought a farm in York township, containing 300 acres, all covered with timber. In 1861 he removed to Van Wert and established a machine shop, and was, in this new venture, very successful. In 1871 his wife died and he was married, the second time, to Miss Hannah Myers, of Cincinnati, by whom he had one child, Ethel, who is at present attending school in Van Wert. Mr. Strothers and his wife are living quiet and retired lives in Van Wert, enjoying the evening of their days in peace and plenty.

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JOSEPH FOOR, who owns one of the best tilled and neatest sixty-acre farms in Willshire township, Van Wert county, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 10, 1837, and is of German extraction. His father, John Foor, was born in Pennsylvania, whence he moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he married Sarah Young, and settled on a forty-acre farm, which he cultivated until his death.

Joseph Foor, our subject, was reared on this farm, but, his parents being in somewhat straightened circumstances, his educational advantages were very meager. On reaching maturity he married Sarah Tower, who has borne him the following children: Mrs. Emma Murphy, William, Sarah A., Henry, Mary, Gustavus, John, Frank, Mrs. Ellie Douglass, Burt T., Jess L., George M. and Ollie G., who have all been fairly well educated. The father of this family came to Van Wert county when it was in a very wild condition, and bought forty acres of land, to which he has added forty acres, and now has the prettiest farm of its size in the county of Van Wert, all most excellently cultivated. His buildings are modern and substantial, and cost over $2,000, all of which Mr. Foor has earned by his own hard labor, assisted, to some extent, by his children and his faithful wife. In politics Mr. Foor is a republican, but he has never been in any sense an office seeker. He and wife are consistent members of the radical branch of the church of United Brethren in Christ, and Mr. Foor was one of those who liberally assisted in contributing toward the erection of a house of worship for the congregation at Willshire. Mr. Foor is widely known as a methodical, thrifty and skillful agriculturist, and his farm gives the best possible evidence of his taste, skill and good management. His social standing, as well as that of his large family, is all that could be desired, and he is universally recognized as an honorable and straightforward gentleman and useful citizen.

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DAVID F. FORTNEY, a respected and substantial farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of John and Susannah (Crall) Fortney. John Fortney was born in Dauphin county, Pa., came to Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1860, and settled on farm land in Tully township. His children by his first wife were named Henrietta, David F., Alfred, John, Christian and Samuel; by his second wife, Harriet Sullinger, he was the father of two children—Sylvester and Charles. Mr. Fortney was a hard-working and respected farmer, and served his fellow-citizens of Tully three years as township trustee.

David F. Fortney, our subject, was born June 13, 1872, in Dauphin county, Pa., was educated in the district schools and was reared a farmer. In 1863 he came west to Defiance county, Ohio, and for about a year was employed at farm work. March 16, 1864, he enlisted, at Defiance, in company E, Fourteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, and served until honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., July 11, 1865. He took part in the famous Atlanta campaign, fighting at Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Jonesboro, and engaging in constant skirmishing until the capture and destruction of Atlanta in September, 1864, and went onward with Sherman to the sea—marching through to Goldsboro, N. C., and then on to Washington, D. C., where he took part in the grand review that celebrated the close of the war. At the battle of Jonesboro he was wounded in the nose by a splinter from a shell, and this wound has culminated in a permanent injury to his eyesight. He did his duty well and faithfully and was promoted to be corporal for his gallant and meritorious conduct on the the field. After the war was over Mr. Fortney came to Van Wert county, which he had first visited with his father in 1860, and was married in Defiance county September 5, 1865, to Miss Lavinia Noffsinger, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Noffsinger. Samuel Noffsinger was a Pennsylvania German, but came from Montgomery county, Ohio, of which county his father, Daniel Noffsinger, was a pioneer, was a farmer and a member of the Baptist church. Samuel and his wife early settled in the woods of Defiance county and cleared up a farm of 160 acres. Like his father, he was a German Baptist in religion. He and wife were parents of six children—Mary, Christian, Elizabeth, Lavinia, Alvora and Ida. Mr. Noffsinger died at the age of seventy years, an honored and respected citizen and the owner of a good farm.

After marriage David F. Fortney located in Dixon, Van Wert county, and for a time worked as a section hand on the P., Ft. W. & C. railroad, and next settled in Tully township, where he bought a farm of thirty acres and rented eighty acres additional. To his marriage with Miss Noffsinger have been born ten children, as follows: One that died young; Byron, John, William, Alvaro, Celeste, Morgan, Pearl, Ethel and Samuel. In politics Mr. Fortney is a democrat and has served as constable. He is a man who has always worked hard to support his family, has reared his children respectably, and has been faithfully assisted by his amiable wife; he was a brave soldier and still suffers from the effects produced by his army life, yet maintains his position as a worthy and useful citizen.

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SIMON FOSTER, a pioneer farmer and wealthy resident of Washington township, Van Wert county, was born in Perry county, Ohio, December 2, 1828, and descends from one of the earliest pioneer families of the state.

His grandfather, William Forster (as he spelled the name), was born in Prussia; when fifteen years of age he came to America, and here became a Lutheran minister and for many years preached in Virginia and Ohio. He married in Pennsylvania and died in Perry county, Ohio, the father of twelve children, viz: William, Daniel, John, Samuel, Henry, Christian, Andrew, George, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Magdalena and Catherine. Mr. Foster gave all his children in Perry ceunty 160 acres each, and died at the age of sixty-six years. George Foster, son of above and father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1789, and was a small boy when brought to Ohio. He was married in Perry county, to Christina Bean, a native of Pennsylvania, and to this union were born ten children, as follows: Jacob, Samuel, John, Mary, William, Daniel, Simon, Elizabeth, James and Salomi. Mr. Foster inherited a farm of 160 acres from his father, and this land he cleared up to a great extent, made a very good farm, and then, in 1848, came to Van Wert county and purchased a farm that lay partly in Ridge township and partly in York township, and also purchased 215 acres in Ottawa county. Mr. and Mrs. Foster led an honored life as a member of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Foster died in this faith, in 1858, at the age of sixty-nine years. He gave each of his children a good start in life and was in every respect a true man.

Simon Foster, the gentleman with whom this biography is most interested, was as well educated at the pioneer log school-house of his district as its limited curriculum would permit, was reared to an accurate knowledge of farming, and was married at Lima, Allen county, Ohio, June 12, 1856, to Susannah Fisher, who was born October 5, 1834, in Perry county, Ohio, a daughter of Jacob Fisher, a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent, and an old pioneer of Highland county, Ohio. When Mrs. Foster was but two years old—about 1836—he settled one mile from Lafayette, Allen county, cleared up eighty acres of land, and died at the age of seventy-one years. Mr. Foster had received from his father 215 acres of land in the woods of Ottawa county, Ohio, but subsequently sold this land and in 1853 bought his present home of 168 acres, all of which was wooded with the exception of forty acres—for which he paid $12 per acre—all of which he has converted into arable land and productive fields. To Mr. and Mrs. Foster have been born seven children, named as follows: Almonary, Ellen, Agnes A., Elizabeth Emma, (who died at the age of twenty years), Jacob H. and Harriet.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster are strict members of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Foster was for many years a deacon, treasurer and clerk, and is now an elder. He has always contributed freely of his means to the support of this religious body, and is ardent in the forwarding of its interests, and he had his brother Samuel erected the first edifice owned by that denomination at Middlepoint from their own means, with the exception of $25 contributed by others of the faithful. In politics Mr. Foster is a democrat, and has filled in a most satisfactory manner the office of township trustee. He is one of the most respected pioneer residents of Washington township, and has done much in his day toward making it the prosperous township it now is.

EMANUEL S. FOSTER, a thriving farmer of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Perry county, Ohio, and was born February 14, 1849, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Sult) Foster, natives of Pennsylvania, but married in Ohio, becoming the parents of the following children: Benjamin, who died in childhood; James S., who resides in Toledo, Ohio; one child that died in infancy; Emanuel S., our subject; Jacob H., who resides at Lovell, Ohio, and David, a resident of Perry county, Ohio. The father of these children died when the subject was but five years of age, and the mother was next married to Israel Zartman, and to this union have been born three daughters, viz: Dora, wife of Noah Snyder; Emma, wife of David Helser; and Louisa, wife of Vallandingham Shreider; the mother of our subject died February 13, 1895.

Emanuel S. Foster lived on the home farm until eighteen years of age, when he was granted his freedom, and then he went to work by the month, and was so employed until his marriage in March, 1872, to Emma Breeding, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Askins) Breeding, residents of Van Wert county, but natives of Auglaize county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Foster have had born to them seven children, viz: Lizzie, who has been successful as a school-teacher, and is noted for her gentle manners and good management; Daisy, Charley, Homer, Pearly, Eva and Dewitt. Mr. Foster's present farm was entered by his grandfather, Andrew Foster, and came into the hands of our subject through purchase from the other heirs. The original entry consisted of forty acres only, and when the title was vested in our subject, the land was absolutely without any improvement. Mr. Foster now has a splendid brick dwelling, costing $2,000, situated upon a natural eminence; his farm comprises 240 acres in one tract, and a wind-engine supplies his stock with water, and as a whole is one of the richest and best improved farms in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster worship at the Presbyterian church, and he votes the prohibition ticket, while his social standing is with the best citizens of the township. Still a young man, the field of agricultural practice has for him a scope that will embrace many new and interesting features not yet dreamed of by the most advanced cultivators of the soil, although Mr. Foster may well feel proud of the manner in which he has kept abreast of the times. Possessing one of the best farms in the county and a dwelling of which any farmer might justly feel proud, and surrounded by a most aimable and interesting family, there is but little left, however, for Mr. Foster to be desired as far sublunary matters are concerned.

WILLIAM FRECK, ex-county commissioner of Van Wert county, Ohio, ex-soldier and a prominent farmer, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, August 8, 1843, and is a son of John and Anna (Mauer) Freck, natives of Alsace and Lorraine, Germany, where they were married and where they had born to them three children—eight more being added to the family after the arrival of the parents in America. John Freck, who was born July 4, 1804, was a tailor by trade, located in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1838; in 1852 he moved to Paulding county and bought eighty acres of wild land, of which he made a good farm; in 1863 he came to Van Wert county and here died, at the residence of his son, William, in 1878, at the age of seventy-four years. He was a strong Union man, voted for Lincoln, and had four sons in the Civil war, viz: Conrad, who died of spotted fever while in the three-years' service, Fourteenth Ohio infantry; John was shot dead in action at Bentonville, N. C.; Jonas died at Toledo, Ohio, a few week after his enlistment for three years, and William, whose service will be mentioned further on. Mr. and Mrs. Freck were members of the German Lutheran church and were highly respected among their pioneer neighbors of Paulding county.

William Freck was nine years of age when the family moved from Crawford to Paulding county. He was reared to the hard work of clearing and cultivating the farm, doing his part of this severe lobor in conjuction with his brothers—the boys doing all the clearing, for the reason that the father had never been trained to manual labor. The pioneer schools afforded him but a limited education, but he fully availed himself of such as could be acquired. At the age of twenty years he enlisted, February 27, 1864, at Junction, Paulding county, Ohio, in company F, Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. John Crosson, to serve three years or during the war, but owing to peace being achieved, was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, July 27, 1865. He had taken part in the battles of Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro. In the last-named conflict, September 1, 1864, he was simultaneously struck by three rifle-balls—one striking in the left hip, one on the left wrist, and one on the left shoulder. He did not fall, but crowded his way to the rear, a distance of ten rods, and lay down behind a log to escape capture by the enemy. Here he lay from four o'clock in the afternoon until nine at night, growing weaker from loss of blood; he was then taken to the field hospital and placed under a tree until the next day, when, at sundown, his wounds were dressed; he was then taken eighteen miles to Atlanta, in a government wagon, over a very rough road, the trip causing him more suffering than the shooting itself. He lay in the hospital at Atlanta until November, and was then furloughed home for thirty days, but the time was extended, and from May until July, 1865, he was on provost duty at Indianapolis, when, the war having long since been closed, he was honorably discharged, as already stated. After his return from the war Mr. Freck bought, in 1866, eighty acres of land in Tully township, Van Wert county, all of which land was covered with a thick growth of timber, except one small patch.

October 18, 1866, Mr. Freck married Rebecca, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Roop) Mentzer, and went to housekeeping on his little farm; but he was industrious, and a good manager, and added to his possessions until at one time he owned 396 acres, of which he has donated to his children 156 acres. The 240 acres retained by himself are highly cultivated, extensively drained and improved with most substantial farm buildings, and is in reality one of the best farms in the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Freck have been born eight children, viz: Alexander, Emma, Annie, Susan (died at eleven years of age), Charles A. (died at five years), Wilson, William and Harley. Of these, Alexander married Mary Stephenson, has two children, and resides on the home farm; Emma married David E. Bayles, farmer and school-teacher, and has two children. Mr. and Mrs. Freck are Lutheran in religious belief and in politics he is a democrat. He has the confidence of the citizens of the township and county and has served them two years as township supervisor, two terms as township trustee, and two terms as assessor: he has been a member of the school board five years and was one of the county commissioners from 1888 to 1893—six years. He is a member of Capper post, No. 236, G. A. R., of Convoy, of which he was at one time adjutant, and for about six years he was master of the Convoy grange, No. 153. Mr. Freck is one of the most substantial citizens of Van Wert county, has acquired his extensive property by his individual industry and good management, and by his integrity and straightforward walk through life has deservedly won the high position he holds in the esteem of his fellow-men.

WESLEY FRAGER, one of the thriving farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Stark county, April 27, 1842, a son of Lewis and Sidney (Harper) Frager—the latter a native of Chambersburg, Pa. Lewis Frager was a boy when brought to Ohio by his parents. In 1852 he came to Van Wert county to take possession of a tract of land he had previously purchased in Union township, but had never seen, but on arriving found that the tract was all under water, and he consequently sought a new location, which he found in Ridge township, his present home, which then consisted of eighty acres, all in the woods, but to which he shortly added another tract of eighty acres. Here he erected a cabin and moved his family into it before the roof was upon it, and, of course, the rain fell in torrents before the roof could be adjusted to its place;

but Mr. Frager devoted himself earnestly to the task of clearing and eventually developed as fine a farm as there was to be found in the county, although he possessed very limited means. To Lewis Frager and wife were born three children, viz: Wesley, our subject; Melinda, wife of Jerry Ross, a farmer of Ridge township, and Louisa, still at home with her parents. Mr. Frager has served as township trustee; with his wife he is a member of the Presbyterian church and is a highly respected citizen of his township.

Wesley Frager grew to manhood on the home farm, and in October, 1864, enlisted in company G, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and faithfully served until his honorable discharge in February, 1865. He then began farming on his own account, owning, at one time, 140 acres in Ridge township. In July, 1892, Mr. Frager and Harrison Leathers engaged in the grain business at Middlepoint, where they are doing an extensive business. Mr. Frager is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge, No. 665, of Middlepoint, as well as the G. A. R., and in politics is a republican.

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SOLOMON FRIESNER, a prominent business man of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Hocking county, this state, April 18, 1839, a son of Fred and Leo (Fought) Freisner, natives, respectively, of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and the former by vocation a farmer. Solomon, our subject, lived with his parents until he reached his twenty-third year, when he bought ninety-seven and a half acres in Hocking county and went to farming on his own account. In 1865 he sold his property and moved to liberty township, Van Wert county, where for seven years he engaged in the grocery businss. He then resumed farming on his 120 acres of land, which he had here purchased, and followed this vocation until his wife's death, in 1882, when he sold his place, and in the spring of 1883 came to the city of Van Wert, and for two years was employed at labor work on the gas line and on the street cars. He then joined Willard Smith, in the grocery business, on East Main street, but at the end of fourteen months Mr. Friesner withdrew from the firm and was employed as clerk in one or more groceries until 1889, in January of which year he formed a partnership with George Wert in the stove and tinware trade, on South Washington street, where a successful business was carried on until 1891, when Mr. Friesner bought the lot and erected his present building on Main street, to which the firm moved and carried on their trade until August 1, 1893, when Mr. Wirt retired, leaving the business solely in the hands of Mr. Friesner, who carries a stock valued at $2,000. In addition to his regular trade in stoves and tinware, Mr. Friesner makes a specialty of handling old iron, and junk generally, in which trade he has almost a monopoly.

Mr. Friesner was first married January 2, 1862, in Hocking county, Ohio, to Miss Christina Weaver, a native thereof, and to this union were born six children, of whom four survive, viz: Lovine, wife of George Spahr, a carpenter of Van Wert; Ida A., wife of William Ickes; John F., in the employment of his father, and Ora S., a grocery clerk. The mother of this family died September 25, 1883, and Mr. Friesner's second marriage took place in Mendon, Mercer county, Ohio, September 15, 1890, to Mrs. Laura R. Rider, a native of Kentucky, born in 1837, and the widow of William Rider. Mrs. Friesner is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Friesner is a democrat, under the auspices of which party he has served as city assessor two terms, as township

Jno. W. Dull

Mrs. M. H. Dull.

clerk and as constable. Fraternally he is a master Mason. He is the owner of his residence on Sycamore street, and a residence and business block on Market street. Mrs. Freisner owns in her own right sixty acres in Mercer county, Ohio, beside five oil wells, which yield her an income of $150 per month. Mr. Friesner is a thorough business man and sells the Eclipse ranges and heating stoves, as well as his queensware and tinware, at No. 81 East Main street, strictly for cash.

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**JOHN W. DULL**, dealer in slate roofing, galvanized iron, etc., Kepler street, Van Wert city, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, March 6, 1855, a son of Elias and Jane (Walters) Dull. John W. Dull was educated in the common schools of his native township and remained with his parents until his marriage, December 2, 1875, to Miss Mary A. Bay, who was born in Middlepoint, Washington township, Van Wert county, January 27, 1855, a daughter of Rev. W. E. and Elizabeth (Motter) Bay, natives of Auglaize county, Ohio. Her father is of Scotch-Irish descent, and a minister of the United Brethren church, with his residence at Wapakoneta, Auglaize county, Ohio, and her mother is of German extraction.

Immediately after marriage, John W. Dull and his bride settled on a farm of eighty acres in Willshire township, given him by his father, and to this tract he added forty acres; this property he cultivated until 1884, when he began handling slate roofing and galvanized iron work, operating throughout Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert counties, and this business, in connection with the manufacture of brick in his own township, he continued until 1890, when he moved to Van Wert, since when he has devoted his entire attention to his present business, the details of which will be mentioned further on. He employs from six to twenty men at labor, while he himself does all the contracting. He has roofed the Presbyterian church, the water works, county jail and electric light plant in Van Wert, also C., J. & M. railroad shops; the carbon works at Fremont, Ohio; the Knoxville church; the opera house at Saint Mary's, Ohio, and the plow works at Bremen, Ohio; also the C., J. & M. station at Van Wert, and numberless residences and barns, reaching about 100 per season. Mr. Dull is also sole agent for the celebrated Climax brand of wool felt roofing; the Excelsior fire-proof slate paint, for new and old shingles and felt roofs; the celebrated Ebonite varnish for tin and metal roofs, crestings, iron bridges, tanks, boilers and fences; he also deals in and applies all colors of roofing slate.

To the union of John W. and Mary A. Dull, have been born seven children, in the following order: Armand R., a graduate of Van Wert Business college, and now an assistant to his father; Leola V., deceased; Ione, deceased; Neonto, Ethel, Zoe, Erma L., and John S., Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Dull are members of the Presbyterian church; politically he is a republican, and has served as trustee of Willshire township; fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, and a member of the canton and encampment, and his wife is a member of Rebekah lodge. Mrs. Dull was educated in Westfield (Ills.) college, and also in Freeport academy, Canada. She began teaching in Auglaize county, Ohio, and held her position eleven terms, and likewise taught one term in Willshire township, Van Wert county. After withdrawing from the profession for seventeen years, she passed a re-examination and was granted a five-year license. She is a lady of marked individuality and intelligence, and is strongly in favor of woman's rights.

JOSEPH B. FRONFIELD, merchant, ex-soldier and farmer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 30, 1839, a son of Jacob and Barbara (Wornewag) Fronfield, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, was a blacksmith, and was married in his native state to Miss Wornewag, who was a native of Germany and was but seventeen years of age when she came to America. In 1841, Jacob Fronfield emigrated from Pennsylvania and purchased a home in the woods of Union township, Mercer county, Ohio, on which he lived until his death in December, 1865, his wife having preceded him to the grave in September, 1862. The children born to Jacob and Barbara Fronfield numbered seven and were named as follows: William, of Van Wert; George and John, deceased; Mary, of Mercer county; Jacob and Barbara, both deceased, and Joseph B., our subject. In politics the father of this family was a republican, and with his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was successful in life, and left a farm of eighty acres in fine condition.

Joseph B. Fronfield was but eighteen months of age when brought by his parents to Mercer county, Ohio, and in the woods of Union township he grew to manhood and worked for his father until his majority, when he married, cleared up his own farm of ninety-five acres, and on it made his home until 1866, when he traded for another farm of eighty acres, on which he resided two years; he then traded for 112 acres, which he retained and cultivated for five years, and then sold and bought a farm of 160 acres in Ridge township, Van Wert county, which he still owns, and which he cultivated until 1889, and on which he lived with the exception of intervals, when he was engaged in business in Van Wert, in which city he took up his permanent residence in the year last named. In 1886 he began the undertaking business in partnership with B. L. Vore, from which partnership he withdrew at the end of eighteen months, and a year later, in company with M. Gackenheimer, started business in the same line on South Washington street, which was profitably pursued until 1894, when Mr. Fronfield became the sole proprietor, and is still doing a general undertaking and picture-frame business. He is a practical embalmer, owns a fine hearse, and handles a well assorted line of caskets, etc.

The marriage of Mr. Fronfield took place April 23, 1861, in Mercer county, Ohio, to Miss Martha Yocum, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in October, 1840, a daughter of John E. and Betsey (Shelly) Yocum, and to this union three children have been born, viz: Morris M. and Mary Ann, deceased, and Joseph R., a farmer.

Mr. Fronfield has his military experience, having enlisted in February, 1864, in company C, Thirty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, under Captain Barber, for the term of three years or during the war, but was honorably discharged in February, 1865, at Camp Dennison, on account of disability. His active battles were those at Missionary Ridge, Snake Creek Gap, Lookout Mountain, Big Shanty, Peach Tree Creek, and Atlanta, in all of which he nobly and faithfully acted his part. Mr. and Mrs. Fronfield are Presbyterians in their religious belief, and beside the 160-acre farm in Ridge township, they own their fine residence, corner of Cherry and Crawford streets, Van Wert.

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HARVEY ADAMS, of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of New England descent on his paternal side and of Pennsylvania-German on his maternal side. Emanuel Adams, his father, was a son of Absalom Adams, who, after spending years of his life at sea, became a farmer of Ross county, Ohio, and was among the pioneers of the state. He was the father of the following children: Emanuel, Robert, William, Betsey, Dorcas and Sallie, and, making a comfortable competence as a farmer, died a highly respected citizen. Emanuel Adams, the father of our subject, was born April 3, 1811, and was married in Ross county, Ohio, to Miss Lydia Huffman, who was born May 13, 1813, a daughter of John Huffman, a pioneer farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams were born thirteen children, of whom eleven lived to maturity, viz.: Martha, William, Henrietta, Matilda, Arthlinda and Cynthia (twins), Harvey, Mary, James, Stewart and Jane, all having been born in Ross county except the last two, Stewart and Jane, who were born in Auglaize county, whither Mr. Adams had moved and where he resided until 1886, when he moved to Wood county, where he is now living on his farm at the venerable age of eighty-four years. In politics he is a stanch democrat.

Harvey Adams, whose name opens this biographical notice, was born in Ross county, Ohio, March 30, 1845, and was early taken to Auglaize county, where he was reared on a farm. At a little over sixteen years of age he was enrolled in company E, Sixty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, veteranized in the same regiment, and was honorably discharged August 15, 1865, having served four years, less eleven days. The Sixty-seventh Ohio volunteers were organized at Columbus in the winter of 1861-2, with 1,025 men, under Col. Alvin C. Voris; started for western Virginia January 19, 1862, and then served until June; was then ordered to join McClelland's forces on the James river; remained with the army of the Potomac until December, and was then transferred to North Carolina, with only 300 men left for duty; served in South Carolina in 1863; the majority re-enlisted in January, 1864, were furloughed, and returned to duty in March; through the remainder of 1864 and in the early part of 1865 they served under Grant in Virginia, were under fire 200 times and had half their rank and file disabled or killed in action; they were present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court-house, April 9, 1865, and then went on garrison duty at Tide Water, Va., until December, 1865; were mustered out at City Point, Va., December 7, 1865, and the heroes returned to their homes. Mr. Adams took part in every battle in which his regiment was engaged, going through the Georgia campaign with Sherman, and being everywhere except in the battle of Winchester, when he was on picket, but under fire. Mr. Adams escaped the hospital, and at one time, when sick, stood by his regiment and company—the highest rank he ever attained being that of corporal, which was the only title he would accept.

The marriage of Mr. Adams took place in Auglaize county, October 3, 1867, to Miss Catherine Bowersock, who was born in Allen county, October 12, 1849, a daughter of James and Isabel (Sunderland) Bowersock. The father, James Bowersock, was a native of Pennsylvania, came to Allen county, Ohio, with his father when a boy, and was reared a farmer. His father was of German birth and mother of Irish stock. To himself and wife were born four children, viz: Catherine, Lorenzo, Nancy and John. Some time after marriage he settled in Auglaize county and cleared up a farm of 100 acres and made a good farm. At about the first call to arms he enlisted, in 1861, in the three months' service, and at the expiration of his term enlisted in company E, Sixty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, in December, 1861, reached the rank of orderly sergeant, and was killed at the battle of Fort Wagner, July 18, 1863, at the age of thirty-six years. His widow then bought a farm of forty acres in Allen county, where she reared her children in respectability, and where she died in the faith of the Methodist church, beloved by all for her many womanly virtues. Valentine Bowersock, a brother of James, was also a soldier in an Ohio regiment.

After marriage Mr. Adams remained on a farm in Auglaize county until 1879, when he bought thirty acres of land in the woods of Jackson township, Van Wert county, which by diligence and hard labor he soon cleared up, made into an excellent home and increased in size, and has here found his home ever since. To this happy union with Catherine Bowersock have been born the following children: Josephine, born January 15, 1869; Lydia B., December 10, 1872; Nancy J., October 12, 1877; Bertha, November 18, 1879; John W., January 7, 1881; Bessie, February 9, 1883; Glenn, November 9, 1885, and Hazel, August 19, 1890—of whom the three first were born in Auglaize county and the others in Van Wert county.

In politics Mr. Adams is a republican, but has never been an office seeker. He has been an ordained minister of the Christian Union church since October 24, 1886, and for a number of years has preached most acceptably to the congregations at Bethlehem and Wetzel, as well as other places—his wife being an earnest worker in the same religious organization and being in all other respects a most worthy helpmate and a valuable aid in rearing their respectable family of children. Mr. Adams was a brave soldier, and a true patriot, serving his country when he should have been at school; he is a dilligent student at present, however, and has been since his return from the battle field; is a useful citizen, and is truly a christian gentleman.

B. F. FRONFIELD, a prominent business man of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in this county in November, 1847, a son of William Fronfield, and this county and city have been his home up to the present time.

B. F. Fronfield was reared in Jennings township until seventeen years of age, when he left his parents and enlisted, February 20, 1865, in company D, One Hundred and Ninety-third Ohio volunteer infantry, was assigned to the Second division of the army of the Potomac, and served under Capt. Alexander Gable until August, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Winchester, Va. He then came to the city of Van Wert, worked as a laborer in the old Warren & Wells stave factory for four years, then in the Eagle works for a year, and then, in 1880, in company with J. H. Fronfield, opened a meat market on South Washington street, which they carried on for nine years. Our subject then engaged in the grocery trade in partnership with C. H. Brown for eighteen months; then was sole proprietor for a short time, when William Young bought a half interest, and the two did business together for sixteen months, when Mr. Fronfield again became sole proprietor until January 15, 1894, when he closed out and retired; since then he has been assisting the city civil engineer on street improvements.

Mr. Fronfield was married in York township, Van Wert county, January 7, 1866, to Miss Maggie A. Hammond, a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and daughter of John and Catherine Hammond, and this union had been blessed by the birth of three children, viz: Ollie I., wife of Dr. William Kirkpatrick, of Lincoln, Ill.; Edith A., still at home, and an infant deceased. In politics Mr. Fronfield is a republican, and in 1892 filled a seat in the common council for six months, supplying a vacancy, and in 1894 was elected a member of that body for two years. He is a Freemason, a member of the G. A. R., and of the National Union, and is a most agreeable and highly respected gentleman. He owns a tract of twenty acres adjoining Van Wert and considerable property in town, and has been the maker of his own fortune.

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THOMAS A. ALBAN, resident of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Wales, born in October, 1828, the son of Thomas and Ann (Morgan) Alban. The parents came to America, with their five sons, in 1835. The father made a permanent settlement in Jackson county, Ohio, purchasing 160 acres of land, which he cleared and sold, and then purchased 320 acres which are now in the same county, on which he resided until the time of his death in 1863—his widow surviving until 1889. In addition to the five sons born in Wales, four daughters were born in this country, named: Ann, the wife of David Davis, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Rev. Rowland H. Evans, of Wisconsin; Mary, wife of David Richards, of Gallia county, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of Edward Edwards, of Jackson county, Ohio. Of the sons, David located in Marietta, Ohio, where he rose to eminence as a lawyer, served as prosecuting attorney of Washington county for a number of years, and died about 1882. John is a farmer of Jackson county, Ohio, and Evan resides on and owns one-half of the old homestead in the same county.

Thomas A. Alban, our subject, spent his life on the homestead, and when a boy made many trips to Centerville, with grain, and on returning from the market would come home with his wagon laden with merchandise for the country merchants; this proved to be a sorce of considerable revenue, every dollar of which he turned over to his father. His sincere belief in the old proverb "honesty is the best policy," has brought to him peace, prosperity and a guileless conscience. In 1849 he married Ann Jones, daughter of Thomas T. Jones, of Jackson, Ohio, and five children were born to this union, viz: Mary, wife of Hugh Evans, a farmer of York township; Ann, married to William W. Evans, of Jennings township; Elizabeth, wife of William B. Jones, of Van Wert city; Margaret, wife of Abram Jones; David, living with his father, and Thomas, a twin of Margaret, who died at the age of three years. The mother of these children died in 1862, and Mr. Alban was next married to Rachel Evans. In the fall of 1865 Mr. Alban came to his present home, making many improvements and clearing up most of the land, and has seen the county taken from almost a swamp, and converted into productive fields; his original purchase consisted of nearly 200 acres, and he has devoted much of his time to breeding fine short-horn cattle, deserving and taking many premiuns from the state fairs. Mr. Alban originally was a whig—then a republican, and for the last ten years he has been identified with the prohibition party, and served two terms as infirmary director, from 1869 to 1875. He and wife are members of the Welsh Presbyterian church, and are highly respected throughout the community for their steady habits and strict integrity. Mr. Alban avers that with his own hands he has cleared at least 200 acres of land.

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ELIJAH ARNOLD, farmer and stock-raiser of Jennings township, Van Wert county, is a son of John and Rachael (Gilbert) Arnold, and was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in the year 1835. John Arnold was a pioneer of Van Wert county, moving to the same in October, 1836, and locating on what is now known as the Thomas farm in Jennings township, where he reared his family. In 1861, he removed to Delphos, which was his home for some years; he afterwards lived for a limited period in the city of Van Wert, moving thence to Ridge township, where he died on the third day of March, 1869, at the age of seventy-three years; his wife died about the year 1845. John and Rachael Arnold had a family of ten children, as follows: Elizabeth, married Claude Griffin; Priscilla, widow of Mr. Keith; Levi, died in early childhood; Mary, wife of Joseph Tomlinson; John, resides in Iowa; Hanna, deceased wife of Alexander Stowther; Samuel; Elijah, and Elias, twins, the latter dying at the age of twenty-two; and Charley, whose death occurred when quite young. By a subsequent marriage, with Mary Ross, Mr. Arnold had one child, a son, Dallas.

Elijah Arnold grew to manhood on the farm, attending in the meantime the district schools, and in the fall of 1863 he enlisted in company G, Second Ohio heavy artillery, with which he served until the close of the war. In March, 1869, he married Miss E. C. Mathis, daughter of Ephriam and Caroline Mathis, a union blessed with the birth of the following children: Frank, deceased; Cora, a popular teacher and accomplished musician; Elva, and Ethel. Mr. Arnold came into possession of his present beautiful home in Jennings township by inheritance. He has made many improvements upon his farm, which contains 160 acres of excellent land, and his residence and out-buildings rank with the best structures of the kind in the community. He is a successful farmer and progressive citizen, active in all that pertains to the well being of the community, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large circle of neighbors and friends. He was elected to the office of township treasurer in 1881, and has held the position continuously since, his period of service being longer than that of any of his predecessors. Mr. Arnold cast his first vote for the first republican candidate for president, and has been an earnest supporter of the republican party ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and daughter are members of the Methodist church; and he contributes liberally of his means to the promulgation of the doctrines of the same.

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JOHN S. BAXTER, a well known citizen of York township, Van Wert county, born in Harrison county, Ohio, June 24, 1844, a son of Thomas and Nancy (Suddeth) Baxter, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Henrietta county, Va. Thomas Baxter was but five years of age when brought to Harrison county, Ohio, by his father, Elias Baxter, and was reared a farmer, To the marriage of Thomas and Nancy Baxter were born eleven children, of whom some were born in Harrison and some in Van Wert county, the parents having taken up their residence in the latter county October 8, 1848. The eleven children alluded to were named, in order of birth, as follows; Elias, of Convoy, Van Wert county; Robert E., retired farmer, also of Convoy; John S., our subject; William L., farmer, near Convoy; Thomas U., of Paulding county; James K., residing in the vicinity of Convoy; Alonzo S., a farmer of Pleasant township; Rebecca, wife of Jacob Ackom; Sarah, married to John Wilkins; Nancy Jane, who died September 29, 1865, at the age of twelve years, and Janette, wife of Nathaniel Kraut, of Denver, Colo. Of the boys, Elias, served in the army of the Union under the call for three-months volunteers to crush the Rebellion. Robert and John S., enlisted together in July, 1862, in company A, Fifty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, and followed the fortunes of their regiment until the following mishaps took place: July 12, 1864, Robert was taken prisoner at the battle of Peach Tree Creek, and was held prisoner until May, 1865. John S., subject of this sketch, sustained a slight wound in the head at Resaca in May, 1864; had a sun stroke at Kenesaw Mountain in June, 1864, and while in hospital was taken with erysipelas, but recovered sufficiently to rejoin his regiment at Chattanooga; then he went to the siege of Atlanta, followed Sherman to the sea and through the Carolinas to the grand review at Washington, D. C., was mustered out at that city, June 3, 1865.

After and honorable discharge at Camp Chase June 18, 1865, at the close of the war, our subject returned to his father's farm, where he employed himself diligently until November 15, 1866, when he married Miss Ellen Stewart, daughter of Ebson and Elizabeth (Capper) Stewart. The children born to this marriage were Irvin S., who married Elizabeth Richards, and became father of two children, Earl and Russell; Arthur, who wedded Maggie May Brown; Bertha, the wife of L. M. Zeigler and the mother of one child, Howard; Oren M., married to Bertha Dorman, and the father of one child, Freida; Hattie May, Roscoe W., Chauncy R. and Mable L. The mother of Mrs. Baxter died in September, 1868, and her father, who served nine months in the war of the Rebellion, died in 1887. Elias Suddeth, the maternal grandfather of our subject, lived to reach the extraordinary age of 114 years, and at the time of his death was in the possession of all his faculties; Thomas Baxter, father of our subject, was born July 12, 1813, and died December 15, 1894, and his wife, who was born in 1815, joined him December 19, 1894, after a married life of over sixty years. In politics our subject is a stanch republican and in their church relations both he and wife are Methodists, Mr. Baxter having been one of the charter members of the Whitfield society. The Baxter family in their social relations, are universally respected throughout the township of York, and are well deserving of the esteem in which they are held.

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WILLIAM J. BEBB, ex-soldier and farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Montgomeryshire, Wales, was born October 4, 1844, and is a son of John and Sarah (Jones) Bebb, the last-named now deceased. John Bebb came to America shortly after his second marriage, bringing with him his bride, who bore the maiden name of Mary Jones, and also William J., their only son (our subject), and his half-sister—Sephorah. John Bebb first located in Jennings township, Van Wert county, but now makes his home with his son, William J., our subject. Mrs. Mary (Jones) Bebb died about two years after landing in America, and the half-sister, Sephorah, kept house for our subject until the latter's marriage, in 1878, to Elizabeth Goodwin, of Johnstown, Pa., whose acquaintance he had made in Wales. Until 1860 our subject worked by the day in his neighborhood, and in 1860 he went to Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, where he worked at farm labor until the fall of 1862, when he enlisted in company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, and served until honorably discharged in July, 1865. He was twice wounded; first, at Mossy Creek, in east Tennessee, and, secondly, at Resaca, Ga., and now receives a pension, which he justly deserves. After the war he located near Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, but sold his farm in April, 1882, and moved to Van Wert county and purchased his present farm of 120 acres in York township, on which he has made all the improvements it now contains. There have been born to his marriage four children, viz.: William John, Goodwin Louis, David Rowland and James

Orlando. The mother of this family was called away December 1, 1895. In politics Mr. Bebb is a republican, and while a resident of Allen county served two terms as township trustee. He and wife are strict members of the Welch Calvinistic church, and their daily deportment gives evidence of the sincerity of their belief. Mr. Bebb is industrious and economical, and has earned his property through his own unaided efforts. He is liberal in his characteristics, and contributes freely to the support of his church. As an enterprising citizen he is behind no one in his township, and he possesses the friendship and respect of the entire community.

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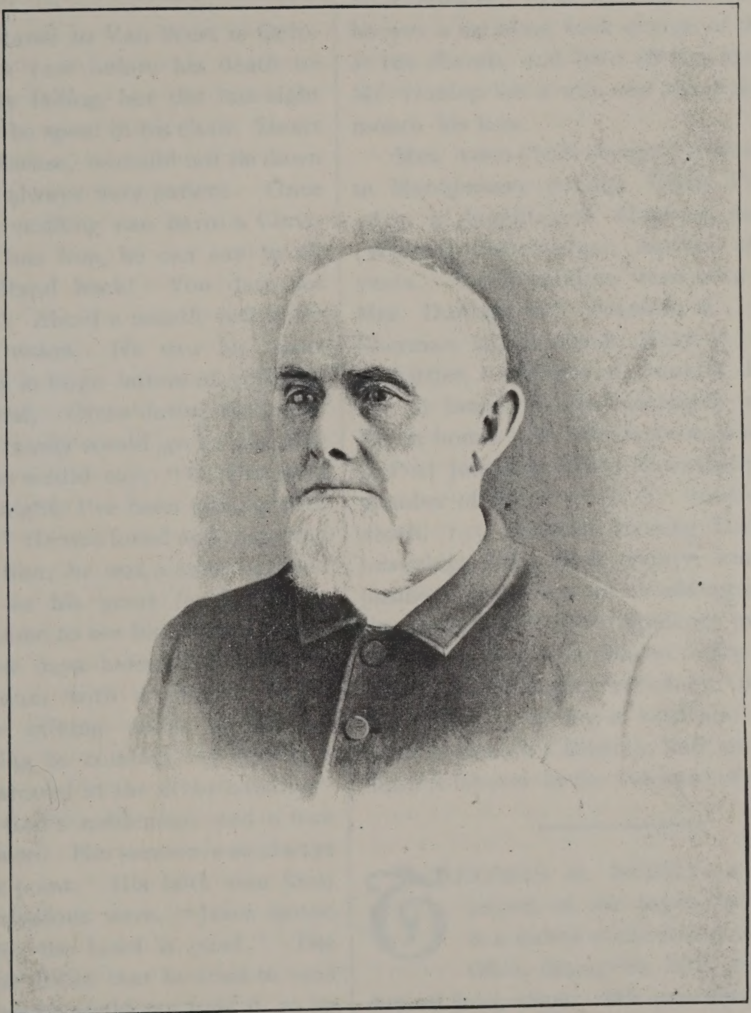
REV. WILLIAM DUNLAP, deceased, was born in Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, July 13, 1831, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (Blakely) Dunlap, the former a native of Dublin, Ireland, born January 29, 1787, and came to Philadelphia, Pa., in 1816, lived there three years, and then settled in Shelby county, Ohio. His parents moved to a farm when he was quite young, but afterward moved back to Sidney, where William went to school when a child, and also finished his education there in early boyhood, as he was always industrious as a student. Although his father was at one time in good circumstances, by some mistake made in taking a contract on the canal at Sidney, he failed in business and lost all his property. When William, however, was sixteen years old, he bought two acres of land near Sidney and built a house on it for his parents, where they lived until the death of his father. Then his mother lived with his sister Mary until after his marriage, November 16, 1854, to Anna Sollenberger. He was then twenty-two years old. After his marriage he moved on a farm one-half mile from Sidney, where he lived six months. Then he moved on a farm two miles from Port Jefferson, known as the Cox farm, where he farmed in summer and taught school in winter. In the latter vocation his experience extended through seventeen years, having begun when nineteen years old. After he moved here his mother lived with him until her death, in 1864. Soon after her death he moved to Port Jefferson and purchased a dry goods store in partnership with S. T. Thirkield, but his health failed and he sold out his interest in this store and bought a steam grist-mill in 1867; he sold this in 1871 and built a water-mill in partnership with William Manning, which he kept until he entered the ministry in 1873.

William Dunlap was converted when fourteen years old, but did not join the church at that time, and dated his conversion from 1870. After the loss of a little boy, Sherman, Mr. Dunlap was converted by a lady, Mrs. Doran, giving the illustration of a shepherd taking a little lamb and putting it in another field, that he might entice the flock into that field. Thus applying it to himself, he was converted in the meeting held by Rev. I. Smith and joined the church at Port Jefferson. He was licensed as a local preacher immediately afterward by Rev. Joseph Fergueson; was always active in church work, being a class leader and Sabbath-school teacher, and in 1872 was sent as a supply to Fort Recovery. He entered the ministry in 1873, at the conference held at Van Wert. His appointments were Versailles, Dover, Mount Victory, Marseilles, Bettsville, Middlepoint, Elida, McComb, Rockford and Ohio City. He was one year at Rockford and one at Ohio City; three years at Marseilles and two years at each of the other places. While at Mount Victory he had a glorious revival, and as a result a church was built. He also had a large revival at Elida, and many were converted during his ministry, although his greatest power



REV. WILLIAM DUNLAP,

DECEASED.

lay in his ability to strengthen the members and build up the church. He always left a charge in a more spiritual condition than he found it; he was a good Bible teacher, studied the Scriptures much, and loved to explain them.

Rev. Dunlap came to Van Wert in October, 1891. For a year before his death he had been gradually failing, but the last eight months of his life he spent in his chair. Heart failure being his disease, he could not lie down often, but he was always very patient. Once he said: "Why, nothing can harm a Christian; when God has him, he can say to all other powers, 'Stand back! You dare not touch my child.'" About a month before his death he had a vision. He saw his name written in Heaven in large letters of gold; he said it was beautiful. Often during the night, when one of the family would go to see how he was resting, he would say, "O, I've been having a blessed night; I've been talking with Jesus; I'm happy." He was loved and respected by all who knew him; he was a sweet-spirited man, and even in his great feebleness he greeted all who came to see him with a cheerful smile. A few days before his death he said to Dr. Avann, with a playful smile, "When you are talking about me at my funeral, and trying to comfort my family, I shall be stirring around in the other country." He was one of God's noblemen, and a true minister of His word. His sermon was always clear and to the point. His faith was firm, and his last expressions were, "Jesus saves; O, I'm so happy; the Lord is good." The last chapter in the Bible that he tried to read was Romas, 5; but he could not read it, so he handed it to his son-in-law, Mr. Littler, who read it for him. His funeral was conducted by many ot his ministerial brethren, at 10:30 A. M., February 2, 1895, in the First Methodist Episcopal church; Dr. Avann offering prayer at the home. The following-named brethren were present: J. F. Mounts, R. Rauch, W. R. Shultz, J. H. Bethards, S. Baumgardner, M. Gascoigne, J. F. Newcomb, W. H. Leatherman, W. J. Hagerman, J. M. Avann and J. H. Fitzwater. The Masonic order, of which he was a member, took charge of the remains at the church, and held service at the grave. Mr. Dunlap left a wife and three daughters to mourn his loss.

Mrs. Anna (Sollenberger) Dunlap was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, February 2, 1833, a daughter of Abraham and Barbara (Winger) Sollenberger, natives of Pennsylvania. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap, viz: Franklin A., Illyria and Sherman, all deceased; Mary B., wife of F. A. Littler, a druggist of Dunkirk, Ind.; Laura E., at home; Eddie, deceased, and Maggie E., at home. Mr. Dunlap was made a Mason in Port Jefferson, Ohio; he was also an honored member of the I. O. O. F. He owned, at his death, 135 acres of farming land in Ridge township, Van Wert county, and also two business properties on Washington street, in the city, as well as his residence property. In politics he was a republican. The marriage of Mr. Dunlap took place in Sidney, Ohio, November 16, 1854; he was a kind and loving husband, a sincere Christian, and an ardent and faithful laborer in the vineyard of the Master.

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THOMAS M. BERRY, a well known citizen of the township of Jennings, is a native of the county of Van Wert, Ohio, dating his birth from the 29th day of July, 1859. His grandfather, Malachi Berry, who married Polly Taylor, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and an early settler of the county of Van Wert, moving to the same a number of years ago, and bringing with him the following-named children: Noah, who grew to manhood, and died on the home farm; Barbara, deceased wife of Michael Weaver; John, a soldier in the late war, died from exposure in service; Mary, who has achieved a wide-spread reputation as a weaver of handsome coverlets, by which she has accumulated a comfortable fortune and who makes her home with the subject of this sketch; Malachi, who resides in Jennings township; Martha, who died in childhood; Anna, deceased, was twice married, her first husband being Joel Jenkins, the second Henry K. Morris; Joseph; Sally, deceased wife of Joseph R. Miller; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Elisha Marvin—she and husband were both mutes; Lydia, deceased wife of Jesse Coil; Susanna, deceased wife of Frederick Reed, and Elijah who died in the army, in 1861, at the age of nineteen. Malachai Berry, Sr., purchased quite an amount of land on coming to Van Wert county, and became a prosperous man. He was a zealous church member and died in November, 1861, honored and respected by all who knew him; his wife survived him until 1887, dying August 27 of that year, at the advanced age of eighty-nine.

Joseph Berry, father of Thomas M., was born in Champaign county, Ohio, accompanied his parents to Van Wert county, and later moved to Iowa. His first wife was Mary Jane Fitzpatrick, who died in Iowa, leaving two sons, Thomas M. and Malachi, the latter residing in Chattanooga, Tenn.; he wedded May Updegrove, daughter of Capt. J. R. Updegrove, and has two children. Joseph Berry's second wife was Clarissa Richards, who resides at this time in the town of Cavett, Van Wert county, Ohio.

Thomas M. Berry, the immediate subject of this biography, was reared on a farm and had the ordinary educational advantages, though he has ever a student and lover of books. His early life was beset with considerable hardships, as he was obliged to bear his part in supporting the family, his father not being at all a prosperous man—he and wife being mutes. Much devolved upon young Thomas, and he was obliged to forego many of the privileges, such as those more fortunately situated are permitted to enjoy. October 16, 1880, when twenty-one years of age, he was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Wolford, daughter of Rev. George and Catherine Wolford, of Allen county. To this marriage the following children have been born: Ada May, Beatrice, Malachi, Minnie, Norma, John, Anna, Eunice, Nellie and Myra. Mr. Berry owns a good farm, well underdrained, and is one of the progressive citizens of his township. He is now serving his third term as township clerk, and has discharged the duties of the position very efficiently. He is a member of the K. of P. order, in which he has passed all the chairs of the subordinate lodge; he also belongs to Jennings grange, Patrons of Husbandry. Mr. Berry and wife are members of the Methodist church, and maintain a very high position in the esteem of their neighbors.

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**RICHARD BREES**, a prosperous farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, born October 16, 1841, a son of William and Catherine (Griffith) Brees. He came to America with his grandfather, Andrew, and his uncle, John, accompanied by his sister, Jane, who had married Evan L. Jones, now deceased. Andrew Brees, the grandfather, located in York township, purchasing eighty acres of land, all in the wilderness; he had, however, come to America at the solicitation of George Bebb, with the intention of settling in east Tennessee, where he had purchased 400 acres, without ever having seen the land. Mr. Brees remained for two years with his grandfather and then worked here and there at whatever his hands could find to do, until he had attained twenty years of age, when he enlisted in company H, Fifth Ohio volunteer cavalry, October 14, 1861, and served with his regiment throughout the war, until honorably discharged, November 29, 1864, doing continual service, with the exception of one brief spell of illness. On his returning to Ohio he was married, in 1869, to Mary Evans, daughter of Rowland and Jane Evans, the marriage resulting in the birth of the following children: William, who married Clara Cox, and became the father of one daughter; Selma J.; two children who died in infancy, Rowland and Jane; John, Rowland, Robert, Richard and Isaac Newton. In 1865 Mr. Brees bought his present farm of eighty acres, at that time wholly unimproved, but which is now adorned with splendid buildings; he also owns eighty acres where his son William now resides. This property Mr. Brees has gained through his own individual exertions, having received in no way aid from any outside source. Mrs. Brees is a consistent member of the Calvinistic church; in politics Mr. Brees is a stanch republican and has served his citizens as school director, constable and supervisor. He is recognized as an industrious. thrifty and useful citizen.

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ALEXANDER WRIGHT BROWN, a prosperous farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Pennsylvania, Lawrence county, December 26, 1826, a son of Robert and Margaret (Wright) Brown, both natives of the Keystone state; maternally he is of Scotch-Irish descent. The paternal grandfather was Abraham Brown. Robert Brown came to Van Wert county in the spring of 1844. He had leased a tract of land in York township before coming, resided on it until about 1848, and then bought a tract near Delphos, but passed his later years at the residence of his son, our subject, his first wife having died in 1845, and having married for his second wife the widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones. To Margaret and Robert Brown were born the following children: Edith, widow of John Connor; David C., who died at the age of sixty-two years; Sarah Jane, deceased wife of Peter Book; Susannah, who died in childhood; Alexander W., our subject; Elizabeth, wife of Peter Moore; Mary Celina, who died after attaining womanhood; Abraham B., now a resident of South Dakota, and a soldier of the late war, who was wounded at Shiloh and also in the fight at Kenesaw Mountain, while serving in company A, Forty-sixth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry; William John is a resident of Nebraska; James C.; and Nancy has been twice married, her first husband having been Jacob Wooley, and her second husband Gabriel Coil; Samuel, a resident of Liberty township, Van Wert county, was a soldier in the forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was slightly wounded; James served in the Twelfth Indiana cavalry.

Alexander W. Brown left his father's house at the age of twenty years and engaged with William Heath for six months at fifty dollars for the term, half of which was claimed by his father. In October, 1849, he wedded Margaret Bevington, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Heath) Bevington, and this union has been blessed by the birth of nine children, as follows: Henry, who died in childhood; Albina, wife of Elijah A. Tomlinson; Elizabeth, married to W. H. Whitten; Nancy, deceased wife of M. C. Tomlinson; Charles Wesley, of Mercer county; Emma, wife of W. L. Bolton; Rebecca Jane, now Mrs. J. F. Price; William Edgar and Walter A., at home. The mother of these children died December 17, 1894.

Mr. Brown made his first purchase of land in 1847, with but $10 in cash, and now owns a finely improved farm of 200 acres, on which he makes his home, and also owns eighty acres elsewhere. Mr. Brown is highly popular in his county, and has held nearly every office of his township within the gift of its citizens, such as township trustee, town clerk, assessor and school director; he is a stanch supporter of the Methodist church, having been identified with that denomination since 1858. In politics he is a republican, and no man in the county holds a higher position in social circles than he.

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EDWARD CARMEAN, an ex-soldier of the Civil war and now a prosperous merchant of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Allen county, September 25, 1844, a son of William and Margaret (Miller) Carmean, of whom an extended notice is made elsewhere in this volume, and in which will be found the genealogy of our subject. It will there be found that William, the father, was drowned accidentally in an attempt to cross the Big Auglaize river when our subject was but two months old, and that the infant was thus left to the care of its bereaved mother at a very tender age. She was, however, equal to the task imposed on her, as is proved by the subsequent career of her son.

Edward Carmean was educated in the pioneer school of his childhood, but was an apt scholar. At the age of about nineteen years he enlisted at Lima, Allen county, Ohio, December 16, 1863, and was enrolled in January, 1864, in company B, Eighty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. W. Titus, to serve three years or during the war, but his services lasted only until his honorable discharge, at Louisville, Ky., in July, 1865, on account of the close of hostilities. He fought at Resacca, Spring Station, Rome Cross Roads, and Kingston. Mr. Carmean, however, had an attack of sickness during his service and was confined in hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn., and at Rome, Ga., was afterward detailed to the hospital department, being disabled, and later granted a furlough home for thirty days in November, 1864, at the expiration of which he reported for duty, but, his regiment being before Richmond, Va., and communications cut off, he was assigned to the militia corps, with which he served until ordered back to Louisville, Ky., to be mustered out and honorably discharged.

On his return home Mr. Carmean engaged in farming, and November 5, 1865, was married, in Allen county, Ohio, to Miss Mary M. Poling, who was born May 4, 1848. He then lived in Allen county until March 9, 1867, when he came to Van Wert county and settled in the woods of Jackson township, when its voting population numbered but thirteen. Part of his tract he cleared up and sold, and then bought eighty acres additional in the same section, and also partly cleared this tract, on which he made one of the most pleasant homes in that township. He had, however, had much of his cleaning and improvement done with the help of others, having been badly disabled when a soldier. In 1891 he traded his farm for a general store in Wetsel, of which he has made an enviable success, being a man of naturally good business abilities.

To the happy marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Carmean have been born seven children, viz: Amanda C., John W., George W., Elizabeth, Freda V., Lydia O., and Ollie. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Carmean are both members of the United Brethren church and are strong adherents of the faith. In politics he is a republican, and his first vote was cast for the reelection of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States. Mr. Carmean holds an excellent position in the social circles of Jackson township, and is recognized as an upright and straightforward merchant and gentleman in every respect. He has reared a respectable family, and during a residence of four years in Paulding county gave his children every facility for a first-class education.

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DR. EZRA BURNETT, one of the more prominent of the rising young physicians of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, with his office and residence at Wetsel, was born in Jennings township, in the same county, January 29, 1868, and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Bush) Burnett, of English descent and natives of Virginia.

Henry Burnett, grandfather of our subject, came from Virginia to Ohio, and settled in Fayette county on a farm, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying at the advanced age of eighty years, a highly respected citizen. His children were named Matthew, Jesse, Henry (killed in the Civil war), Daniel, Elizabeth and Harriet. His son Daniel, the father of our subject, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in 1824, and was married in the same county. About 1845, he came to Van Wert county and first located in Jennings township, then a wilderness, with but three houses between his place and Spencerville, Allen county. His brother, Robert, came about the same time, and together they entered 240 acres of land, all covered with a dense forest. Of this tract Daniel owned 105 acres, on which he built a log cabin, and by slow degrees and hard work succeeded in clearing up a good farm, a hewn-log house supplementing the round-log cabin, and later a neat frame dwelling took the place of the hewn-log structure. Daniel had born to him twelve children, named as follows, and all still living: Marshall, Huldah, James, Daniel, Jesse, Allen, Matthew, Robert, Ezra, Alice, Frank and Clinton. The father of this family was a republican, and held the office of township trustee; he was well known for his integrity, and died, an honored pioneer, September 24, 1895.

Dr. Ezra Burnett was primarily educated in the common school of his district and then attended the western Ohio Normal school at Middlepoint; he next taught public school for about four years, and worked out by the day to obtain money to pay his college expenses; then began his professional studies at the Columbus Medical college and finished at the Ohio Medical university, from which he graduated in 1893. He at once commenced the practice of his profession at Wetsel, where his skill was recognized and appreciated, and he soon became the favorite practitioner of the town and surrounding country. He is still a devoted student, gaining knowledge every day from his clinical practice and availing himself of the experience of older professional men through a well-stocked library of medical works by the most approved authors, as well as by close attention to the best medical periodical literature of the day.

The marriage of the doctor took place August 3, 1892, with Miss Euthema Sill, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Slentz) Sill, the wedding taking place in York township, at the home of Euthema, and to this happy union one child has been born—Edith R. Not only has the doctor attained a very high position in his chosen profession, but in his social relations he mingles with and is highly respected by the best people of his township and county.

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HENRY CLAPPER, a well known farmer of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Marion township, Allen county, November 24, 1842. His grandfather, also named Henry, was a native of Pennsylvania, served in the war of 1812, and married Sarah E. Buzzard, a native of the same state, by which union were born the following children: Jacob, Andrew, Jeremiah, Emanuel, Mary, Nancy, Hannah and Susan. Henry, the grandfather, early came to Ohio, located first in Fairfield county, and then settled on Hog Creek, in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, cleared up a farm from the wilderness and died at the good old age of eighty-two years, a member of the Methodist church and in politics a republican—having previously been a whig—and having passed the last few years of his life with his son, Andrew.

Andrew Clapper, father of our subject, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, married, in his native county, Stacy A. Schlegle, and had born to this union thirteen children, viz: Jacob, Hannah, Mary J., Nancy A., John, Henry, Elizabeth, Rachael, Daniel, Susan, Jemima and two that died young. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Clapper came to Allen county with his father, settled in Marion township, and here all the children were born, with the exception of Jacob, who was born in Fairfield county. Mr. Clapper cleared up a farm from the woods, and here died in 1882, aged seventy-two years, a member of the United Brethren church and a republican in politics. He had four sons in the Civil war—Jacob in the Ohio infantry, company and regiment not known, and John, Henry, and Daniel in company E, Ninety-ninth Ohio infantry.

Henry Clapper, our subject, was reared a farmer, and before twenty-one years of age enlisted, August 6, 1862, and was enrolled at Lima, Ohio, in company E, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, serving until honorably discharged at Salisbury, N. C., June 23, 1865. He fought in the battles of Stone River, Dalton, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, Snow Hill, Pumpkinvine Creek, Smoky Creek Gap, Kenesaw Mountain, Rocky Faced Ridge, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and all through the famous Atlanta campaign, and in many skirmishes. He was in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Nashville, etc., and had his left arm badly wounded at Chickamauga, but otherwise not injured. He did his full duty and was a brave soldier, and still suffers from disease contracted through exposure while in the service.

August 20, 1866, Mr. Clapper was married to Miss Catherine Stemen, daughter of S. P. Stemen, mention of whom is made on another page of this volume, and this union has been blessed by the birth of the following children: William T., Edmund O., Anna M., Elvin C., Mattie D. and Hettie B. (twins), Charles M. and Mary M. After marriage Mr. Clapper located on a farm in Marion township, Allen county, cleared sixty acres, then sold and came to Van Wert county and settled in Jackson township about 1881, settling on a partly cleared farm of forty-three acres, all of which he has since fully cleared up and turned into a cheerful, comfortable and profitable home place. Here Mrs. Clapper died August 2, 1888, a devoted member of the United Brethren church and a woman much respected for her many christian virtues. In politics Mr. Clapper is a republican, but has never been an office seeker. An industrious and upright man, and a true patriot, he has won the respect of all his fellow-citizens.

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HENRY COLE, one of the most experienced and prosperous farmers of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Henry and Mary (Evey) Cole, and was born in Adams county, Md., January 24, 1829. His father, Henry, was born in Pennsylvania, about 1794, was of German descent, was reared on a farm, and also learned the brickmason's trade, following the latter until his marriage, about 1817, with Mary Evey, who was a native of Maryland, and was born in 1799. To this marriage were born eight children, as follows: George, deceased; a daughter who died in infancy, unnamed; Andrew, deceased; John, deceased; Henry, out subject; Anne, of Detroit, Mich.; Mary, widow of Bernard Fitzpatrick, of Jennings township, and Levi, who died at the age of four years. After marriage, Mr. Cole resided in Maryland until 1834, when he came to Ohio and bought a farm of seventy-two acres in Chippewa township, Wayne county, part of which was cleared, and on which he passed the remainder of his life, dying June 20, 1859, and his wife in 1860, in the faith of the Catholic church, of which the entire family were members. He had served nine months in the war of 1812, and at the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814, his hat was shot off his head. In politics he was a democrat, and, as a citizen, but few were held in higher esteem.

Henry Cole, subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Wayne county, Ohio, and April 7, 1853, married Miss Mary Fitzpatrick, daughter of Patrick and Margaret (Dowdel) Fitzpatrick. To this union have been born four children, namely: Margaret, wife of Michael Maloney, of Spencerville, Ohio; John, on the home farm; Edward, of Monticello, Van Wert county, and Mary Ellen, at home. Mrs. Mary Cole was born in Summit county, Ohio, June 17, 1834; her parents were natives of Ireland, the father having been born in county Caven, March 15, 1802, and the mother in county Westmeath, October 15, 1811. After marriage Mr. Cole farmed in Wayne county until 1860, when he came to his present place, at that time uncleared, but now as likely-looking a farm as there is in the county. Besides being a farmer, Mr. Cole is a practical mechanic and has worked at carpentering as well as at blacksmithing, but agriculture is his favorite pursuit. In politics he is a stanch democrat and has served two terms as supervisor. He is a liberal contributor of his means to the support of the Catholic church, of which he is a member, and as a citizen stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and the general public.

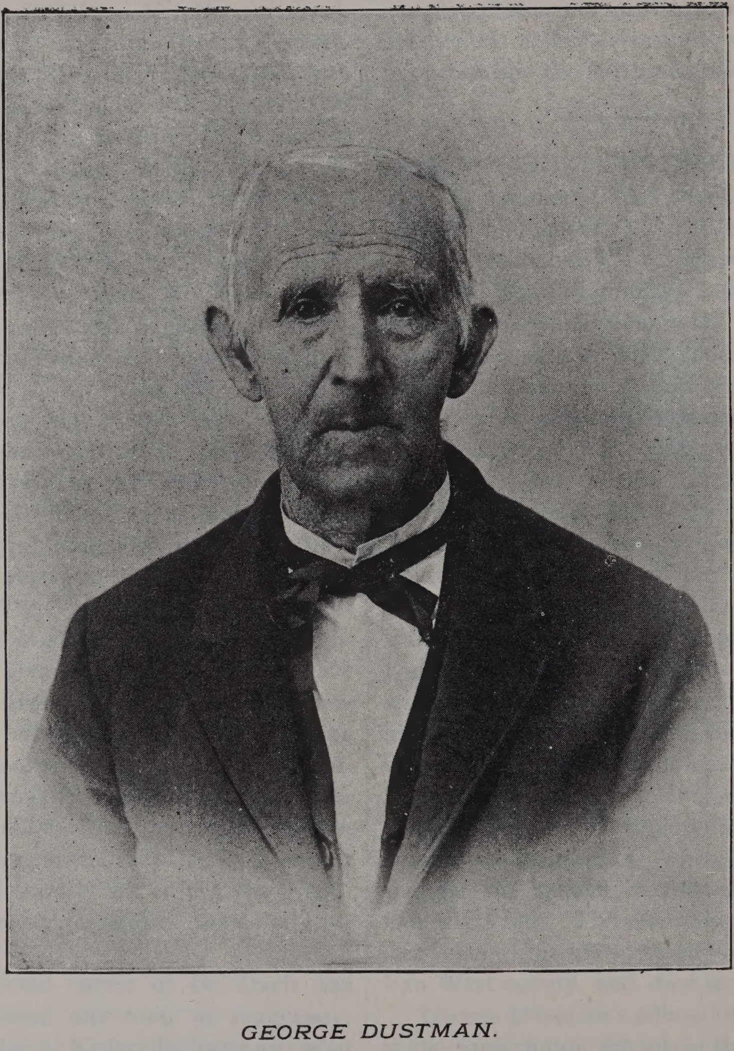
Mrs. Mary Fitzpatrick, widow of Bernard Fitzpatrich, is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Evey) Cole, and a sister of Henry Cole, whose sketch is given above. She was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 18, 1838, and April 15, 1856, married Bernard Fitzpatrick, son of Patrick and Margaret (Dowdel) Fitzpatrick, and to this union were born five children, viz: Bridget, of Chicago; Thomas J., merchant of Spencerville, Ohio; Henry, who died in childhood; Mary Margaret, wife of David Cooper, now farming the Fitzpatrick homestead, and Ellen, at home. Bernard Fitzpatrick was born in Clinton county, N. Y. April 21, 1833, and came to Wayne county, Ohio, in his youth, with his parents, and there his father was engaged in mining for twelve years, when the family moved to Holmes county, and in 1859 to Putnam county, where the father died in 1863 and the mother three years later. Their surviving children are Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Ellen Collins, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Daniel, of North Baltimore, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fitzpatrick were married in Wayne county, then lived in Holmes county two years, and then in the fall of 1858, came to Van Wert county, and settled on the farm which Mrs. Fitzpatrick now occupies and which the deceased husband cleared from out the woods. His death took place August 21, 1891, a member of the Catholic church. In politics he was a democrat, and was a prominent and influential citizen, and his death was a sad blow to his sorrowing family and a cause of mourning to a large circle of friends, as well as to the general public.

DAVID DAVIS, M. D., of York township, is a native of Jackson county, Ohio, is a son of Morgan and Mary Davis, and was born in 1858. He grew to manhood on the farm, but at twelve years of age he lost his father and the care of the farm and his widowed mother developed on him and an elder brother, Jonathan, who still lives on the old homestead. At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Davis began teaching school; he had educational advantages above those of the average farm boy, having attended the Rio Grande college, and Morgan Brother's academy, at Oak Hill, In 1881 he began a medical course at the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical college, attended three years, and graduated in 1885. He at once began the practice of his profession in Kieferville, Putnam county, Ohio, where he remained until 1886, when he settled in Venedocia. In the meantime he married Miss Elizabeth Evans, daughter of John W. Evans, and to this union have been born four sons, all of whom died in infancy excepting one, who is named Morgan. The doctor and wife are earnest and devout members of the Calvinistic church. In politics the doctor is a republican, but has never been a seeker after office; fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, and socially he enjoys the friendship of almost every resident of the county for miles around.

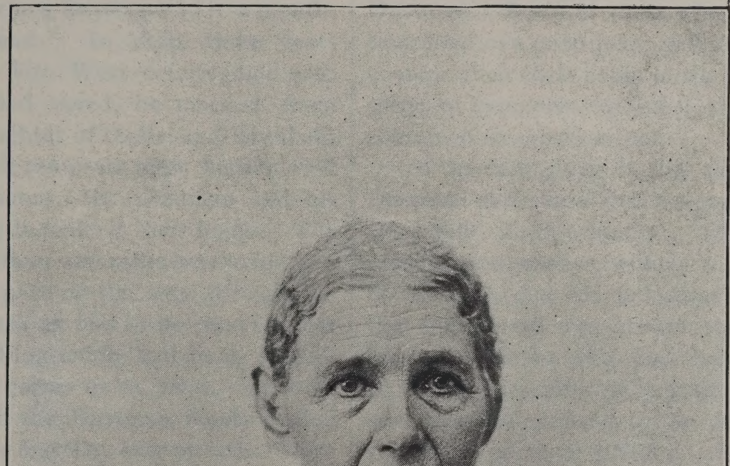
The professional career of Dr. Davis has been a phenomenal one from its incipiency, even his brief stay at Kieferville being attended with triumphs seldom attained by one who may at that time have been designated as but little more than a novice in his art. Since his residence has been made in Venedocia, his professional career has been one of unvarying success, and well deserved remuneration has been the result. His exceptional ability as a physician and surgeon has been recognized through the surrounding country, and his worth as a citizen has placed him in a most favorable light in the eyes of his fellow-townsmen, who do not fail to accord him the fiull praise his merits deserve.

THE DUSTMAN FAMILY.—It was the summer of 1836 that George Dustman first came to Van Wert county. At that time the county was a wilderness inhabited by wild animals, Indians, and a few venturesome white men. On the site of the present city of Van Wert stood an Indian hut, but it was uninhabited, and Mr. Dustman and two or three companions passed a night there. He remained in the county a few days then walked to Lima, where, at the government land office, he purchased the quarter section of land upon which he now lives, paying for it the regular price of $1.25 per acre. The old government deed bears the name of Martin Van Buren, who was then president of the United States. At that time Mr. Dustman was twenty-five years of age. He was born in Washington county, Pa., in 1811, and was the son of Henry and Salome Dustman. His father was born in 1789, of good old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1815, when his eldest son, George, the subject of this sketch, was but four years old. The elder Dustman spent the last years of his life at the home of his son, in Van Wert county, and died in 1872.

George Dustman's education was received in the subscription schools in the then sparsely settled county of Fairfield. His father, who was a potter, was too poor to afford him a better education. As he grew up, George learned the potter's trade, and also that of car-



GEORGE DUSTMAN.



MRS. ANNA M. DUSTMAN.

penter, but he delighted more in farming than in either. For several years he worked out by the day during the summer, and taught school during the winter months. As a rule, he received half a dollar a day for the farm work, and for teaching he received $10 a month, and "board around." In 1839, three years after buying his Van Wert county land with the money he had saved, he married Anna Milla Peters, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Peters. In 1846, ten years after his first visit to Van Wert county, Mr. Dustman and his family came here to make it their home. The journey of more than 200 miles was made in a covered wagon, part of the way through the woods in which the ax had to be used to clear a road. A small log cabin had been erected on the northeast corner of his farm, and here, in October, 1846, the Dustman family settled in their home, the first they ever owned. Here Mr. and Mrs. Dustman endured all the hardships and enjoyed all the pleasures of pioneer life. The farm was covered with heavy timber, and this had to be removed before crops could be raised. But this was not the worst feature; Mr. Dustman had no money on which to keep his family while he was clearing up his farm. He found it necessary to let his own work remain undone, and work for his more fortunate neighbors, in order to secure money to buy the necessaries of life. It was not an encouraging outlook, but Mr. and Mrs. Dustman had stout hearts, confidence in each other, and a never shadowed belief, that in the end all would be well.

Little by little the forest gave way to cultivated fields. The children, too small to assist in the work, were kept busy during the late fall driving the wild turkey from the corn shocks. There was but a small market for surplus produce. Van Wert town contained but a few houses, and it was necessary to go to Mendon or Delphos to mill. This trip always took two days, and was never made without taking an ax to clear a road through the woods. And yet, in spite of such surroudings, and in spite of poverty and hard work, none were better contented than Mr. and Mrs. Dustman. Both of them of a lively disposition, fond of a good joke, and hospitable to all comers, their little cabin in the woods was the scene of happiness, whether the home circle contained strangers or not.

In the early days of this new county, Mr. Dustman performed well his part in advancing all public improvements. He was always modest, and always willing to remain in the background, but his judgment was so good that his counsel was always sought in public matters. First a whig and then a republican, he took a deep interest in political affairs, but never allowed himself to be drawn into the vortex of personal politics. He never held office except of a local nature, and this office had to find him. His farm has always been his pride. To its improvement he gave the best years of his life, and brought it up to such state of cultivation that it ranks to-day as one of the best, most beautiful, and most valuable farms in this county of good farms. In all of this work he was assisted and strengthened by his wife, whose excellent management and practical common sense made success assured.

Mr. Dustman is now past four score years, while Mrs. Dustman is nearing that mark. For a half-century they have lived on their Van Wert county farm. In their old age they find their last days their best days, and this, too, in spite of affliction, whose hand they have not escaped. But they live in the evening of lives well spent, surrounded by hosts of friends who honor and respect them because their lives have been without a tarnish. They belong to that class of pioneers to whom the county owes so much, and whose work tells the story of lives well spent, both Mr. and

Mrs. Dustman having been life-long members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. and Mrs. Dustman are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living. Maria, the eldest, died in infancy, and Salmon C., next to the youngest, died when two years old. Of the nine children living, six reside in Van Wert county, one in Allen county, one in Toledo, and one in Butler, Ind. The names of these nine children are John M., Sarah A., Sabina, Daniel C., Lodena, Henry C., Ella, Lydia, and Freeman L.

John M. Dustman, the eldest son, was born in Fairfield county, in July, 1840, and came with his parents to Van Wert county. He assisted his father in the farm work, and was educated in the district school. When the war broke out he tried to enlist, but could not pass a physical examination, and the second attempt also resulted in failure. He prepared himself for the ministry, and became pastor of two English Lutheran churches in Van Wert county. After serving these churches for some time he accepted a call to the English Lutheran church at Carey, Ohio, where he remained for thirteen consecutive years, going from there to a charge in Tuscarawas county. Since then he has been pastor of the English Lutheran church at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Middlebury, Ind., and is now pastor of the church at Butler, Ind. Before entering the ministry he married Nancy Poe, of Van Wert county. Two children have been born to them—Stanley B., and Almeda.

Sarah A. Dustman was also born in Fairfield county, and was but a few years old when the family came to Van Wert county. Here she grew to girlhood and womanhood, the principal assistant of her mother in their early days in Van Wert county. In 1862 she married Josiah Waltz, and they now live on their farm in York township. They have been a prosperous couple, and their farm is one of the best in Van Wert county. They have six children living, as follows: Emma, Eva, Gertrude, Henry, Wilbur and Oscar. Mr. and Mrs. Waltz are members of the Methodist church.

Sabina Dustman was born but three years before the family came to Van Wert county. Like the rest of the children she enjoyed the advantages of a moderate education. She grew to womanhood on the farm and married Henry Sherrick, one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Allen county. They now live on their farm five miles east of Delphos.

Daniel C. Dustman was the last of the children born in Fairfield county. He was educated in the schools of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and was reared a farmer. In 1865, or as soon as he was old enough to do so, he enlisted in company F, One Hundred and Eighty-seventh regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and saw service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. He was mustered out at Camp Chase just one year from the time of his enlistment. In 1872 he purchased his present home in York township. It was then woodland, but is now a well cultivated farm. In 1866 he married Margaret Larue, daughter of Abraham and Margaret Larue, of this county. To them nine children have been born, as follows: Marcus E., Horace E. (deceased), Mary Alberta, Jennie, Walter, Charles, George H., Edgar Francis, and Bessie. Mrs. Dustman was born in Richland county and came to Van Wert county with her parents when but ten years old. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dustman are consistent members of the Methodist church. In politics Mr. Dustman is a republican, and has held several local offices, but has never cared to make politics a business. He is an enterprising farmer, and owes his success to his own efforts.

Lodema Dustman was born on the old farm in 1847, and lived with her parents until her narriage, in 1865, to Jacob Poe. Mr. and Mrs. Poe have always lived in Van Wert county, and for the past twenty years have lived on the old Dustman homestead, which Mr. Poe and his sons are now farming. Jacob Poe was born and his early life was spent in Hancock county. Mr. and Mrs. Poe have three children—William, Rilla and George.

Henry C. Dustman was born on the old farm in 1850, was educated in the country schools and was reared a farmer, which profession he has since adopted. In 1872 he learned photography, and the same year removed to Monroeville, Ind., where he remained for two years. From there he went to Carey, Ohio, and remained three years. He then sold his business and returned to the farm, since which time he has farmed in Pleasant township. In 1872 he married Martha J. Hester, daughter of John V. and Anna Hester, of Pleasant township. Five children have been born to them—Minta, Elva, May, Willis A., and Mattie. Mrs. Dustman was born in Clinton county, in 1852, and came to Van Wert with her parents in 1868. Mr. Dustman is a republican in politics, and he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church.

Ella Dustman was born on the farm January 1, 1853, and has lived there ever since. For sixteen years she was a teacher in the country schools of Van Wert county, and was eminently successful in that profession. Ella is the only child remaining with her parents, the rest of the children being married. She is giving them in their old age that same tender care they gave her when a child. She has a wide circle of acquaintances, and is almost always entertaining some of the many friends of the family in the old home. She is a member of the Van Wert Lutheran church.

Lydia Dustman was born in October, 1854, and her early life was spent at the old home. In May, 1888, she was married to Joseph Ross, of Liberty township. They now live at Shasta, where Mr. Ross is conducting a blacksmithing business and overseeing his farm. Their home life is a happy one, and they are so situated that they extract a good share of pleasure out of life. Both are members of the Methodist church.

Freeman L. Dustman, the youngest of the family, was born on the old home farm in the fall of 1860. His education was obtained i the school-house situated on his father's farm, going to school in the winter months and working on the farm in the summer. When h reached his majority he devoted himself t farming, living with his parents and assistin in cultivating the home place. In the fall o 1888 he left the farm and took the position o city editor on the Van Wert Bulletin, remaining with that paper for three years. In 189 he went to Toledo as state editor of the Toled Blade. For some months he had charge o the telegraph service of The Blade, and in th winter of 1893-4, represented that paper a legislative correspondent at Columbus. I October, 1894, he assumed the managin editorship of The Blade. In December, 1890 he was united in marriage to Gussie C. Rand at Lathrop, Mo. This most happy union ha been blessed with two children, Rand J., an George T.

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JOHN DAVIDSON, resident of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, December 22, 1842. His grandfather, Joshua Davidson, was born in Scotland, and when a young man came to America and settled in Coshocton county, where he reared a family, of whom the names of James, Henry and Joshua can only be recalled. Of these, Joshua, the father of our subject, married Catherine

Ross, and about 1846 located in Jackson township, Allen county, Ohio, having bought forty acres of land east of Lima, cleared it up, and in a short time sold out and purchased eighty acres in Amanda township, west of Lima, which he also cleared up and turned into a first-class farm. To him and wife were born fourteen children, of whom eleven lived to maturity, and were named James, Lucinda, Richard, Margaret, John, George, William, Peter A., Catherine and Joshua, of whom the first five were born in Coshocton county and the remainder in Allen county. Five of the sons—James, Richard, John, George and William, were patriots in their souls, as were the chieftains of their fatherland, Bruce and Wallace, and fought for the preservation of the Union in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry—James excepted, who served with the Thirteenth Wisconsin. The father of these brave boys was called to his last resting place in 1867, dying in Allen county at the age of sixty-five years.

John Davidson, the gentleman whose record of life is here briefly detailed, was but an infant when taken to Allen county by his parents. Here he was reared to the hardships of pioneer farming and enjoyed such feeble educational accessories as the log-cabin schools of the country districts of that day afforded. January 22, 1862, not yet having attained man's estate, he enlisted in company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three years or during the war, and faithfully served until honorably discharged at Cumberland, Md., June 27, 1865, on account of the close of the conflict for which he had enlisted, having served three years, five months and eighteen days. He took part in the battle of Cedar Creek, and was wounded at Fayetteville, W. Va., September 22, 1862, by a minie ball through the right thigh; he was in hospital for a month, and then given a furlough for thirty days; he then reported for duty, but was placed in invalid camp at Point Pleasant for a month and then returned to his regiment. He next fought at Princeton; next at a forgotten battle in West Virginia, then at Meadow Bluffs, Green River, Fisher's Hill, and in the Shenandoah valley at Winchester and Mount Jackson. At Beverley, W. Va., February 1864, his regiment was surprised while asleep in camp and 800 taken prisoners. After confinement in Richmond, Va., for thirty-five days, was sent home for final exchange, and this was effected two months later. After rejoining his regiment, Mr. Davidson took part in a number of battles and skirmishes, but with no further mishaps. His brothers had about the same experience, with the exception of George, who met with the sad fate of being captured at Martinsburg, W. Va., and of dying of starvation in Salisbury prison, N. C., in 1864.

After returning from the war Mr. Davidson engaged in the saw-mill business in Allen county in partnership with his brother Peter, and in 1878 came to Van Wert county and ran a saw-mill in Convoy until 1880, when he came to Jackson township, bought a farm, cleared it up, and in 1886 bought a saw-mill, and has since done an excellent business. The marriage of Mr. Davidson took place in Allen county, Ohio, in April, 1866, to Miss Mary S. Culp, who was born in Ross county, October 23, 1848, a daughter of Conrad and Sarah (Dinkle) Culp. Conrad Culp was of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. Peter, his father was a pioneer of Pickaway county, Ohio, and Conrad moved to Auglaize county in 1852 and to Allen county in 1856, and there had a good farm of 120 acres. He was twice married, and died in Allen county, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, in August, 1888. To the congenial union of Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson have been born thirteen children: George W., Florelle, Phebe A., Emma, Charles M. (died at eight years of age), Addie (died when six years old), Richard, William, John, Alonzo, Frank, Florence and Hattie—five of whom were born in Allen county and the remainder in Van Wert county. Mr. Davidson has always been a hard-working and industrious man and has acquired his own fortune; he has deservedly earned the lofty position he holds in the estimation of his neighbors, and as a useful citizen ranks with the best in Jackson township.

George W. Davidson, the eldest son of John Davidson, of whom mention has been made above, is associated with his father in saw-mill and farming, owning one-half interest in the saw-mill in Jackson township, Van Wert county, and one-half interest in a similar mill in Washington township, Paulding county, and together are doing a line of business which "leads on to fortune."

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ANDREW E. DECAMP, an ex-soldier of the late Civil war and a resident of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of Gallic descent and a true American citizen. His grandfather, John DeCamp, a native of France, was a skillful machinist and tool-maker, was a young man when he came to America and settled in New York and there married, and had born to him the following named children: Job, John, Charlotte, Mary, Hannah, Henrietta and Orville. In an early day he came to Ohio and carried on edge-tool making in Licking county for several years, then came to Van Wert county, in 1840, and for twelve years carried on a blacksmith shop in Ridge township, and there died of cholera within a year of the opening of the late Civil war.

Job DeCamp, son of John and father of the subject of this biography, was born in the city of New York, lived for some time in Johnstown, Pa., and there married Lydia Cavette, a daughter of John and Lydia Cavette, and in 1840 came to Ohio and located in Ridge township, Van Wert county. To Job DeCamp and wife were born the following children: Mary, William, Andrew E., Joseph, Hannah, Ainsworth, Orvilla and Thomas. Mr. DeCamp entered eighty acres of land in Ridge township and succeeded in clearing up an excellent farm and in rearing his family in respectability. Two of his sons, William and Andrew E., served in the Civil war, in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and he did all things pertaining to the life of a good citizen. In politics he was first a whig and then a republican, and he and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Andrew E. DeCamp, whose name opens this biography, was born in Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, June 9, 1842, received the usual common-school education, and was taught the trade of blacksmithing, becoming, under his father's skillful training, a more than ordinary expert. At Lima, Allen county, Mr. DeCamp enlisted, at the age of twenty years, in September, 1864, in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, served one year in the Civil war, and was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, June 8, 1865. He served in Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina—taking part with Gen. Sherman in his famous march to the sea. During his absence he was entangled in the pursuit of the rebel Hood. At Ringgold, Ga., he received two saber cuts on the right arm and hand from one of the rebel guards, Joe Wheeler's cavalrymen, but soon recovered and fought it out to the conclusion of the term of his enlistment, and then came to Van Wert county. In 1867 he married Catherine Geething daughter of Thomas and Hester (Crates) Geething, to which union have been born twelve children, of whom the following are still living: Edward, Frank, Minnie, Mary, Myrtle, Martha, Job, Lawrence, Katie, James, and Edith. The father of Mrs. DeCamp, Thomas Geething, was a saw-miller of Ridge township, and is now living in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, the father of five children—Catherine, Sarah, William, Ollie and Eliza.

Mr. DeCamp, after his marriage, lived in Washington township for eight years, then moved to Middlepoint, and for ten years was employed as an engineer on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad. He now has a good farm that he has hewn out of the woods, and is enjoying life amid a surrounding circle of devoted friends. Mr. and Mrs. DeCamp are sincere members of the Methodist church, and in politics he is a republican. He has reared his family in respectiability, and has won for himself the esteem of his neighbors and the respect of the community in which he has passed the better portion of his useful life.

JOHN M. GEISE, one of the well-known citizens of Van Wert county, Ohio, and a leading and successful farmer of Washington township, now residing two miles northwest from Delphos, is a native of Germany, having been born in the kingdom of Hanover on February 5, 1831. His parents were Casper and Elizabeth (Hemker) Geise, both natives of Hanover, where they were married. The parents, with their two sons, left the old country in the fall of 1841, and reached New York city in the month of November, after a voyage of seven weeks and six days. From New York city they went to Albany by boat, thence to Buffalo, N. Y., by canal, and thence to Cleveland by the lake. From Cleveland they went to Toledo by lake steam-boat, and from that point they made their way by river to about three miles from Napoleon, Ohio, where the boat was frozen in the ice, and they made the balance of the trip to Fort Jennings by sled, reaching that point in January, 1842. At Fort Jennings they remained until the following April, and then moved upon ten acres of school land in section No. 16, Putnam county, which they rented. They lived there three years, and then came to Washington township, Van Wert county, where they purchased forty acres of government land, and began farming. When the work of digging the canal was begun, Casper Geise went to work on it, and continued at work until it was completed, and it was there he earned the money to make the first payment on his land. To the original forty, he added forty and then eighty acres, and altogether had a farm of 160 acres. Casper Geise was one of the very first settlers as well as one of a very few of Washington township, and the township was one dense forest with but few roads. The country was a forest and the woods full of wild animals. He lived, however, to see the county cleared up and converted into as fine a farming district as can be found anywhere in the state, and to see Delphos grow from woods into a thriving, progressive little city. He helped to build the first house in Delphos, which was the log cabin owned by Ferdinand Bredeick, brother of Father Bredeick, who founded Delphos and established the present Saint John's Roman Catholic church. He was born in 1799 and died in 1881. His wife died in 1846, being then about fifty-eight years of age. They were both among the first members of the Catholic church of Delphos, of which he was a trustee for several years. To these parents three children were born, the eldest one dying in the old country at the age of three years. Our subject was the second son, and Conrad was the third, all being born in the old country.

John M. Geise was reared upon the farm.

He got his education by attending school in the old country and the schools at Fort Jennings and Delphos. He remained at home until 1855, when he married and moved on the land where he now resides, which at that time contained eighty acres in section No. 14. Here he has since continued to live. In 1884 he built his present large and handsome residence, which is one of the best in the township. He has at different times added to his original eighty acres until he has now 160 acres in one body. He also owns sixty acres in section No. 12, Marion township, Allen county, which is known as Sulphur Springs. In 1889, during the oil excitement, Mr. Geise leased his Sulphur Springs land to Sam Jones & Co., who were succeeded by the Geyser oil company. This company had much trouble in procuring leases of oil lands, and until Mr. Geise leased his land, not a single well had been secured. He then let his influence and service to the company, and through him the company leased over 50,000 acres. In testimony of the company's regard and appreciation of his services, they presented him with a handsome gold watch, upon which is inscribed the following words: "J. M. Geise, from the Geyser Oil company, December 25, 1889," which testimonial he values very highly. The following Christmas Mr. Geise reciprocated by sending each member of the company a fine fat turkey. Mr. Geise has for many years been one of the leading citizens of Van Wert county, and has always been prominent in public matters. He has always been a democrat in politics, but is a liberal and independent voter, and while generally voting the democrat ticket, he does not hesitate to scratch a bad nominee, if he is certain it is best for the welfare of the community. He is broad and liberal in his views, enterprising and progressive, always doing his full share toward the support of all worthy enterprises having for their object the good of the community. His conservative, yet generous nature, has made him very popular, and he has been many times called by his fellow-citizens to public office. He has served as township trustee of Washington township eight years; he was director of the county infirmary two terms of three years each, making six years in that office; and for twenty-two years he was treasurer of the German Mutual Fire Insurance company, for Putnam, Van Wert and Allen counties. For many years he was a member of the council of Saint John's Roman Catholic church.

In 1855, Mr. Geise was married to Clara Kramer, of Fort Jennings, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and was the daughter of Bernhard Kramer, who was a native of Germany. She died in 1880, at the age of forty-seven years. She was a devoted wife and mother, and was a member of Saint John's Roman Catholic church. To Mr. and Mrs. Geise nine children were born, six of whom are living, as follows: Joseph, Otto, Fred, Theresa, Annie and Sallie; the three deceased were John, David and Henry. Mr. Geise and family are all members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church and are numbered among the best families in Washington.

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JOHN GEORGE, a prominent citizen of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales and was born January 20, 1829, a son of George and Ann (Jones) George. John George, the father, with his wife, son Thomas and his daughters, Mary and Ann, came to Van Wert county in 1856; his son, John, having preceded him four years, and, having written his father of the fertile lands abounding in Van Wert county, and the plenty arising therefrom, the father and his family were induced to come here, and here resided on a farm to the time of his death, at the age of sixty years, his wife dying at three-score and ten. Thomas George, son of John, the immigrant, resides in Elgin; Ann, the elder daughter, is the wife of Thomas Tibbett, and resides in Elida, Allen county; Mary, the second daughter, became the wife of Griffith Evans, but is now deceased.

John George, our subject, shortly after his arrival in the United States, found himself in Cincinnati, sixty dollars in debt. He had, however, a friend by the name of John Davis, who divided what means he possessed with our subject, and thus assisted in the time of distress, which act was never forgotten—either as a debt of gratitude or a financial debt—and both debts were subsequently repaid. In his youth, our subject, John George, had learned the carpenter's trade, having served an apprenticeship of six years, without any financial remuneration. While in Cincinnati he followed his trade four years, and for four years longer he followed this vocation in Louisiana. In the fall of 1859 he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and here bought 160 acres of land, being the farm which he now owns. He was to pay $1,000 for this property, of which he paid $500 on taking possession and subsequently paid the balance, having earned the money through his own exertions.

In 1856 he married Miss Elizabeth Jones, of Paddy's Run, Butler county, Ohio, the union being blessed with four sons and two daughters; of these, Moses lives on his father's farm; William lives near Elgin; John, at Venedocia; Elizabeth Ann is the wife of Hugh Thomas; Richard lives in Van Wert, and Dora resides at home with her parents. In politics Mr. George is an active republican and has served as township treasurer, having been elected in 1882, and serving twelve years consecutively. In religion he is an adherent of the Congregational church, of which his parents were also members. His farm is now highly improved, and is the admiration of all beholders. He is highly respected in the community in which he moves, and no one more deserves the esteem in which he is held than he.

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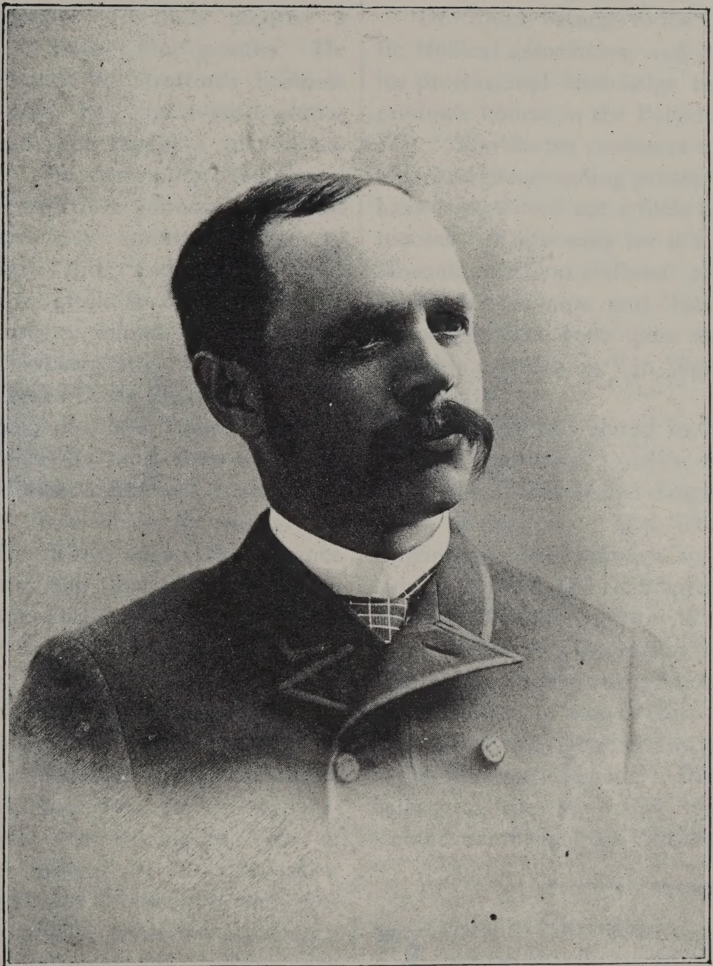
GEORGE JOSEPH EBLEN, M. D., one of the most talented physicians of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Vevay, Switzerland county, Ind., September 22, 1852. His father, David Eblen, was born in Virginia in 1806, and was quite a child when taken to Switzerland county, Ind., where he was educated in the pioneer schools and reared to manhood—his first business for himself being brick-laying and farming. For some years later he was engaged in merchandising at Vevay, where he resided until 1882, and died while on a visit to Christiansburg, Ky., in the fall of 1882. His marriage had taken place in Switzerland county, Ind., in 1830, to Miss Sarah Buchanan, and to this union were born eight children, viz: Sarah, deceased; James, Elizabeth, John Lawson, Nettie, Fletcher, deceased; George J., and Charles, deceased. The mother, Mrs. Sarah Eblen, died in 1858; she was a member of the Christian church, and was known as a lady of many admirable traits of mind and heart. For his second wife, Mr. Eblen chose Mrs. Mary Sachwell, of Ghent, Ky., who bore him one child—Laura. Mr. Elben was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, a republican in politics, and a man of considerable prominence in the community where he resided.

George Joseph Eblen, at the age of ten years, abandoned the parental domicile, and sought a home with John B. Gordon, a farmer of Switzerland county, Ind., with whom he lived until nineteen years of age, attending in the meantime the district school



G. J. EBLEN, M. D.

and studying assiduously and profitably, so that, when at the age mentioned, he made application for a license to teach, and secured at the examination the best rating of any applicant in Switzerland county—that of ninety-three and a fraction. He thus secured a license to teach for twenty-four months. He next attended Bryant & Stratton's business college at Louisville, Ky., for a year, graduated in 1873, and then taught a year in the same institution. He was similarly employed a year in Hollingsworth & Johnson's business college in the same city; and then returned to Switzerland county, Ind., and taught school until 1875, when he attended a course of lectures at the Kentucky School of Medicine, at Louisville, Ky. Subsequently, he pursued his professional studies at Cross Plains, Ind., with Dr. J. M. Sweezy, for five years, teaching school in the interim, and then attending lectures at the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1880. Dr. Eblen began the practice of his profession in the town of Shasta, Van Wert county, Ohio, and for six years met with marked success; in 1886, he effected a co-partnership with. Dr. W. H. Christopher, at Van Wert, for one year, and since then has been alone in the practice.

Dr. Eblen's professional career presents a series of continued successes, and his reputation as a practioner is of the highest order of excellence. He brought to the practice a mind well fortified with intellectual and professional training, and he possesses a presence and sympathetic nature which at once gains him the confidence of his patients, and skill mark him as a true friend of suffering humanity. In the sick room he is a typical family physician, and his conscientious fidelity to duty and principle has won for him the love and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact as a medical adviser. The doctor, while engaged in the general practice, makes a specialty of female and rectal diseases, and his reputation in the department of surgery is regarded as second to that of no other practitioner in the city of Van Wert.

Dr. Eblen belongs to the Ohio State Eclectic Medical association, and in 1890 added to his professional knowledge by taking a post-graduate course in the Polyclinic of New York city. The doctor possesses a vigorous personality and commanding presence, both of which have contributed not a little to his professional success. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' orders, and also of the Royal Arcanum and National Union, and financially has been quite fortunate, owning valuable property in Van Wert and the city of Cincinnati.

Dr. Eblen was united in marriage in Cincinnati, December 7, 1881, with Miss Carrie Niles, the accomplished daughter of Barnabas Niles, of that city. Mrs. Eblen is a native of Cincinnati, born January 19, 1854, and is a lady of culture and refinement, moving in the best social circles of Van Wert. The Eblen home on South Washington street is the abode of a genuine, open-hearted hospitality, and the genial nature of the doctor, and the affable manners of his aimable lady, add new charms to the pleasant domicile. Dr. and Mrs. Eblen belong to the Methodist church, being esteemed members of the Van Wert congregation.

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JOHN C. GEORGE, son of John George, whose sketch has been given, was born on the old homestead in Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1862, and still continues to reside in the same township, where he is a prosperous and enterprising young farmer, thoroughly instructed in agricultural pursuits; he received his preliminary education in the district schools and then attended the normal school at Mansfield, Ohio, thus fitting himself for teaching, a vocation he followed for five terms in Van Wert county. November 27, 1886, he married Sarah O. Jones, a daughter of John M. and Mary (Owens) Jones, two children being the result of this union and respectively named John Gilbert and Maurice Nelson. Mr. George and his wife worship at the Calvinistic church. In politics Mr. George is a stanch republican. Mr. George owns and occupies a beautiful modern dwelling in the suburbs of Venedocia, and cultivates a nice little farm just southwest of town.

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HENRY J. GERDEMAN, one of the well-known farmers and prosperous citizens of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Hanover, Germany, December 18, 1820. He is a son of Henry and Mary Gerdeman, both natives of Hanover. His father was a farmer, and died in the old country when his son, Henry J., was but four and a half years old, while the mother of our subject died in the old country also, when the latter was but twenty-eight years of age. There were four sons and five daughters born to the parents, all of whom, with the exception of our subject, are now dead. Only five of the children came to America.

Henry J. Gerdeman was reared on the farm in the old country and received his education there by attending the neighboring schools. In 1840, when nearly twenty years of age, he and his brother, John D., came to America; they landed at Baltimore, and from that city came to Putnam county, Ohio, where their sister, Mary Ann, was living, she having come over four years earlier. After arriving in Putnam county he was taken ill with fever and ague and for eight months was sick. After recovering his health he went to work on the digging of the Wabash & Erie canal, and worked on that until the contract was let for digging the Miami extension of the canal, when he went to work on that; this was in 1843, and what is now Delphos was then known as Section No. 10. Where the town stands was all in woods, and the only houses were canal shanties. He remained in Delphos for fifteen years, during which time he was working in a saw-mill.

In 1860 he began farming on land he had already purchased, which land embraced 160 acres lying about two and one-half miles west of Delphos, in section No. 27, Washington township, Van Wert county. Since that he has added at times to the first 160 acres; in section No. 22 he has twenty-eight acres; in section No. 26 he has eighty acres; in section No. 33 he has 160 acres, and in section No. 34 he has eighty acres. His first purchase of land was was from the government in 1847. In 1855, before he moved upon it, he built a small house of two rooms, and in that he lived from 1860 until 1867, when he made an addition to it, two stories in height, containing four large rooms; he now has one of the best residences in his neighborhood. Mr. Gerdeman has always been one of the leading men of his township, and has always been quite prominent. He has served as trustee of his township for several terms, was a school director and was a director in the German Mutual Fire Insurance company, of Delphos. In politics he is a democrat.

Mr. Gerdeman has been twice married. The first time was in 1851, when he married Bernardine Gerking, who was born in 1833, and was a native of Germany. Twenty months after their marriage her death occurred, leaving one son, Joseph A., who is a farmer of Washington township, section No. 3. The second marriage was in 1854, when he married Mary J. Moennig, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1836. To this union seven boys were born, as follows: Henry, Ferdinand, John, William, Frank, and Sylvester and Theodore, twins. Mr. Gerdeman and family are members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church, and he served as trustee of that church for some time. At the centennial celebration he was on one of the committees, and he also had a place on the old settlers' wagon.

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**JAMES W. GILBERT**, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, and a prosperous farmer of Tully township, is a son of Eleazer and Minerva (Fisher) Gilbert, and was born January 1, 1845. Eleazer Gilbert was of Welsh descent, but came from Pennsylvania to Van Wert county and settled in Harrison township. By his first wife were born four children, viz: James W., Charles, Anette and Sarah. His second marriage was to Leah Crothers, who bore him six children. Mrs. Gilbert died in 1859, but he is still a resident of Van Wert county.

James W. Gilbert received the ordinary common-school education and was reared on the home farm. When about nineteen years of age, fired by a commendable patriotism, he enlisted, October 11, 1854, at Van Wert, in company C, Seventy-eighth Ohio infantry, to serve for one year or during the war, but the young soldier was held for about nine months only, being honorably discharged July 11, 1865, at Louisville, Ky., the object for which he volunteered having been accomplished and the Rebellion suppressed. He entered upon active service by joining Gen. Sherman's army after the fall of Atlanta (September 2, 1864), and was with that hero on the famous march to the sea, and took part in a number of severe skirmishes. He marched the entire distance to Goldsboro, N. C., on foot, with the exception of one day's ride, which he secured by picking up a worn-out horse. After the glorious victory over 40,000 rebels near Goldsboro, March 19, 1865, Sherman proceeded northward, and finally, peace having been restored, Mr. Gilbert had the proud satisfaction of taking part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., May 23–4, 1865, whence with his regiment he was sent to Louisville, Ky., to be mustered out of the service. During this period Mr. Gilbert was never sick, never wounded nor taken prisoner, nor ever missed a roll-call. On his return to Van Wert Mr. Gilbert was married, September 7, 1865, to Miss Kate Stevens, daughter of Moses and Levina (Howe) Stevens. Moses Stevens was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., of Scotch-Irish parents, and came to Ohio in 1852, settling in Adams county, where he bought and cleared up an eighty-acre farm, on which he died at the age of fifty-five years. He was a republican in politics and an honored and hard-working man. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and were the parents of eight children, named as follows: Wesley, Thomas, Emma, Rachael, Julia, Kate, Jennie and Melissia.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert settled in Harrison township, Van Wert county, and in the spring of 1875 came to Tully township, bought sixty acres of heavily timpered land, cleared it by hard work and made a good home, now well cultivated and improved with all necessary buildings. Ten children came to crown the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, and were named, Lillie, Burt, Martin, Cora (died at the age of twenty years), Jennie, Elsie, Myrtle, Teressa, James and Grover. In politics Mr. Gilbert is a democrat, but was one of those who served his country faithfully as a soldier. He is a self-made man and a subtantial citizen of the purest integrity.

FRANCIS H. GIPE, a practical and rising young farmer of Ridge township, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, July 23, 1864, a son of Elias and Louisa (Gilliland) Gipe, the latter being a son of one of the earliest of the pioneer families of the county. A brother of our subject, Waldo C. Gipe, is also a farmer of Ridge township; a sister of subject, Minnie, is the wife of E. B. Waldron, a grocer of the city of Van Wert, and another sister, Rosa A., died in early womanhood. The father of this family died a few years after the death of his wife, who was summoned to the grave October 5, 1874.

Francis H. Gipe having in his adolesence lost his parents, made his home, as did also his brother and sister, with his maternal grandfather, Hugh Gilliland, under whom our subject was inured and trained to the arduous duties of a farmer's life—a circumstance he has never had cause to regret. He had the usual advantages of a common-school education, and added to the knowledge acquired under the instruction of the common-school teachers much more, under self-tuition. In 1889 he was united in wedlock with Miss Lucinda E. Sanders, daughter of Sylvester and Mary E. (Smith) Sanders, the union being blessed by the birth of three daughters--Rosa, Helen (deceased), and Mabel. The amiable mother of this little family lived but a few years in the enjoyment of her domestic felicity, being called away, in 1893, to join the caravan that proceeds without ceasing to the last and permanent home on earth of mortals.

In politics Mr. Gipe is an uncompromising democrat, and in 1893 was elected to the office of township treasurer, and, as an instance of his popularity with all parties and the people at large, it is but fair to state that he was the only democrat that was ever elected to the office in Ridge township. He performed his duties well and faithfully, and no word has ever been uttered that would or could impugn his integrity. Socially Mr. Gipe stands very high, and as a member of the grange he is energetic in promoting its welfare. His farm of seventy-four acres, three miles southeast of Van Wert, is a model in itself, and gives evidence of the fact that a master hand holds control of it.

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HON. E. B. GILLILAND is a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, born April 10, 1846, a son of Thomas and Catherine (McCann) Gilliland, natives of Maryland, and among the earlier settlers of Van Wert county, Ohio. The family is quite a famous one in this county, as well as in the city, as will be found in the various sketches published in this volume, to which the reader can readily refer by means of the index preceding these sketches.

Thomas Gilliland was born October 22, 1806, and Mrs. Catherine Gilliland December 11, 1809. In 1835, Thomas came to Van Wert county with his wife, his son William and a daughter Martha, and entered 160 acres of land in Ridge township, the tract being a part of the farm now owned by our subject, Hon. E. B. Gilliland—the father increasing his possessions at one time to 480 acres, and becoming one of the most prominent farmers and popular citizens of the township. He was a thoroughly upright man, was a member of the F. & A. M., and held the full confidence of his fellow-citizens, whom he served fifteen years as justice of the peace, holding that office at the time of his decease, which occurred July 28, 1857, when his remains were interred in the old cemetery at Van Wert, with Masonic honors. The respected widow of Mr. Gilliland survived until November 13, 1888, when her venerated remains were also deposited in the same receptacle. The twelve children of this pioneer couple were born in the following order: Martha, wife of Ira Cavett; William, deceased; Mary Jane, deceased wife of G. C. Weible; Sarah Ann, married to D. M. Conroy; John Francis, deceased; Robert A. Webster, deceased; James Maxwell, of the city of Van Wert; Edward B., subject of this sketch; Ellen and Elizabeth, deceased; Henrietta, wife of Allen Lown, of Van Wert city, and Thomas Hiram, deceased.

Hon. E. B. Gilliland, whose name opens this biographical memoir, passed his early youth on the home farm, enjoying, at the same time, excellent opportunities for an education, becoming, himself, a school-teacher, a vocation he followed six years. In the year 1875, he was united in matrimony with Miss Mary Jane Collins, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Featherolf) Collins, which happy union was blessed by the birth of six children, named as follows: Florence, Daisy, Thomas, Grace (deceased), Myrtle, and Edna May (deceased). Mr. Gilliland, like various other members of his family, continued to rise in popularity and became a favorite with the democratic party, his abilities as a politician being also recognized by the public at large, the result being that he was elected to serve his constituency in the Sixty-ninth and Seventieth Ohio general assembly, and his popularity was further emphasized by the fact that he was elected from a district that usually polled from 100 to 200 republican majority. While in the legislature he served in a most satisfactory manner on the important committee of ways and means, on committee on agriculture, and on the committee on the insane asylum. In religion Mr. Gilliland and his entire family are members of the church of Rome, of which they are not only conscientious adherents in principle, but liberal supporters in a financial sense. In his worldly possessions Mr. Gilliland may well be considered quite well to do, possessing, as he does, a fine farm of 206 acres and property of considerable value in the city of Van Wert. The social standing of the family, it is needless to say, is with the highest and most honored of the county.

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S M. GILLILAND, son of Adam and Sarah (Shaffner) Gilliland, was born in Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, June 15, 1842, was reared on the home farm, and has made farming his life vocation. At the age of twenty-two years he enlisted in company B, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until the close of the Rebellion, when he was honorably discharged at Winchester, Va. He then returned to the home of his childhood and resumed farming on the old home place until 1868, when he bought sixty acres of land, which he has since supplemented with sixty additional acres, on which he has made all the improvements. On the 3d day of February, 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda E. Balyeat, daughter of Jacob and Frances (Thomas) Balyeat, residents of Ridge township, and this union has been blessed by the birth of five children, viz: Homer, who married Flora Johantgen, of Ridge township, the remaining four being Ira, Laura, Frances and Jesse. Mr. Gilliland and his family worship at the Methodist church and manifest in their daily walk the sincerity of their belief in that faith. In politics Mr. Gilliland is a democrat, and in 1884 was elected a justice of the peace; during the six years that he performed the functions of this office it may be said that not more than three cases were appealed from his docket, and in no instance was a decision of his reversed. A more extensive notice of the Gilliland family will be found in adjacent parts of this volume, also the genealogy of the Balyeat family will be given upon other pages. Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland are well known citizens throughout Ridge township, and none hold the confidence of the entire community to a greater extent than they, and none take a deeper interest in the matters of education and the moral training of the community. Mr. Gilliland is one of the enterprising and progressive men of his township, and well deserves the high respect in which he is held.

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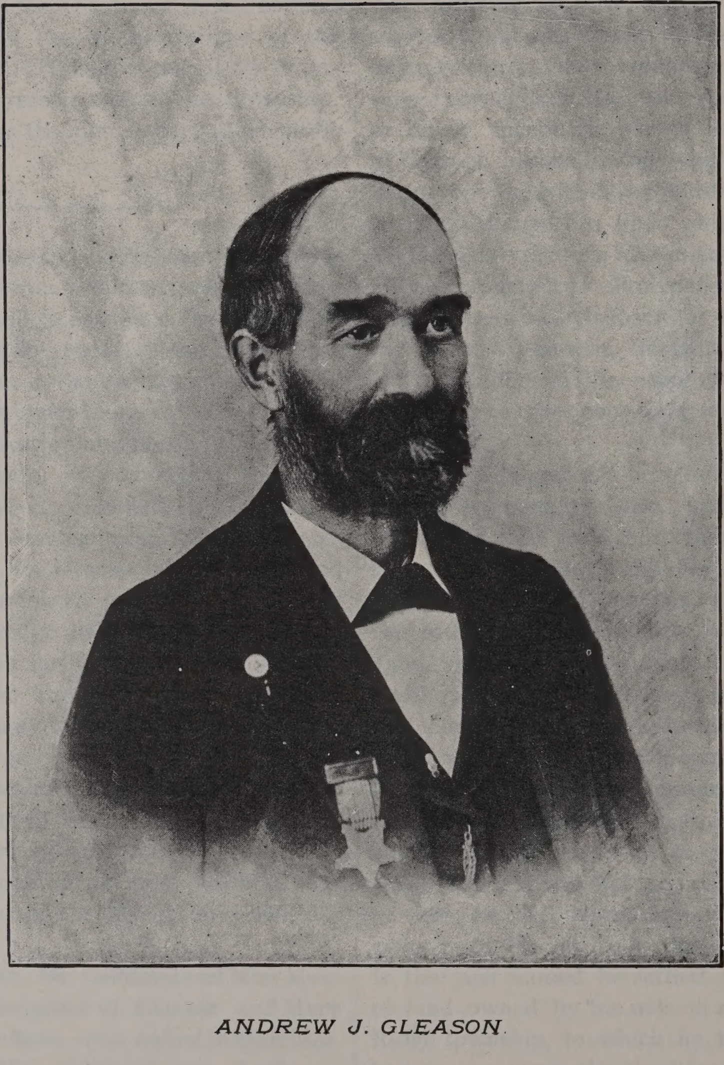
JAMES M. GILLILAND, son of Thomas and Catherine Gilliland (see geneaology of Gilliland family) is a native of Van Wert county, born in the year 1843. Reared on a farm in the vicinity of the city of Van Wert, he enjoyed the usual advantages of acquiring an education and began his life as a farmer, purchasing, in connection with his brother, Hon. E. B. Gilliland, the old homestead, when but nineteen years of age. Later he disposed of his interest in the farm, and subsequently purchased a farm consisting of 155 acres two and a half miles southeast of Van Wert, which he has highly improved, its present condition and close proximity to the city making it one of the most valuable pieces of land of its area in the county. In July, 1892, Mr. Gilliland purchased two acres on South Walnut street, Van Wert, and in January of the following year moved to his city home, which is one of the most desirable residence properties on the street on which it is situated.

April 10, 1878, Mr. Gilliland and Miss Mary Ellen Gorham, daughter of Eleazar and Mary M. (Harlam) Gorham, were united in marriage. The parents of Mrs. Gilliland were both natives of Clinton county, Ohio, and the names of their children are as follows: Elvira B., died in infancy; Mary Ellen; Melvina F., wife of Lafayette Hudgel; Elmira E., wife of Calvin C. Gamble, and Agnes Ann, deceased The mother of these children died on the 5th day of March, 1862.

Mrs. Gilliland's father served in the late war, enlisting in 1861, in the Seventy-ninth regiment, but was afterward transferred to the Seventy-third, Ohio volunteer infantry. He served throughout the war without receiving an injury, except the partial loss of the sense of hearing, caused by the heavy cannonading during one the battles in which he was engaged.

Mr. Gilliland has been quite successful in his business ventures, accumulating thereby an ample competence. Politically he is a democrat and religiously subscribes to the creed of the Methodist church, his wife also being an active member of the same church, and both belonging to the congregation worshiping in Van Wert.

John Gilliland was born in Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, July 5, 1836, the first white male child born there, and is a son of Adam and Sarah (Shaffer) Gilliland, full particulars regarding whom will be found in the history of their family on another page. John Gilliland, our subject, was reared to manhood on the home farm, was educated in the common schools, and in the spring of 1857 made a trip to Woodford county, Ill., where he passed the following summer in farm labor, returning, the next winter, to his native township of Ridge, where he re-engaged in farm work, and was so employed until his marriage in 1866, further mention of which important event in his life will be made a little further on. In the year named he settled on eighty acres of land owned by his wife in section No. 31, Ridge township, to which he has since added twenty-one acres, the combined tracts constituting his present home. To this farm he devoted his undivided attention, and improved and assiduously cultivated until 1873, when he



ANDREW J. GLEASON.

began dealing in live stock, shipping to the eastern markets, and this trade, in conjunction with agriculture, claimed his attention until within the past few years, when he made live stock dealing his sole occupation, in which he has met with abundant success.

The marriage of Mr. Gilliland took place in Ridge township, June 9, 1866, with Miss Lucy Cavett, who was born in Williams county, Ohio, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Cavett, and to this happy union ten children have been born, viz: Ella, wife of H. V. Cooper; William C., Adam and Emma J., all of Ridge township; Bertha, wife of J. Huffine; Pearl, wife of Delbert A. North; an infant, deceased; Hugh, Sarah and Ira. Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are very liberal in its support. In politics Mr. Gilliland is a democrat, and in 1890 was elected land appraiser of his township, serving one year; in 1891 he was elected trustee of his township, and served until 1893, and in 1895 was re-elected to the same office. He is a highly honored citizen, and the attention of the reader is called to another page, on which is opened the history of the Gilliland family, prepared by T. S. Gilliland of Van Wert. Of the children of our subject, William C. married Delaura Crothers, March 24, 1897, and Adam married Rosetta Tumbleson, December 28, in the year 1893.

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THE GLEASON FAMILY.—Probably the earliest mention of the Gleason family of America, traceable, is found in the records Cambridge, Mass., where, in 1657, lived Thomas Gleason, who emigrated to America from New Castle, England, the family having originated in the north of Ireland. There is a family legend relating that the first emigrants of the name to come to America were three brothers, who settled in New England, during the colonial period, and were the original stock from which the American family sprung, which gradually spread to adjacent states, until now its descendants are to be found in every northern state, and doubtless many southern states also.

Bezaleel Gleason, the great-grandfather of Andrew J. Gleason, to whom we are indebted for the data of this memoir, is the most remote ancestor known of, in a direct line. He lived near Brattleboro, Vt., and is said to have taken part with Gen. Stark's Green Mountain boys, at the battle of Bennington. He was probably a descendant of the Thomas Gleason above mentioned. His wife was Phœbe Newberry, their family consisting of six sons and three daughters, named as follows: Adonijah, Amos, Nathan and Nahum (twins), Ira, Bezaleel, Sarah, Phœbe and Clarissa. Adonijah was a Baptist preacher, lived at Sempronius, N. Y., for a time, then removed to Switzerland county, Ind., and at last accounts was in Minnesota, where he probably died. To him and his wife Cynthia were born three sons, Justus, Parsons and Elias, the last named living in Cincinnati during the 'fifties. Amos, second son, lived at Caledonia Springs, N. Y.; Sarah (Fisher) lived also in New York state on the St. Lawrence river, while the rest of the family, except Bezalee (second) continued to reside in Vermont wher last heard of.

It was while journeying across the mountains on his return from visiting some of his children that the aged patriarch was overtaken by a tragic fate, becoming bewildered in a mountain storm, causing him to lose his way and to perish in the cold. Bezaleel, the writer's grandfather, settled in Ontario county, N. Y., near where the town of Shortsville now stands. He was a farmer, and a man noted for great muscular strength. He married Abigail Howland, by whom he had three sons and five daughters, viz: Stephen, Joseph, Sarah, Phœbe, Clarissa, Mary, Eliza and Benjamin. His death occurred June 21, 1832, after which his widow resided on the family homestead for some years, then, gathering together her family (except Sarah and Phœbe, who had previously married), her two eldest sons piloting the way, she removed, in the summer of 1837, to the unbroken wilds of Van Wert county, Ohio, taking up lands in the southwestern part of Pleasant township, where she resided until her death, which took place August 29, 1851, having seen the most of her children settled around her, and enjoyed the affectionate care of both children and grandchildren.

Stephen Gleason, the eldest son, was born in Ontario county, N. Y., July 24, 1801. He married Amanda Fletcher, by whom he had eight children, viz: Emily (Evers), Sarah J. (Royce), Mary A. (Evers), Lucy O. (Albright), Charles F., George H., Louisa (Kiser), and Oliver B., four of whom are living, viz: Sarah J. Royce, of Columbia City, Ind.; Charles F. Gleason and Mrs. J. W. Kiser, of Dull, Ohio, and Oliver B. Gleason, of Van Wert city. For several years after his marriage he followed the occupation of a farmer, residing, a part of the time, at a place called Oak Orchard, N. Y., but being enticed by the flattering reports from the new country in western Ohio, after first, with his brother Joseph, having prospected and selected a location, he sold his property in New York state, and at the head of the family colony, with wife and five children, he turned his back on a comparatively comfortable home to face hardships and privations he little dreamed of. At one time he was left in charge of the whole colony, while his brothers, with all the available teams, proceeded to a point on the Maumee river, where a portion of the household goods had been shipped via water, a trip requiring some weeks, in the bad condition of the roads. During all this time Stephen was constantly employed carrying grists of corn to and from a hand-mill, some four or five miles distant, to keep up a supply of breadstuff. Yet indomitable pluck carried him through these and similar hardships until he had made for himself and family a comfortable home again.

Mr. Gleason lived on his farm, which he and his sons brought into a high state of cultivation, until about 1867, having been several times elected county commissioner, and afterward county treasurer, which offices he held with much credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public. Upon retiring from the office of treasurer he resumed his farm life, but, receiving a fair offer for his farm, sold it to Robert Wade and removed to Van Wert. Here, however, he remained only long enough to enable him to purchase another farm near South Whitley, Ind., to which he soon after removed. Losing his faithful wife in 1871, he soon gave up farming, spending his time with his children up to the time of his death, June 21, 1883, the fifty-first anniversary of his father's death. Both his and his wife's remains were brought to Van Wert and interred in the family lot in the old Van Wert cemetery.

In politics Mr. Gleason was a democrat, and, being of an argumentative disposition, was always ready for a tilt with a political opponent. His religious belief was Universalism, although never having any affiliation with that church; as a citizen few were looked up to for counsel and advice more than he, and while in or out of public office his best efforts for the promotion of the county's welfare were given without stint, and many substantial improvements through the county will perpetuate the memory of Stephen Gleason.

Joseph Gleason, father of the writer, was born in Manchester township, Ontario county,

N. Y., September 3, 1803, and, with his brother and sisters, was given a fair common-school education, which qualified him to teach the district school. It was while engaged in teaching he became acquainted with Miss Harriet Brown, who was at that time a pupil in his school, the acquaintance ripening into attachment destined to be life long, and which resulted in their marriage, February 10, 1828. After his marriage he continued to reside near the place of his birth, following in turn the occupations of teacher, farmer and lumberman, until the year 1837, when with his wife and three children, he joined the little colony then about to try the many vicissitudes of emigration to this then unsettled region. Entering 160 acres of land where Pott's Corners are now, he devoted his time for the next two years to clearing and improving a farm. Having been elected county recorder, he removed to Van Wert in the autumn of 1839, purchasing a log tavern near the northeast corner of Main and Jefferson streets, afterward replaced by him with a two-story frame building, known for many years as the American House. Being quite popular with the new settlers, official honors rather crowded upon him, as he at one time held the office of county recorder, associate judge, and justice of the peace, being appointed judge to fill a vacancy, so he did not continue long in that office, but held the other two for many years, and in the numerous pettifogged cases that came up to his court, 'Squire Gleason's rulings were rarely known to be set aside. After remaining in this diversified employment some fifteen years, he leased his hotel property to John W. Conn, and his term of office as county recorder having expired, he formed a partnership with Thos. R. Kear, and erected the first steam saw-mill built in the county, on the ground where W. A. Clark's flouring-mill is now located. After operating this mill about a year he sold out to his partner, taking a lease of the property for three years as a part of the consideration and at the expiration of the lease, with his brother Stephen as a partner, he built what is now the Gleason Lumber Co.'s mill, of which he afterward became sole owner, operating it with little help except that of his four sons, for a number of years, its products contributing largely toward the improvement of the town and surrounding county. In the meantime, having sold the hotel property and become possessed of several farms in embryo in the near vicinity of Van Wert, he gradually withdrew from the lumber business (which thereafter was conducted by his two youngest sons) and devoted his entire time to improving his farms, and looking after other real estate interests. During the Centennial year Mr. and Mrs. Gleason visited the Philadelphia World's fair, after which they made a tour of the scenes of thier childhood in Connecticut and New York, a journey long anticipated and greatly enjoyed, they, as a matter of course, finding but few still living in the old neighborhoods whom they had known in earlier years, yet this visit was something to recall and live over again until the end of life.

It was with much satisfaction that he saw nearly all of his children settle around the old home (his eldest daughter having removed to Michigan), and all were often together enjoying happy reunions under the parental roof. He was father of nine children, two of whom (a boy and a girl) died in infancy, seven growing to man's and woman's estate as follows: Mrs. Marietta L. Strother, of Algodon, Mich.; Julius A., Andrew J., Abram B. and Francis J., and Mrs. Julia A. Carper; and Ella A. Carper, of Van Wert city, who died April 4, 1876.

In politics Mr. Gleason was always a democrat, but he drew the line when disunion threatened, casting his vote for Stephen A. Douglass for president, and when the Civil war came, gave his two elder sons to uphold the stars and stripes. His religious convictions were broad and liberal, and although never affiliating with any church, he was a strong believer in the final salvation of the whole human race, or, in other words, was a Universalist, losing no opportunity to attend the preaching of that doctrine and to contribute of his means thereto. His favorite mottoes were, "Love thy neighbor as thyself" and, "Keep thyself unspotted from the world." With this simple creed for his guidance he was content to trust his future in the care of Him who doeth all things well. The approach of the grim reaper was gradual but sure for several years, paralytic symptoms affecting his walk and speech being first noticeable, yet his mental faculties were impaired but slightly up to his death, which occurred February 2, 1883, he having entered upon his eightieth year. He was surrounded by all of his family in his last hours and was followed to his chosen resting place in beautiful Woodland by many surviving and loving friends, who will long revere the name of Joseph Gleason.

Harriet Brown, mother of the writer, and eldest daughter of John and Elsie (Fish) Brown, was born February 26, 1811, at East Windsor, Conn., her family afterward moving to Ontario county, N. Y., and from thence to Lorain county, Ohio, where her parents resided until their death. While residing in New York she was united in marriage to Joseph Gleason, and afterward, with him and their three small children, emigrated to this county to help build a home in the almost unbroken wilderness. Although many privations and dangers had to be endured, yet she never flinched from her duty, and was in later years rewarded by seeing the wilderness bud and blossom as the rose, and the virgin forests give way to fertile and fruitful farms. So great was the transformation that it was difficult to realize that but a score of years had passed since she had nightly gathered her little ones about her to quiet their fears amid the howling of wolves in the surrounding forests. Mrs. Gleason never affiliated in membership with any church, and with her family was Universalist in belief, and found her highest good in maintaining an upright character and striving to impart it to her children and grandchildren, who "rise up and call her blessed." She survived her husband a little over five years, her death occurring July 26, 1888, at the family residence on West Main street, Van Wert, whence her mortal remains were borne by tender hands to be laid beside her loved companion in Woodland cemetery.

Sarah, eldest sister of Joseph Gleason, married William Pomeroy, with whom she removed to Canada, and when mother of five children, died. Her husband being unable to care for the children properly wrote an appealing letter to the Van Wert relatives in their behalf, which resulted in Stephen and Joseph Gleason undertaking to bring the orphans here to find homes, which was successfully accomplished, and they all lived to become useful citizens, viz: Francis C. Pomeroy, Mrs. John W. Clark, Carlos Pomeroy, Mrs. John T. Bowers and Mrs. Sarah J. Brittson, all of whom are now deceased. Their father followed them to Van Wert after a few years, and lived with his eldest son near Middlebury, up to the time of his death.

Phœbe N., second sister, became the wife of Matson Warren, and with him settled first in Lorain county, and afterward in Lake county, Ohio, whence with their family of seven children they removed to Van Wert county in the 'fifties, living first in the Gleason settlement, thence removing to Willshire, in and near which town they continued to reside until both parents were summoned to the better land. For a number of years previous to his death, Mr. Warren was totally blind. Mrs. Warren survived her husband some eight or ten years and lived to be the last surviving member of her father's family, her death occurring in December, 1894, at about the age of ninety years. Being a woman of great memory, to her A. J. Gleason is indebted for much of the family history here recorded, there being very few records existing in possession of Grandfather Gleason's descendants. Her children were, John B. Warren, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, the late Mrs. Abigail Langdon, of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Abram M. Warren, of Cleveland, Mrs. Minerva Langdon of Liberty township, Mrs. Elmira Richards of Van Wert city, Hiram Warren (deceased), and Job A. Warren, of Pleasant township.

Clarissa, third sister, began teaching at an early age and was one of the pioneers of that profession in Van Wert county, numbering among her pupils many who are among the best known residents. She became the wife of John Edson, to whom she bore one daughter. In the year 1873 she was bereaved by the loss of both husband and daughter, who were stricken down by the destroyer within but a few weeks of each other. She afterward made her home in Van Wert, becoming an active promoter of Spiritualism, in which doctrine she sought consolation for her double bereavement. Her death occurred November 24, 1893, at the age of eighty years.

Mary, fourth sister, married Jacob Thorn, now of Chicago, Ill., making her home at Delphos, Van Wert and Dixon at different periods, but while residing at the latter place fell a victim to consumption, August 3, 1856, aged thirty-nine years. No children were born by her.

Eliza, fifth sister, was wedded to Matthew Flagg and resided near her mother's homestead in Pleasant township until about 1858, when, being compelled to leave home by her husband's abuse, she, with her children (two sons and a daughter), made her home in Van Wert until her death, which occurred June 23, 1867, at the age of forty-eight years. Henry J. Flagg, her eldest son, is now residing at Xenia, Ohio, while Mrs. Albina Long, the daughter, and Joseph C. Flagg, the youngest son, reside in Whitley county, Ind. Benjamin H. Gleason, youdgest brother of the writer's father, being a mere boy when the family came to Van Wert county, grew to manhood and cared for his widowed mother until her death, after which he married a Miss Potts, and in a few years removed to Greenville, Mich., where he resided until 1890, when he parted from his wife, coming to Van Wert county, where he made his home with his sister, Mrs. Edson, up to the time of his death, which occurred December 19, 1891, aged sixty-eight. He left no children.

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ANDREW JACKSON GLEASON, son of Joseph Gleason, was born in Manchester township, Ontario county, N. Y., November 27, 1836. The following year his parents removed to Ohio, stopping for a few weeks in Lorain county, with the mother's parents—Mr. and Mrs. John Brown—while his father and uncle, Stephen Gleason, proceeded via Lake Erie and the Maumee river to the wilds of Van Wert county, to select lands for themselves and widowed mother. As an amusing incident of the journey it is related that when the time came to part with her relatives in Lorain, Mrs. Gleason remarked, upon getting into the wagon, that she was sure that she was "forgetting something," but could not think what it was until some one asked where the baby was, when it was learned that the subject had been left in the house asleep and unnoticed, and nearly got left in the confusion.

In the fall of 1839 his father removed from his clearing to Van Wert, then consisting only of some half-dozen rude cabins, surrounded by the primeval forest, in which wild animals of all kinds roamed at will, furnishing sport and the main supply of meat for the citizens almost at their doors. Among his earliest and most vivid recollections are the howling of wolves after night-fall, from their haunts less than one-quarter of a mile from our courthouse, while bear, deer and smaller animals could be frequently found by the hunter where now are situated some Van Wert's most beautiful homes. At the age of four he was sent to the village school, which he attended regularly, as did most boys, until arriving at the age of sixteen, or thereabouts, when his father, having need of his services in the saw-mill, his school days came to a close, and his subsequent studies were prosecuted at home during winter evenings. Being passionately fond of music, after acquiring a limited knowledge of the art, he in 1859 attended the Normal Musical institute at Chicago for a term, and in 1860, the institute being then conducted by three eminent teachers--Dr. Lowell Mason, Wm. B. Bradbury and Geo. F. Root—he remained under their instruction a still longer period. Returning to Van Wert he organized classes in vocal music, and was engaged in teaching, when in the spring of 1861, the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter.

Realizing that the battles of the Union must be fought mainly by the young men of the north, and also recognizing the truth of his illustrious namesake's sentiment—"the Union, it must and shall be preserved"—he at once lent his influence and aid to the cause, and after the departure of one company of three months' volunteers he assisted in organizing a reserve company, of which he was elected second lieutenant, and assisted in drilling the company during the summer. After the return of the three months' troops he enlisted, September 7, 1861, and helped to recruit the first three years' company organized in Van Wert, which was assigned to the Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and became company H of that organization. Being defeated as a candidate for second lieutenant, he took his place as a private in the ranks, serving in that capacity until detailed at headquarters, Second division, army of the Ohio, then at Munfordville, Ky., as stenographer to the medical director. Upon approaching the battle field at Pittsburg Landing, feeling that his company needed his services (and his duties at headquarters being practically at an end) he fell in as the company passed, and picking up an Enfield rifle and accouterments on the battle ground, he took part in the second day's battle, until the rebel host was sent flying toward Corinth. Remaining with his company thereafter during the siege and capture of that rebel stronghold, and the subsequent march of Buell's army to Stevenson, Ala.; he was promoted from private to second sergeant of the company, and soon after detailed with a recruiting detachment of the regiment which left for Ohio, just previous to Bragg's raid into Kentucky, which caused the withdrawal of the army of the Ohio to Louisville. Remaining in Ohio until after the middle of October, he was the first of the detail to report to the regiment, which he did with fifteen recruits, all armed and equipped, who were then at Saloma, Ky., the army then being en route for Nashville, Tenn. Having during his absence been promoted to first sergeant of the company, he at once assumed the duties of that position, and as such participated in the battles of Stone River, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga. In the last bloody conflict he was twice hit by rebel bullets, the first, however, being so nearly spent it did not disable; the last was during the closing engagement of the first day, while he was in charge of his company, when he was severely wounded, the ball passing through the muscles of the right shoulder (in front and rear, crossing the arm-pit), and compelling him to go to the rear. During the next day's battle he remained most of the day with other wounded on the field (the hospital having been rendered untenable about nine A. M. by rebel artillery), making his way to Rossville that evening, and to Chattanooga next day, proceeding by wagon train to Bridgeport, Ala., (fifty miles), where his brother, Lieut. J. A. Gleason, was stationed with a pontoon train. His brother, having heard of his being wounded, had just started for Chattanooga by another road, and a messenger failing to overtake him, Sergt. Gleason and a wounded comrade, who had accompanied him from the battle field, were cared for by Lieut. Gleason's brother officers, until his return. Being taken to Nashville, he remained in the hospital there a few days, when, with his comrade, he was furloughed and at once left for home. Before the expiration of his furlough he received a recruiting commission, as second lieutenant, conditioned upon his securing twenty recruits. Owing to the fact, however, that the first lieutenant of his company (who was also wounded in the same battle) was also working for a commission as captain, the sergeant was unable to get over sixteen to his credit, by the following March, when his company, having veteranized, with a few exceptions, and, having enjoyed the thirty-day furlough allowed, was returning to the front when he resigned his recruiting commission, reenlisted as a veteran, and hastened to overtake his command, then en route for Chattanooga, Tenn., which he succeeded in doing at Nashville, just as they were ready to leave the city. Taking his accustomed place at the head of his company as first sergeant, although still feeble from the effects of his wound and a severe cough contracted while in the hospital, he marched through with the regiment, arriving at Chattanooga in better condition than when he started. He was promoted to sergeant-major of the regiment soon after, serving in that capacity during the bloody battles of the Atlanta campaign, among which may be mentioned Resaca, Pickett's Mills, Kenesaw mountain and Atlanta (his regiment being in Willich's First brigade, Wood's Third division, Fourth army corps, under Howard and Stanley, until Atlanta was besieged when he was commissioned second lieutenant, and assigned to company A. He was with that company during the siege, the subsequent flank movement to Jonesboro resulting in Atlanta's capture, the return movement to Tennessee under Gen. Thomas, and the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., at the latter engagement being left in command of the company by the death of Lieut. Hanson, the commander, who was killed in the first charge on Overton's Hill the second day. He continued in command of the company during the pursuit of Hood's scattered legions into Alabama, and until the arrival of the Fourth army corps at Huntsville, where a winter camp was established. Here he received a commission as first lieutenant, and was appointed adjutant of the regiment, participating in the subsequent advance into east Tennessee, by Gen. Stanley, the rendezvous at Nashville after the surrender of Lee and Johnston, and the expedition to Texas in July, 1865. He was tendered a commission as captain while at San Antonio, but declined further promotion, being well suited with the office he then held, and, realizing that the regiment would soon be mustered out, preferred to see junior officers promoted to the vacant captaincies, to being advanced merely for the honors attached to the title. After a service of about four months in Texas his regiment was mustered out at San Antonio, November 21, 1865, and ordered to Columbus, Ohio, for final discharge, which place was reached December 25, Christmas day. The enlisted men were discharged almost at once, the officers remaining a few days to close their accounts with the government, so that he did not arrive at his home in Van Wert until the last day of the year. In was a happy New Year, indeed, to be reunited with friends in his boyhood's home, after more than four and a quarter years' service and exposure to the hardships and dangers incident to army life, and to be once more free, seemed like the dawn of a new life—the past four years more like a horrible night-mare than reality—the present rather a bright dream than the truth, although eagerly anticipated for months.

After a brief rest and reunion with his people, he packed his grip and betook himself to Chesterfield, Fulton county, Ohio, where, on the 28th of February, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Adeline Disbrow, a lady whose acquaintance he had formed before the war, while her people were residing in Van Wert county, and with whom he had corresponded, but had not seen for nearly seven years. Returning to Van Wert soon after, with his bride, he purchased a lot and built the house on North Shannon street, in which he has ever since resided. Mr. Gleason embarked in business with his brother soon after locating in Van Wert, (at first with a partner) in the manufacture of wagon and carriage wood stock, which has since been conducted by the firm of J. A. Gleason & Brother, with a fair degree of success, their product being favorably known to the trade not only of our own country but foreign countries as well, while the money they have expended for raw material and labor has helped to improve farms and build up the city of Van Wert to its present proportions.

Mr. Gleason is one of the safe and conservative business men of the city of Van Wert, as well as one of the most enterprising and benevolent men of the city. He is a liberal contributor to all public enterprises, having assisted in organizing the Van Wert Hedge Co., with a capital of $40,000, and has been twice chosen president of the company, which is composed mostly of leading farmers of Van Wert county. He cheerfully encourages that which seems to be for the benefit of the city and the county as well; was one of the early trustees and for two years manager of the beautiful Woodland cemetery, his term ending by limitation in the spring of 1895. In matters educational he is ever a strong promoter, ever ready to encourage the young toward securing a good education. Politically, while his early teachings were democratic, he has been since the war a stanch republican, ever ready to assert his principles and to assist in carrying out the wishes of the people. He religiously believes in the ultimate salvation of the whole human race, although not being classed as a member by any church; yet, feeling that an upright, blameless life is essential to earthly happiness, and to prepare us for the greater life to come, he willingly encourages all religious denominations in attaining this end, without regard to creed. Socially he is a member and past grand of Van Wert lodge, No. 251, I. O. O. F., a past patriarch of Marion encampment, No. 61, was a charter member of Canton Van Wert, patriarchs militant, member of Pearl Rebekah lodge, No. 53, I. O. O. F., is commander of William C. Scott post, N. 100, G. A. R., having been chosen representative to the Louisville encampment in 1895, from district No. 35, beside representing his post in the department encampments at Steubenville, Canton and Sandusky. He is also present M. W. of Van Wert lodge, No. 47, A. O. U. W., which body he has also at different times represented in the meetings of the grand lodge.

Dorothea Adeline Disbrow, wife of A. J. Gleason, was born January 17, 1841, in LaGrange township, Lorain county, Ohio, being second daughter of Orville Disbrow, and Fannie M. Buck, his wife, both of whom were born in Delaware county, N. Y., the latter now residing in Chesterfield township, Fulton county, Ohio, where her husband died in 1874. About the year 1853 Mr. Disbrow removed to Hardin county, Ohio, whence, after residing a year, he removed to Van Wert county, purchasing the farm now owned by John Roberts in Liberty township, on the Van Wert and Willshire road, where the family resided until 1859, when they removed to Fulton county, the present home. Mrs. Gleason received the average education afforded by country schools in those days, and, at the close of the war, married her soldier lover and came to Van Wert again to reside. Before her marriage she was baptised and became a member of the Desciples' church. She was a past noble grand of Pearl lodge No. 53, Daughters of Rebekah, I. O. O. F., and delegate to state assembly D. of R., also past president of Wm. C. Scott corps, No. 18, W. R. C., being twice elected as presiding officer by the corps, and was very useful and active in both societies, until forced by ill health to give up her charitable work, which will long keep her memory green among those who were associated with her, while it never in the least caused her to forget her duty to her family. In February, 1892, while caring for her afflicted eldest daughter she herself was stricken with a fatal malady, which baffled the best medical skill procurable, and she steadily declined in health until March 15, 1893, when she peacefully expired, surrounded by her loved ones, aged fifty-two years and two months. Her remains were followed to Woodland by both societies of which she was a member, and by many other sorrowing friends and relatives, in whose hearts will long be left an aching void.

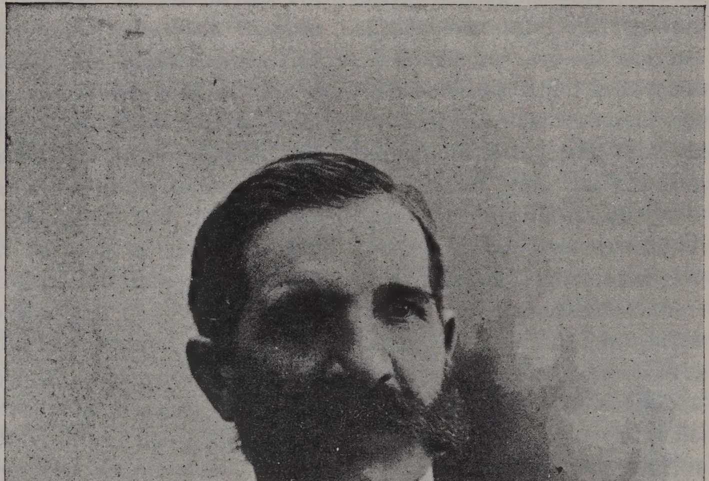
To Mr. and Mrs. Gleason, in their modest home, were born seven children, of whom the third, fourth and sixth died in early childhood. Mariette, the eldest, born November 25, 1866, was a graduate of the Union schools in 1885, and afterward taught with marked success until a rule was adopted by the board of education barring relatives of its members from positions as teachers (her uncle being a member of the board). She was then elected a teacher in the Rushford, Minn., schools, where she taught one year, after which declining health caused her to abandon the vocation of teaching as that of book-keeping, in which she engaged for a time. After bravely resisting the steady approach of the destroyer for many months, during which she bore her sufferings with great patience and christian fortitude, and after her beloved mother had preceded her only a few weeks, she departed this life for the better land April 30, 1894, and was placed beside her mother in the family lot at Woodland. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Van Wert for a number of years, and dearly beloved by all who knew her. Fannie M., second daughter, was born February 9, 1868, and received her education in the public schools of Van Wert, and resides with her father on North Shannon street, being a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Epworth league, and a past noble grand of Pearl lodge D. of R. Lilian M., wife of D. W. Armentrout, was born August 23, 1874, educated in public schools, married, December 27, 1891, and is the mother of two children, Ruth and Dorothea, she resides in Van Wert, her husband being a fireman on the C., J. & M. R. R. Nellie P., youngest daughter, was born November 29, 1882, and is now being educated in public schools.

FRANK J. GLEASON—It is with marked satisfaction that the biographer adverts to the life history of one who has attained success in any vocation in which he has directed his thought and action, and such a life, whether it be one of calm, but consecutive endeavor, or one of meteoric accomplishment, must ever serve as both lesson and incentive. The subject of this review is distinctively one of the representative business men of Van Wert, and has directed his efforts toward the goal of maximum success, and there is particular interest attaching to his career from the fact that he is a native of the city where he has attained a position so much to be commended, and, perhaps, envied.

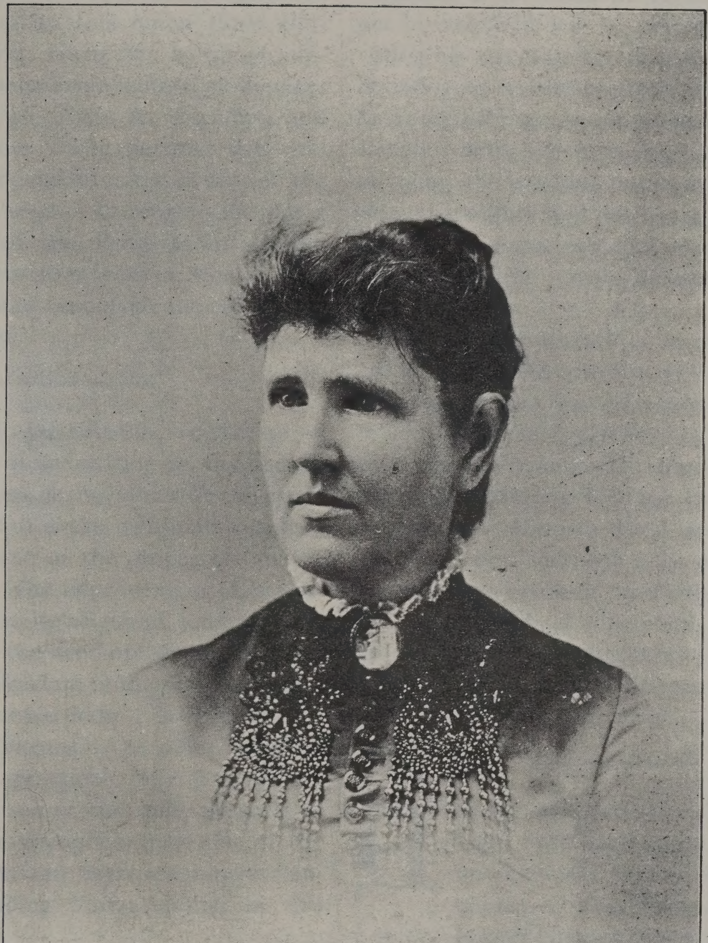
Frank J. Gleason was born in Van Wert on the 31st of May, 1842, being the son of Joseph and Harriet (Brown) Gleason, whose individual history is noted in detail under special heading in this publication. He was reared to manhood in the city of his birth, receiving his preliminary education in the public schools, which in his youth were far different from the excellent system now in vogue, as, at that time, Van Wert was but just emerging from its status as a pioneer village. He first attended school in a little log building which stood on the present site of the Spencer house, and then went to the new school building located on the McKim corner of Main and Washington streets, and finished up his scholastic training in the school building on the corner of Linn and Woodland avenues. After leav-school our subject entered into an association with his brother, Abram B., and rented the saw-mill which was owned by their father, paying him a stipulated price for each thousand feet of lumber turned out from the mill. This fraternal partnership existed until 1893, when our subject retired from the firm, whose successor was the Gleason Lumber company, and he then effected the purchase of the People's mills, a finely equipped plant for the production of flour, and these mills he has since conducted upon his individual responsibility, having pushed the enterprise forward to a point of most successful business operation.

When our subject and his brother began their business career in the saw-milling industry their financial resources were represented in the sum of $1.25, and they engaged in custom sawing and also bought logs—our subject operating the engine and his brother acting as sawyer. The latter was finally elected sheriff of the county, whereupon Frank J. assumed the entire management of the saw-mill, supervising all details. That success attended the efforts of the young men was shown in the fact that when they retired from the business our subject was the owner of a fine stock farm of 163 acres in the county and valuable property in the city. In connection with the business eterprise, to which reference has already been made, Mr. Gleason still continues his connection with the stock farm, and has some of the finest standard-bred horses in this section of the Union. He has in training twelve horses, eight of these being young, and the other four having secured records, which are herewith noted: Blue Bell, 2:19¾; Joe Hooker, Jr., 2:24½; Abbie H., 2:26½; and Ashwood, a two-year-old, with a record of 2:22½. He is also owner of some exceptionally fine brood mares, which are in keeping at Sunset stock farm. Another fine individual owned by our subject is Billie Davis, sire of Sunset, 2:15¾, said record being made at the age of three years. On his stock farm Mr. Gleason also keeps a fine herd of Jerseys and a flock of very valuable Shropshire sheep.

In politics our subject renders stanch allegiance to the democratic party, and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.



FRANK J. GLEASON.



MRS. MARY E. GLEASON,

DECEASED

On the 24th of May, 1866, Mr. Gleason was united in marriage to Miss Mary Elvira Slade, who was born near Troy, N. Y., on the 1st day of February, 1842, the daughter of Erastus Slade, and to this union three children were born, viz: Harry M., to whom individual reference is made immediately following; Bertha M., wife of Clyde A. Purmort, and Grace E., at home. The devoted wife and mother was summoned into eternal rest on the 26th of January, 1892. In religion she was a devout member of the Presbyterian church and was a noble christian woman, whose death was deeply lamented far outside the sacred precincts of the home.

* * *

HARRY M. GLEASON.—Successs in any line of occupation in any avenue of business, is not a matter of spontaneity, but is the legitimate result of individual effort, and of the proper use of the means at hand. The improvement of opportunity and the exercise of sound judgment are alike essential to the accomplishment of any man's designs. Wisdom is the proper adaptation of means to noble ends. In view of this fact the study of biography becomes valuable, and its lessons of practical use. The subject of this sketch is one of the able, progressive and representative young business men of the city of Van Wert, and there is eminent consistency in according him attention in this connection.

Mr. Gleason is a native son of the city of Van Wert, having been born here on the 18th of August, 1867—the son of Frank J. and Mary Elvira (Slade) Gleason, to whom individual reference is made elsewhere in this volume. Our subject received his preliminary education in the excellent public schools of this city, continuing his studies therein until 1883, when he entered the Bryant & Stratton Business college, at Chicago, where he completed a four-months course, securing a thorough theoretical knowledge of business forms and methods, after which he returned home and put his acquirements to practical test by devoting his attention to office work. In this line of endeavor he was engaged until 1893, when he accepted the position as book-keeper in the People's mills, where he has since served, discharging the exacting duties of the same with signal capability and fidelity, and being recognized as an expert accountant and one of the most discerning young business men in Van Wert city.

Mr. Gleason was united in marriage, on the 16th of April, 1890, to Maude Winifred Hester, who was born in Van Wert, on the 6th of October, 1872, the daughter of U. H. Hester, a well known commercial traveler. To this union two children, Hannah Floy and Robert, were born. Hannah Floy was born August 27, 1892, but survived only until November 15, 1893, and Robert was born April 7, 1895.

In his political adherency, Mr. Gleason is an uncompromising democrat. In his fraternal relations our subject is prominently identified with the Knights of Pythias.

* * *

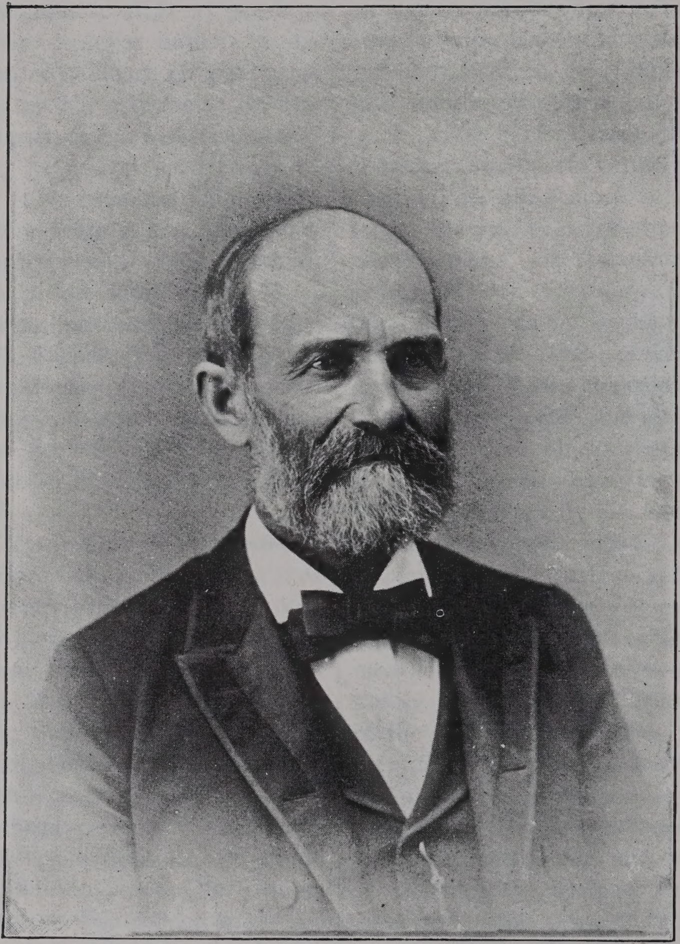
ABRAM BROWN GLEASON, a prominent business man of Van Wert and an ex-county official, was born in the county of Van Wert, April 10, 1840, a son of Joseph Gleason, a notice of whom appears elsewhere in these pages. Mr. Gleason attended the schools of Pleasant township in his youth, and while not educated in the sense in which that term is usually accepted, he has by long years of business contact with his fellow-men in different capacities become the possessor of a vast fund of practical knowledge, such as schools and colleges fail to impart. When but fifteen years of age he began working in a saw-mill and grist-mill, where he found employment until his twenty-first year.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Gleason accepted the position of head sawyer and general manager with the proprietor of the aforesaid mill, at a compensation of $1.25 per day, and continued as an employee until 1866, his wages in the meantime having been greatly increased by reason of his efficiency. In the year last named, in partnership with his brother, Frank J. Gleason, he purchased the mill, greatly increased the capacity, and added machinery for planing lumber, and operated it jointly with his brother until 1893, doing an extensive business in the interim. In 1893, Mr. Gleason took as partners his son Earl Gleason and F. H. Carper, thus forming the well known firm, the Gleason Lumber company, the subject retaining a half-interest in the enterprise, which has become one of the largest and most successful of the kind in Van Wert county.

In 1868 Mr. Gleason became interested in real estate, especially farm lands, and he now owns over 500 acres in the county of Van Wert, the greater part of which is well improved. He became connected with the Van Wert County bank May 25, 1869, as a stockholder and director, and in March, 1883, became identified with the First National bank of Van Wert, with which he has since been connected in an official capacity. This is one of the most substantial institutions of the kind in Northwestern Ohio, and not a little of its prosperity is due to the wise council and sound financial foresight of the subject, who is one of the most prominent and capable officials of the institution. In addition to the business enterprises referred to, Mr. Gleason is interested in the Ohio Live Stock & Land company, and the Van Wert Natural Gas company, and for a period of five years was connected with the Eagle Stave company; he was for the same length of time a prominent factor in the Van Wert Stave company, and to him is largely due the credit of establishing the first building and loan association in Van Wert, a successful financial enterprise, of which he was for some years president. These associations have found in Mr. Gleason an active promoter, and he has served as a director of the same since their organization.

In 1869 Mr. Gleason was elected, as a democrat, sheriff of Van Wert county, which position he filled most acceptably for two terms, having been re-elected his own successor in 1871. In the matter of internal improvements Mr. Gleason early took the initiation, and he was one of the chief promotors of the C., J. & M. R. R., of which he served as a director until it was changed from a narrow to a broad-gauge road; and all other enterprises, having for their object the material advancement of the county have found in him a liberal patron. Financially Mr. Gleason's saccess has been commensurate with the activity and ability displayed in the various enterprises, and his standing in business circles, both local and beyond the confines of his city and county, is most enviable. He possesses marked business ability, is thoroughly familiar with every detail of the different enterprises with which he is identified, and manages his affairs with a tact and skill which mark him as a man of superior judgment. His has, indeed, been an active and honorable career, and while he has been successful in the business world, he is highly esteemed in the community for strict integrity and the display of true manly qualities.

Mr. Gleason entered into the marriage relation in the city of Van Wert, February 6, 1862, with Lucretia J. Fox, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Zimmerman) Fox. Two children resulted from the union—Lofnis E., a partner of his father, and Mittie E., who married Dr.



JULIUS A. GLEASON.

W. T. Chambers, a well known dentist of Denver, Colo. Mrs. Gleason died April 1, 1867, since which time Mr. Gleason has made his home with her people and with his son.

* * *

JULIUS ALONZO GLEASON, of Van Wert, Ohio, second son of Joseph and Harriet (Brown) Gleason, was born in Manchester township, Ontario county, N. Y., June 9, 1834. When about three years of age his parents removed to Van Wert county, Ohio, locating, at first, six miles southwest of the village of the same name, near the road leading to Willshire. Among his earliest recollections are some incidents of the trip by wagon from Van Wert village to the new home in the unbroken forest. A road had to be opened for the wagons by cutting logs and small trees out of the way. Sleeping the first night of their arrival in the wagons, the next day temporary "shanties" were made of poles covered with branches, which were used until cabins could be built of logs, and covered with split boards for shingles, when sleeping quarters were made more comfortable. The education of young Julius began with rudimental instruction received from his mother and sister at home and from attending a little "play-school" kept by his Uncle Stephen Gleason's eldest daughter—so that at the time of the removal to Van Wert in 1839 he could spell and read moderately well. Afterward, he attended the village schools (generally only during the winter season) until he attained the age of about sixteen years, when, having obtained a fair knowledge of the common branches, his school education terminated. Having early acquired a practical knowledge of penmanship, he was of valuable assistance to his father in the office of county recorder, which office was held by Joseph Gleason for several terms. He also assisted in the management of the hotel of which his father was proprietor for about fifteen years after the removal of the family to the village in 1839. During the early part of this period he remembers of parties of Indian hunters being encamped near by. They were generally civil enough, except when they had imbibed too much "fire water," at which time they became quarrelsome, but their quarrels were generally among themselves.

Joseph Gleason, the father, having leased the hotel property and embarked in the lumber business, found the services of his son, Julius, valuable in the manufacture of lumber, and for many years the latter assisted in operating the saw-mill, generally as engineer. Becoming imbued with a desire to see a little more of the world than had yet come within his ken, young Gleason made a somewhat extended trip westward, proceeding via Chicago to the Mississippi, arriving at Fulton, Ill., July 23, 1857. Then finding employment at Lyons and Clinton, Iowa, as stationary engineer, he remained in that vicinity until September, when he made a voyage up Fever river to Galena, Ill., thence by railroad to Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked for about three weeks, after which, taking passage on an up-river steamboat to Winona, Minn., he proceeded by stage to Rochester and Oronoco, in the same state, where he visited S. B. Clark, an old friend of his boyhood. Remaining in this vicinity, employed on a farm for a few weeks, he returned to Van Wert, Ohio. Here he resumed work in his father's saw-mill as engineer, and afterward associated as a partner in the business with his brother, Andrew J., and his father.

In January and February, 1858, young Mr. Gleason was employed in the office of the county recorder. March 3d he joined the I. O. O. F. lodge, located at Van Wert, and later the encampment branch of the same order, in which he still holds membership. During this period he took a great interest in musical affairs—as choir leader and in assisting to organize a glee club, etc., having also considerable practice in that line at home with brothers and sisters. About this time, on settling with his father, he received a deed for a building lot in west Van Wert, on which he afterward built the residence now occupied by himself and family. Having passed the required examination, he taught a four months' term of school in the district two and a half miles southwest of Van Wert during the winter of 1859-60. In January, 1861, he took an agency for a work on Odd Fellowship and made a tour through central New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, canvassing for the same, and, returning westward, arrived at Van Wert early in August, 1861.

The thundering of rebel guns against Fort Sumter had now aroused a loyal and responsive protest in his heart and he was not slow in offering his services in defense of the nation's honor, enlisting as a member of company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, September 7, 1861, and receiving official preferment as second sergeant of his company, which he had assisted in recruiting, to serve "three years or during the war"—among its members being some of his intimate friends and neighbors, his brother, Andrew J., being included. September 13 they boarded a train eastward, proceeding to Mansfield, where the Fifteenth was organizing under Col. M. R. Dickey of that place. After organizing, the regiment was transported by railroad via Columbus to Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, and thence, after being armed and equipped, via Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, to Lexington, Ky., and thence via Frankfort to Louisville.

On the morning of October 11 the started southward on the Louisville & Nashville railway. At Lebanon Junction, twenty-eight miles south, a bridge had been destroyed and they were hindered two hours waiting for an engine from the south. At Nolin Station, nine miles south of Elizabethtown, they went into camp late in the evening of October 11; remaining in camp here until December 9, they proceeded southward and arrived at Munfordville, on Green river, December 11, 1861. They remained here, taking the usual round of camp duties, until about February 15, when they marched via Bowling Green, Ky., and to Nashville, Tenn., arriving March 2, 1862. Continuing their march from here (as a part of Buell's army), they reached Columbia, Tenn., March 20. April 1 they continued the march westward toward Savannah and Pittsburg Landing, arriving in time to take part in the battle of Shiloh on April 7, and in the following up of the rebel army toward Corinth, Miss., where they arrived about May 5; Corinth being taken May 30, they remained encamped near there until June 10, when the army moved eastward and arrived at Iuka, Miss., on the 11th, and at Tuscumbia, Ala., June 15; on the 22d it crossed the Tennessee river near Florence, and, marching eastward through northern Alabama, arrived at Stevenson July 13, and on the 18th went into camp near the mouth of Battle Creek, Tenn., remaining in camp there until August 23, when they learned that Bragg's army had cut their communications and got in their rear, heading for Louisville, Ky. August 23, 1862, their cracker line being in the hands of the enemy, they were allowed to forage from the country they passed through, and green corn, apples, peaches, fresh meat, honey, etc., were found in abundant quantities to supply their wants. The march was across the mountains via Tracy City, Altamonte, Manchester and Murfreesboro, to Nashville, where they arrived September 9, 1862; continuing the march northward, they reached Munfordville, Ky., September 22, and the next two days made forced marches of twenty-four miles each day, via Elizabethtown, to West Point, on the Ohio, reaching Louisville, Ky., September 26. Mr. Gleason here received his commission as second lieutenant, to date from May 26, 1862. October 1 the Fifteenth marched from Louisville, via Shelbyville and Frankfort, thence via Lawrenceburg and Willisburg, to the battlefield of Perryville, October 11, but was not actively engaged in this battle, being held in reserve.

October 12th they marched, via Harrodsburg, Danville, etc., to Crab Orchard, afterward countermarching toward Munfordville and thence via Bowling Green to Nashville, arriving there November 7, 1862. November 19, Lieut. Gleason was detailed in command of the pioneer detachment of the regiment and was on detached service in the pioneer brigade and pontoon train until January 29, 1864, when he rejoined the regiment.

Lieut. Gleason commanded the regimental pioneer company from April, 1864, during the Atlanta campaign and the battle of Nashville, December 15–16, 1864; was promoted to first lieutenant March 18, 1864, and captain January 18, 1865. He was on detached service as assistant provost marshal at San Antonio, Tex., October 21, 1865, and was honorably discharged with his regiment at San Antonio, Texas, November 21, 1865, and after this he returned to his home at Van Wert, where he recruited his health, which had become somewhat seriously impaired. Of the business career of Capt. Gleason sufficient mention is made in connection of the sketch of his brother, Andrew J., with whom he associated himself under the firm name of J. A. Gleason & Bro., and at this point it is sufficient to say that they are identified with one of the leading industries of the city, and that our subject is one of Van Wert's representative men.

In politics Capt. Gleason exercises his right of franchise in the support of the men and measures of the republican party, and by that party was elected auditor of Van Wert county and served a term of two years from November, 1872, until November, 1874. In his fraternal relations the captain is identified with the G. A. R., and has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since 1855. Mr. Gleason has maintained a lively interest in all that pertains to the advancement and substantial up-building of Van Wert, and has been a leader in securing to the city its effective public school system, having devoted no little attention to matters germane to educational facilities.

On the 4th of September, 1866, Mr. Gleason was unted in marriage to Margaret Clark, who was born at Allentown, in Allen county, Ohio, on the 1st of May, 1838, being the daughter of Samuel M. and Lydia (Daugherty) Clark, and whose home has been in Van Wert from her infancy; the offspring of this union has been two children: Willard E., who is second lieutenant of company C, of the Sixth infantry, United States army, being now stationed at Fort Thomas, Ky., and being a graduate of West Point; and Walter, who holds a position as book-keeper of the Van Wert Natural Gas company. On the 22d of April, 1881, Mr. and Mrs. Gleason adopted a foundling female child, supposed then to be two months old, whose parents and name are yet unknown, but to whom they gave the name of Nora Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Gleason and daughter, Nora Marie, are members of the First Methodist church of Van Wert.

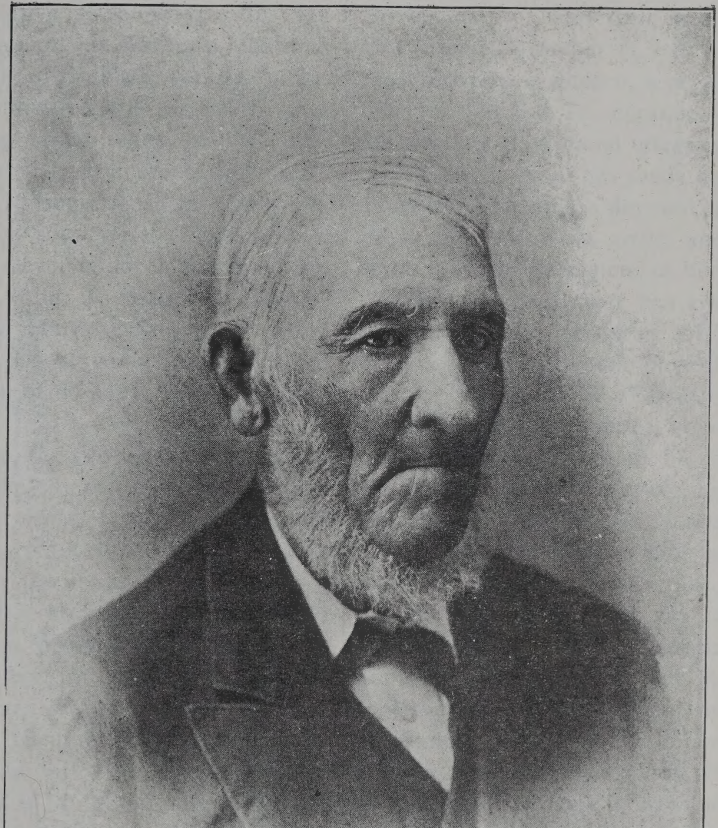
The Gleason family have been conspicuously identified with the history of this section of the Buckeye state from the early pioneer epoch, and any compilation purporting to give even slight details in regard to those who have occupied representative positions in connection with the material progress and substantial development of the city of Van Wert, would be manifestly incomplete and incongruous were there a failure to advert to this well known and honored family. On other pages of this volume the publishers have gladly given space to very complete records touching the lives of the several members of this family, and at this point much satisfaction is felt in directing attention to one of its representatives, whose business career has been marked by scrupulous honor and integrity and whose loyal service in defense of the nation has been voluntary and unstinted.

* * *

GEORGE W. TOLAN, of the Van Wert Marble & Granite company, Van Wert city, Ohio, was born in Carrollton, Ohio, in July, 1849, a son of James and Elizabeth (Crabbs) Tolan, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania June 8, 1806, and was a son of James Tolan, who came from Scotland in an early day and located in Washington county, Pa., where he was married.

James Tolan, the father of George W., was the eldest of a family of eight children, grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and there learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed until 1850; then engaged in the marble business in Carrollton, Ohio, and there followed it until he came to Van Wert, in 1864, where he continued in the marble business until 1887, at which time he retired. He married in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1830, Miss Elizabeth Crabbs, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1811, and to this union were born nine children, as follows: Thomas J., deceased; William; D. H.; Isaac, deceased; Andy; Mary A., M. D.; James; George W., our subject, and Hattie A., now the widow of John Dunlap Irvin. Mr. Tolan was quite well to do when he retired from business. In politics he was a democrat, and while living in Carroll county he served one term as county sheriff, and as postmaster of Carrollton under President Pierce. His death took place November 4, 1891, and that of his widow December 3, 1894, and it is needless to say that their loss was deeply felt by the community in which they so long lived. James Tolan was a gentleman of great public spirit, conscientious in all respects, high-toned and honorable, and devotedly attached to his family and friends. He lived a life of strictly moral character and was truly christian-like in all his acts.

George W. Tolan resided with his parents in Carrolton until twelve years of age, when he went to Delphos, Ohio, where he served five years under his brother, Thomas J., as an apprentice at marble cutting. He then passed a year and a half in Lima, Ohio, as a journeyman, and in 1869 came to Van Wert and worked at journey work for his father until 1872; he next passed six months in Cincinnati and eight months in Louisville, Ky., working at his trade, and then returned to Van Wert and remained here until 1878; he next worked in Saint Louis, Mo., for eight months; in Little Rock, Ark., three months; in Carthage, Mo., four months; then again in Saint Louis until 1880, when he returned to Van Wert and worked for his father until 1887, following with a four years' job in the shop of Rice Bros. At the conclusion of this engagement, Mr. Tolan and George W. Sidle united in the marble business as equal partners in Van Wert, still carry on their trade with uniform success, and now handle about $6,000 worth of work each season. Mr. Tolan is also and expert sign painter and letter draftsman, which art materially assists him in tombstone and kindred classes of sculpture. In politics he is a sterling democrat, and socially he is a genial, whole-souled gentleman. (See sketch of G. W. Sidle.)



James Tolan

THOMAS ERWIN, deceased, was born near Staunton, Va., in November, 1812, a son of Edward and Mary Erwin, the former of whom was a large planter and extensive slaveholder. In 1832 Edward Erwin brought his family to Ohio and engaged in farming in Highland county. This occupation he followed until his death, that of his wife having taken place prior to his. They were of Scotch-Irish descent, and in religion were pious Presbyterians, in which denomination all his sons were elders. Their family comprised eleven children, named as follows: Stewart, John, Reuben B., Payton, Hannah, Thomas, Harriet, Newton, Peachy, Mary and Frank, all of wnom are deceased, with the exception of Peachy, who resides in Greenfield, Ohio.

Thomas Erwin, the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch and a few events of whose life it is our object to depict, was reared on the old Virginia plantation, and was twenty years of age when the family came to Highland county, Ohio. Here he was married, in 1835, to Mary Ann Wright, who was born in Bourbon county, Ky., in 1815—a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Patten) Wright—and at once engaged in farming in the same county, a vocation which he followed for several years, and then engaged in a fulling-mill, which he followed for several additional years, when he removed to Ripley, Brown county, Ohio, and entered the grocery business, which he followed until the close of his days. In 1854 he lost his wife, who was the mother of eight children, named as follows: Mary M., wife of S. C. Munger, of Waterloo, Iowa, and for forty-four years teacher and principal of schools in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska; Alexander W., who died in 1861; an infant, deceased; Hannah J., also deceased; Sarah E., in Van Wert; Catherine A., widow of James E. Morrison, late county clerk of Van Wert county, of whom mention is made in full below; Thomas S., and John D., deceased. After the death of the mother of this family Thomas Erwin married, in 1854, Mary Campbell, a native of Brown county, who died in 1856. Thomas Erwin died December 12, 1872, a member of the Presbyterian church, a republican in politics and a Son of Temperance—a man of sterling worth and of sound integrity. His daughter, Sarah E., who has made her home in Van Wert since 1875, has devoted her life to teaching. She is also an artist, and has produced some very fine specimens of her skill.

Mrs. S. C. Munger has two sons—one a member of the legislature of Nebraska; the other a prominent young physician of Spencer, Iowa. Alexander W. Erwin, deceased, was married in Brown county, Ohio, to Araminta Smith, in 1856, by whom he had one son, H. K. Erwin, a prominent traveling man, of Saint Paul, Min. Mrs. Arminta Erwin died in 1872.

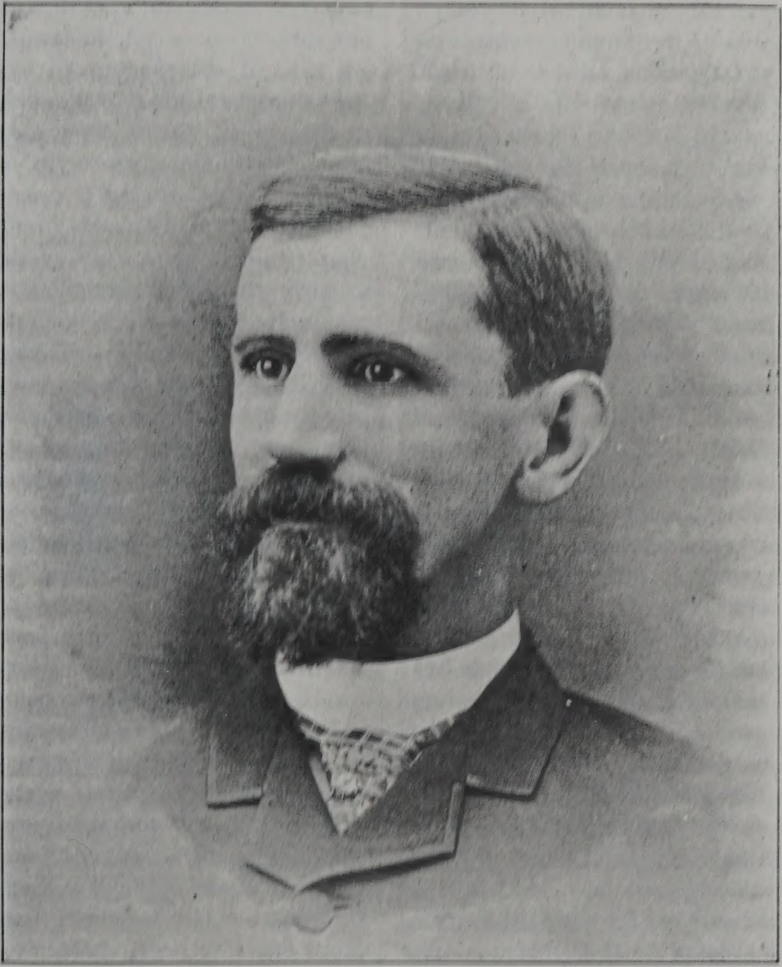
James E. Morrison, late county clerk of Van Wert county, was born in Franklin county, Pa., November 27, 1839, a son of Andrew J. and Sarah (Edwards) Morrison. James E. was reared in Fort Wayne, Ind., to which point his parents had moved when he was quite a child; thence he removed to Columbia City, Ind., while still a lad, and then lived until he became of age; he then came to Van Wert and engaged in clerking in the hardware store of A. B. McCurdy until the fall of 1862, when he enlisted in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteers, under Col. Alexander. He was made orderly sergeant September 10, 1864, served until the close of the war, was discharged in June, 1865, and then returned to Van Wert. He was twice married; first, in Mercer county, to Hannah Robinson, by whom he had one child—Hannah M., wife of Wesley Humphreys, of Montana. Mrs. Hannah Morrison was called away in 1870, and on the twenty-first day of March, 1872, Mr. Morrison married Catherine Ann Erwin, daughter of Thomas Erwin, of whom mention is made in full. To this union was born one child—James E. E. Morrison, who is now a clerk in the store of D. R. Bonewitz. James E. Morrison was very popular with the republican party, and under its auspices served as county clerk from 1865 to 1872, or two full consecutive terms; he was a charter Mason, and also a member of the G. A. R., and a genial, liberal man, beloved by all who knew him. His death occurred March 22, 1883. Mrs. Catherine A. Morrow, his widow, is a most estimable lady, and still has her residence in Van Wert, beloved by all who know her.

JOHN DUNLAP ERVIN, deceased, was a native of Ohio, and was born in Hillsborough, Highland county, November 12, 1846, a son of Thomas Ervin. John Dunlap Ervin was reared and educated in Ripley county, Ohio; in 1877 he removed to the city of Van Wert, and for twelve years acted as chief clerk, or head salesman, for Mr. Zimmerman; in 1889 he accepted a similar position in the dry-goods establishment of Mr. Seelburg, a situation he most satisfactorily filled until December 16, 1893, when he was called away by death. The marriage of Mr. Erwin took place in Van Wert March 12, 1878, to Miss Hattie Alma Tolan, who was born in Carrollton, Ohio, July 4, 1856, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Crabbs) Tolan, and this felicitous union was blessed by the birth of two children—Mary G. and Catherine E.—who are still living under the fostering care of their amiable mother. Mr. Erwin was an elder in the Presbyterian church for thirteen years, was very prominent in church affairs, was connected with all the societies of his church and very liberal in his contributions toward its support. He was also a royal arch Mason, and was interred under the solemn rites and beautiful ceremonies of that order. He was diligent and economical, and yet generous, and left behind him a life insurance policy for $6,000, and a fine residence and double lot, of sixty-six feet front, on Washington street.

Mr. Ervin throughout life was a most consistent gentleman in every respect—in business, domestic and social relations—and his native intelligence, suave manners and well-schooled mind led to his unvarying prosperity in the first relation mentioned. He was a kind husband and indulgent father, but ever kept his children in the way they should go, and his friendships were always warm and faithful. His ancestral history will be found in the sketch of his father, Thomas Erwin, in close proximity, although, through some mutation, there is a different spelling of the name.

Mrs. Ervin, a most estimable lady, resides on the old home place, with her accomplished daughters as her companions, and surrounded by a group of admiring visiting friends. The daughters, who are unusually bright and intelligent, are true ornaments of society, and their acquaintance and companionship are eagerly sought for by the younger members of the community—and, indeed, by many of the elder members.

ABIJAH GOODWIN, farmer of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Madison county Ohio, and was born February 23, 1834, the son of Jacob and Delilah (Keeth) Goodwin, both of Baltimore county, Md. Jacob Goodwin, the father of our subject, was both a blacksmith and farmer; he came to what is now Van Wert county, Ohio, in the fall of 1835, and entered forty acres of land in York township, where he spent his remaining days. He served as one of the first jurors, the court be-



J. D. Ervin

ing held at Willshire. At the time of his death, which occurred May 26, 1886, he owned 280 acres of land, and as a democrat served as trustee of his township for several terms and was also school director at the time of the building of the first school-house of this township. He was a member of the Church of God, and his wife was a member of the United Brethren in Christ. To this worthy couple were born six children: Abijah, our subject, the eldest; Mary Ann, wife of Joseph Johnstown, of Colorado; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Kenipe, of York township; Sarah Jane, and two sons that died in infancy. The mother of these children passed away February 6, 1843, and Mr. Goodwin was next married to Martha Rice, three sons and two daughters being born as follows: Elijah, a resident of York township; Delilah, deceased wife of James Book: Jacob, Edgar ond Isabella, all deceased. The second Mrs. Goodwin died November 16, 1858, and for his third wife Mr. Goodwin married Mrs. Margaret J. Sands, widow of Jacob Sands, who has borne him one daughter, Emma Nora, wife of Thomas Morris, of Lima, Ohio. The widow of Jacob Goodwin resides in Lima, with this daughter.

Abijah Goodwin, our subject, grew to manhood on the home farm, but had only ordinary school advantages, having educated himself, though he avers he has felt the want of a thorough education, as the final words of his mother were "educate Abijah." He made his first purchase of land in 1878, and on this land the school-building now stands in Elgin. In 1866 he bought his present beautiful farm of 160 acres in the southwest corner of section No. 35, York township, but which was then an utter wilderness, our subject cutting the first tree therefrom. In 1878 he built a fine brick building, which cost $2,000, and tiled the farm thoroughly, making it a finely improved farm.

In 1857 Mr. Goodwin married Catherine Barber, daughter of Henry and Rebecca (Bailey) Barber, and to this union have been born twelve children, viz: Washington; Joseph; Albert, deceased; Jacob Henry; Harriet, deceased wife of Charles Goodwin; Elias, deceased; Leonard; Abijah, Jr., deceased; Lillie, wife of George Wagoner; Elijah, and Elida, a twin sister of the latter, now deceased; Eva, wife of Artie Coil and Charles. The mother of these children died March 5, 1879, and Mr. Goodwin next married Jane Roush, daughter of Jacob M. and Elizabeth Roush, and to this union have been born three children—William, Johnzey and Ira—the latter named deceased. Mr. Goodwin again had the misfortune of losing his wife, March 23, 1889.

In 1867 Mr. Goodwin was elected to the office of county commissioner, by a majority of forty-two votes—while the state ticket was a tie—and served for a period of six years. As an evidence of his great popularity it may be stated that he was re-elected in the fall of 1876 and served for three years. The courthouse was built during his incumbency and he is one of the commissioner who accepted the building on its completion. He further served as trustee of his township, school commissioner, supervisor, and in other official capacities. In July, 1894, he engaged in general merchandising, in company with his sons, Joseph Albert and Elijah, the style of the firm being Goodwin & Son, which continued until the death of his son, Joseph Albert, in August, 1895, when Mr. Goodwin sold the business. Mr. Goodwin was commissioned postmaster October 26, 1894, of Elgin, and has filled the office very satisfactorily until the present term. In his church affiliations he worships at the Church of God in the Union church, Mercer county. Socially Mr. Goodwin and his family mingle with the best people of the township and county.

ASHER GREEN, one of the most well-to-do farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old and patriotic colonial family of Connecticut, and was born in Belmont county, Ohio, January 30, 1824.

The grandfather of our subject was also named Asher Green, was a pioneer of Belmont county, Ohio, coming from Connecticut with his wife, who bore the maiden name of Holmes, and there passed the remainder of his life, dying on his Ohio farm at the age of eighty years. His son Daniel, the father of our subject, was also a native of Connecticut, but was married in Belmont county, Ohio, to Jane Cree, a native of the county last named, and born about 1803—the union resulting in the birth of five children: Asher, Isaac, Sylvester, Nancy A., and Savilla. Mr. Green was a farmer and owned a tract of land containing 160 acres, which he cleared from the forests of Belmont county, and on which he died in 1832, still a young man. His three sons were soldiers in the late war—Isaac serving in company F, Fifteenth Ohio infantry, and taking part in such conflicts as those at Pittsburg Landing, Chickamauga, Murfreesboro, etc., and being killed near Marietta, Ga., during the Atlanta campaign; Sylvester was in the 100-day service, took part in two battles, then enlisted in the Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer infantry, was detailed as clerk of the military district of Ohio at Columbus, and served until the end of the struggle; the military record of Asher Green will be given in a coming paragraph.

Asher Green, our subject, was educated in Belmont county, reared on the home farm, and there married, December 9, 1849, Miss Eliza A. Wade, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, February 22, 1832, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Taylor) Wade—both parents natives of Virginia, and the parents of seven children—Thomas S., James F., John W., Eurana, Eliza, Eugenia and Hampton. William Wade was a cooper by trade, lived to be eighty years of age, and died in Wetzel county, W. Va. He had four sons in the Union service during the Civil war—Thomas, John, James and Hampton. He and wife were both closely connected with the Wade and Tarelton families of Virginia, renowned in the history of that state.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Asher Green made their home in Belmont county, Ohio, about twenty miles below Wheeling, W. Va., on a farm of eighty-four acres, which had formerly belonged to Daniel Green, Asher's father, and is yet in the family. Here Mr. Green enlisted, September 7, 1861, at Powhatan Point, in company F, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war. He fought at Pittsburg Landing and Corinth. He was taken seriously sick and sent to hospital at Hamburg, then to Louisville, and finally to Camp Dennison, Ohio, and at the latter place was finally discharged, March 17, 1863, on account of disability resulting from typhoid fever. He then returned to Belmont county, but later moved to Wetzel county, W. Va., and bought 249 acres of land, on which he lived eleven years, and in November, 1881, settled on forty acres of his present farm in Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Green have been born ten children, as follows: Oscar D., Missouri S., Emma J. (who died after marriage), Helen (who died at sixteen years of age), Estella, Eveline, Isaac, Lydia and two that died young. Mr. and Mrs. Green are devout members of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Green is a republican. He is highly esteemed as a neighbor and as a useful citizen, and his integrity stands above reproach; he is charitable in his sentiments relating to all subjects, and is equally free with his means in aid of all things deserving aid.

LEWIS GRAVES, grocery merchant of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Whitley county, Ind., November 2, 1859, a son of Henry and Hetty (Boyd) Graves, the former of whom was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, November 15, 1805. Henry Graves was a son of James and Amelia Graves, who were married in Coshocton county, Ohio, where they were engaged in farming until 1812, when they moved to Whitley county, where they continued to farm until their respective deaths—he dying in June, 1853, at the age of seventy-two years, and she in March, 1853, aged seventy-eight. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom four yet survive, viz: James, Henry, Tacy and Maria. Both parents were devout Presbyterians, and in politics he was a republican; at the time of death they owned 300 acres of good land. Their son, Henry Graves, was reared in Whitley county, Ind., from the age of seven, and remained with his parents until his marriage, though he had prepared for this event by the purchase of a farm of 140 acres, and on his union with Hetty Boyd settled on this farm and there has lived ever since. To the marriage of Henry and Hetty Graves were born six children, viz: Alexander and Wesley, twins, who died in infancy; Lydia A., also deceased; James, a farmer of Whitley county; Lydia, wife of John Wright, also a farmer of Whitley county, and Lewis, the subject proper of this sketch. The mother of this family died in February, 1861, and Mr. Graves next married, in 1862, Elmina Tucker, who has borne him two children—William and Cassie. Mr. Graves, with his family, still reside, on his Whitley county farm, in the full possession of all his faculties, at the advanced age of ninety years, honored by all who know him.

Lewis Graves was reared a farmer, and at the age of twenty-one years engaged in buying and selling timber at Coesse, Ind., for five years, and for the next three years carried on a livery businsss at Columbia City, Ind.; he then bought and shipped horses for two years, and then, September 23, 1889, came to Van Wert, Ohio, and was employed as clerk in the grocery house of A. P. Wisman for four years; was then a partner with Benjamin Yoh, under the firm name of Yoh & Graves, for eight months, when he sold his interest in this firm, and in May, 1894, bought the business he now controls. His place is well-known as the "Hub Grocery," is a room of 22x65 feet, and is stocked with a well selected assortment of groceries and provisions valued at $4,000; with a neat and well supplied meat market in connection.

Mr. Graves was married in Whitley county, Ind., February 24, 1872, to Miss Sarah Ann Lore, who was born in Pennsylvania, Cumberland county, December 5, 1863, a daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Henry) Lore, and to this union have been born three children: Vernie, deceased; Merley, deceased, and Carl Dewitt. Mr. and Mrs. Graves are members of the Christian church and in politics he is a republican; fraternally he is a Canton member of the I. O. O. F. He owns a neat and modern home on South Franklin street, and is a stockholder in the Van Wert Telephone exchange. Mr. Graves is a wide-awake business man, keeps well abreast of the times, and is very popular as a merchant and citizen.

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CHARLES F. GERMANN, a prominent business man of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Charles Germann, who was born in Berweiler, Germany, and in 1834 came to America, when a lad of thirteen, accompanied by his father, Henry J. Germann, who first located in Holmes county, Ohio, but in 1839 came to Van Wert county, where he taught school a few terms in Harrison township. At the age of twenty-two years he married Elizabeth Schmidt, daughter of Charles and Regina Schmidt, which union was blessed with six children—Henry, Charles F. (our subject), Minnie, William A., Elizabeth and Louis J. After marriage he engaged in farming, at which he was very successful. He was a member of the German Lutheran church and one of the founders of that denomination in Harrison township, of which he became an elder. In politics he was a democrat, and served as justice of the peace nine years, as county commissioner six years and as county treasurer two years. His death took place in 1878, at about the age of sixty years. He had been very prosperous during life, and died the owner of 320 acres of fine farming land, all of which was well tilled and improved in each and every particular.

Charles F. Germann, the subject of this sketch, was born in Harrison township February 22, 1849, received a good common-school education, and became a first-class farmer. At the age of twenty-three years he married Miss Hannah M., daughter of Louis and Barbara (Pflenger) Schumm. Louis Schumm, a pioneer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, died in middle life in 1856, about thirty-six years of age. He and wife were members of the Lutheran church and the parents of nine children. To the marriage of Charles F. Germann and Hannah Schumm have been born seven children, viz: Otto L., Rosanna, Minnie M., Felix E., Ette M., Emma P. and Mollie C. After marriage Mr. Germann located on a partly cleared farm of 160 acres in Willshire township, on which he resided eight years, and then passed four years near Van Wert in tile making; in 1882 he came to his present farm, then consisting of eighty acres, which he has since increased to 180 acres and thoroughly improved. In 1882, likewise, he began the manufacture of tile on his farm, and in this business he has also made a complete success. Mr. Germann was one of the organizers, in 1879, of the Farmers' Mutual Aid association of Van Wert county—a company designed to reimburse loss in case of lightning or fire disaster—and of this association he was elected secretary in the same year, and still holds the position. The association now has a membership of 1,150 and is carrying risks amounting to $1,850,000. Mr. and Mrs. Germann are members of the Lutheran church, in which he is an elder. He has served as justice of the peace one term, is now re-elected, and in politics is a democrat. He is a gentleman of fine business qualifications, is well known throughout the county, and is noted for his sterling integrity.

Henry Germann, an uncle of Charles F. Germann, mentioned above, is an old settler of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio. He was born in Germany, a son of Henry Jacob and Elizabeth (Reidenbach) Germann, the former of whom was born January 22, 1790, and the latter June 10, 1787, and were the parents of nine children, viz: Mary E., Annie E., Mary M., Jacob, Charles, Peter, Henry, John P. and Maggie—the last named of whom died at five years of age. In 1830, Henry Jacob Germann came to America, landed at New York, made his way directly to Ohio and bought 100 acres of land in Holmes county, on which he lived five years, then sold out, and in 1839 came to Van Wert county and settled on 160 acres he had entered in 1837, and on which Henry Germann now lives. This farm, all woodland, Henry Jacob wrested from the wilderness and converted into a delightful home, where he resided until his death, which occurred January 6, 1873—he being a devout member of and elder in the Lutheran church. Beside his farm in Harrison township, Henry Jacob owned 160 acres in Tully town-

H. Hermann Jr.

ship, which he gave to his sons, Peter and Charles. Mr. Germannn held the office of school trustee and was widely known.

Henry Germann was born February 4, 1825, was nine years of age when brought to America and about fourteen when brought to Van Wert county. He was here reared to manhood and married Magdalena Bozer, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Stamm) Bozer. After his marriage he settled on the old homestead, on which he still lives, and which his only child Frederick, now manages. Mr. and Mrs. Germann are members of the Lutheran church, in which he is an elder, and in politics is a democrat.

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**HENRY GERMANN, JR.**, a well known farmer and business man of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Germann.

Henry•Germann, Jr., was born December 4, 1846, on a farm about a mile and a half north of his present residence. Henry was, like all neighboring farm lads, educated in the school of his locality. At the age of thirteen years he was set to work on the home farm and inured to agricultural toil, learning the lessons that he never after regretted in the life to come. At the proper age he married Mary Hertz, daughter of Peter Hertz, whose biography will be found in full on another page. For a time after marriage Mr. Germann lived on a farm in Willshire township, but, giving up this home of 160 acres in the woods, he removed to Harrison township and purchased 160 acres, on which he resided until 1878, when he came to the old homestead of his father, Charles Germann, mentioned elsewhere, and which homestead now comprises 179 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Henry German, Jr., are the happy parents of three children, named Stephen E., Martha M., and Thomas F., and home is made still more pleasant by their presence. In 1878, also, Mr. Germann assisted in founding the Van Wert County Farmers' Mutual Aid association and became its treasurer. This association assures against loss by fire, lightning, etc., has a membership of over 1,150, and carries risks amounting to over $1,850,000. In politics Mr. Germann is a democrat and was two years treasurer of his township, two years township trustee and nine years justice of the peace; he has also taken great interest in educational matters and has been a member of the board of education seventeen years. In religion both he and wife affiliate with the German Lutheran church. Beside attending to his large agricultural interests, Mr. Germann has successfully been engaged in raising and dealing in live stock, and he has been instrumental in introducing some of the best grades of Holstein cattle that have ever been brought to Van Wert county. His farm—the original Charles Germann homestead most of which was cleared from the woods by the father—is a model of neatness and comfort, as well as productiveness. His stable comprises some of the best horse flesh in the county—one or more of the stallions having cost as high as $2,500 each, and for the past fifteen years he has never failed to carry off prises at the county fair for speed, beauty and endurance of his exhibit of stock. In 1890 he bought of J. L. Thompson, of Indiana, a breeder and importer, a flock of thoroughbred Shropshire sheep, of sixty-two head. Mr. Germann is a wheel-horse in the democratic party and is extremely popular with his party.

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**SAMUEL J. HACKEDORN.**—The paternal grandfather of the subject of this biography, David Hackedorn, was a native of Germany, and an early pioneer of Tuscarora valley, Pa., where his death occurred in the early part of the present century. He was a soldier of the Revolution, and reared a family, one member of which, David Hackedorn, father of Samuel J., was born in Juniata county, Pa., in 1791. When a young man, David Hackedorn, Jr., moved to Huntingdon county, Pa., where he married Margaret Goshorn, a native of the Keystone state, born in the year 1800. After residing in the aforesaid county twenty-seven years, David Hackedorn moved to Richland county, Ohio, where he became owner of 160 acres of land; he held various local offices, was an old-line whig in politics, and died in the state of his adoption, in September, 1885; his wife was called to her reward in 1892. The following are the names of the children of David and Margaret Hackedorn: Noah E., David A., Samuel J., George G. and Jacob R., all deceased but the last named and the subject of this sketch.

Samuel J. Hackedorn was born in Huntingdon county, Pa., January 27, 1827. His schooling embraced a few months' attendance, each year, in the primitive log-cabins, common in his county in an early day, and, on arriving at his majority, selected the pursuit of agriculture for his vocation. He was married in his native county and state, October 4, 1849, to Margaret Gray, daughter of Rev. George and Emma (Bey) Gray, a union blessed with the birth of the following children: Mrs. Florence McNiel, Mrs. Jennie Cramer, Alford A. (deceased), Dolly (deceased), Mrs. Minta Baltzell, Clarissa (deceased), Carrie G. (deceased), Ulyses O. (deceased), Howard H. (deceased) David E., Otto G. and Maud A., the last named a well known teacher of Paulding, Ohio. Mr. Hackedorn, became a resident of the county of Van Wert in 1866, and has ever since been a well known resident of the township of Liberty, where he owns a good farm. Politically he is a republican, and for some years has been class leader in the Methodist church, with which denomination his wife is also idedtified. The father of Mrs. Hackedorn, Rev. George Gray, was a native of Ireland, and a minister of the Presbyterian church. He held pastorates principally in Huntingdon county, Pa., where he exercised the functions of his holy office for a period of many years.

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GEORGE A. HALL, of Van Wert, elder bother of G. M. Hall, whose biography will be found below, was born September 17, 1836, was educated in the schools of Germany and also under his parents, who were highly intelligent and well informed, and especially skilled in music. April 2, 1853, our subject sailed from Rotterdam, in the packet-ship Margaret Ems, carrying a crew and passenger list reaching 600 souls, and landed in New York June 19, of the same year. After a detention of four days in that city, he went, via Albany, Buffalo, and Sandusky city, to Carey, Wyandot county, Ohio, then to Kirby, where he worked on the P., Ft. W. & C. road as water boy, at $8 per month, from June till the latter part of November, 1853, changing from point to point; then as hostler at the Gault house in Carey until February, 1854; April, 1854, he went to Hancock county and there worked on a farm, at $6.25 per month, until August, when he was taken sick, when he went to an uncle, Peter Rader, at Upper Sandusky, where he remained until recovery; then went to Upper Sandusky Plains, where he worked on a farm until November 29, when he flagged the train at Kirby, and finally reached Van Wert county, Ohio, November 29, 1854, and worked for a Mr. Hertel in Liberty township, for his board and two months' schooling; then took jobs at clearing and general labor until January 1, 1856, from which time until 1859 he clerked for T. S. McKim, of Van Wert, for $75 the first year and $300 the second; he was then sent to New York to buy a general stock of merchandise, and was given a half-interest in the store, and, under the firm name of McKim & Hall, did business until late in 1863. In April, 1864, he enlisted in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth, O. N. G. for 100 days, was elected second lieutenant of his company, and served four months in the Shenandoah valley and Point Lookout. On his return home he was employed as book-keeper by A. B. McCurdy & Co., in 1865 and in 1866—in the latter part of 1866, going to Vernon county, Mo., and becoming interested in a saw-mill for a year and a half; he then traded his interest in the mill for 200 acres of land in that county, and came back to Van Wert and re-entered the employ of Mr. McKim, with whom he clerked until 1871; he then clerked for J. S. Brumback & Co. in 1871 and 1872, and again for T. S. McKim from 1872 till 1880. In the latter year he engaged in farming in Pleasant township, where he resided two and a half years, and from 1883 until August, 1888, clerked with G. M. Hall; he then went to Paulding, Ohio, and engaged in the dry-goods business, in which he still continues, although he makes his home in Van Wert.

Mr. Hall was first married, in Van Wert county, to Miss Emma Chaffin, on May 2, 1861, the union resulting in the birth of two children—William, deceased, and Charles E., now in the real estate business in Hutchison, Kans. Mrs. Hall died June 23, 1865, and Mr. Hall was next married, January 26, 1869, to Fannie Bennett, who bore three children, as follows: Edward, of Utah; Leo, with his father, and Hattie V., at home. The mother of these children was called home May 15, 1875, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; the third marriage of Mr. Hall occurred July 10, 1876, with Villa E. Little, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, July 30, 1854, a daughter of Rev. Cyrus and Susanna (Dalby) Little, and to this union have been born two children—James C. and Frederick H. Mr. Hall has been steward in the Methodist Episcopal church for twenty-five years and was organist eleven years; his wife has been a member of the choir at least twenty-five years, and of the latter his daughter is also a member. He has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since 1878 and is likewise a member of the National Union. He is the owner of six city lots and other valuable real estate and stands high in social as well as in business circles.

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WINFIELD S. GIFFIN, a young and thriving farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Miami county, in the same state, March 17, 1855, and was but three years of age when his parents brought him to Van Wert county. In the sketch of A. A. Giffin, which immediately follows this, will be found an extended account of our subject's ancestors, to which the attention of the reader is invited. Winfield S. Giffin received a sound education, although, in the main, he is self-taught. For some years he was a successful school-teacher in Hoaglin township, but the greater part of his life has been passed in the pursuit of agriculture, and it has been a successful pursuit also. His marriage took place October 10, 1878, to Miss Elizabeth Hymen, a sister of C. H. Hymen, and an account of her genealogy will be found in the biography of that gentleman on another page. To Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Giffin have been born three children, who are still living to brighten their home and are named as follows: Charles E., Martha L. (twins), and Cyril Guy. After his marriage, Mr. Giffin settled on his farm of eighty acres, which is now in a splendid state of cultivation, with snug farm-house and out-buildings of convenient size and arrangements, and here he has reared his children. In politics Mr. Giffin is a republican and is the present township clerk. In religion he is a Presbyterian, while Mrs. Giffin is a member of the Evangelical association. He is recognized as one of the most progressive young farmers of the township, is popular with his fellow-citizens and political associates, and he and family are greatly respected by a large circle of social friends and acquaintances.

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ADDISON A. GIFFIN, a young and enterprising farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Miami county, Ohio, November 26, 1850, of Scotch-English extraction. His father, William Griffin, a native of Warren county, Ohio, born December 26, 1802, was naturally of a literary turn of mind and of studious habits. His first wife, who bore the maiden name of Julia A. Van Horn, bore to him the following-named children: John and Joshua W., Elizabeth J., Phebe P., Samuel B. and Reuben T. Of this progeny Samuel B. enlisted in the late Civil war at the first call for three-month men, made April 15, 1861; at the conclusion of his service he re-enlisted, for three years, in the Forty-fourth Ohio infantry, served out his term, and again enlisted, this time in the Eighth Ohio cavalry, and was killed in a hand-to-hand conflict at Beverly, W. Va., in December, 1864. The parents resided in Miami county, Ohio, for some time after marriage, and there Mrs. Julia A. Griffin ended her days, and Mr. Griffin took for his second wife Mrs. Martha Whittaker, daughter of David and Nancy A. (Reed) McKee, the former a prominent and wealthy farmer of Miami county. To this second marriage were born the following children: David J., Addison A., Isaac N., Winfield S. and Edward L. —all still living. William Griffin was twice elected surveyor of Miami county. In 1858 he brought his family to Van Wert county, and located in York township, where he resided until 1861, when he moved to Hoagland township here he filled several township offices and was twice elected county surveyor by the republican party. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, had been for many years a school-teacher in Warren, Miami and Van Wert counties, and died June 17, 1881.

Addison A. Giffin received a very good common-school education, learned the trade of carpentering, in which he excells, and was, in his younger years, very successful in the management of a tile factory for four years, making money, where two predecessors had failed; but agriculture has been the art which has made him famous in his township and county. January 13, 1875, he married Miss Elizabeth J. Hattery, who was born April 13, 1853, a daughter of Nathaniel and Ellen (Acheson) Hattery, formerly of Hoaglin township. When Mr. Hattery first settled here the county was a dense wilderness, and he was compelled to cut his way through—from the now city of Van Wert, which at that time contained one log cabin only, standing where McCurdy's block now is. He became the owner of 320 acres of cleared land and very prominent in the affairs of the township, was a republican in politics and a deacon in the Presbyterian church, and died March 12, 1882—his wife having been called to her final rest August 10, 1876. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hattery were named: Elizabeth J., Thomas F., John E. (deceased), Clara (deceased), Mary E., Hermia A., John A. (deceased), Maggie E., and Nathaniel F. The children born to Addison A. Giffin and wife were named Edward P.

S. A. Giffin

and Martha E., who both died at birth, and Hermia A., born July 26, 1885. After marriage Mr. Giffin left Hoaglin township and went to the city of Van Wert, where he was employed at carpenter work a year; he then returned to Hoaglin township and located on a twenty-acre tract of land, but two years later, in the spring of 1878, moved to Ottawa, Putnam county, and from April until August was superintendent of the River tile yard; then, in company with H. L. Allen, purchased the plant and operated it until the spring of 1879, when Mr. Allen withdrew from the firm and was succeeded by H. K. Vincent, of Hoaglin township, and, under the style of A. A. Giffin & Co., the business was conducted until 1881, when Mr. Vincent retired and James Acheson became his successor; in 1882 Mr. Giffin relinquished the business, and, again returning to Hoaglin township, purchased his present home—a farm of 100 acres, well improved and cultivated. His barn, the finest in the county, was built by himself after twelve years of planning. It has a stone foundation, is 44x80 feet ground plan, with a height of 28 feet 3 inches to eaves, and 45 feet to comb; it is double weather-boarded, with paper inter-lining, is supplied with water by a distant mill, contains an apartment for roots, bins for wheat, corn, oats and other grain; hay, fodder, etc., are elevated by horse power; the threshing machine is located on the second floor and its products sent through chutes to the bins below. This barn is so near perfection that Mr. Giffin would make no change in it even if it were to be re-constructed.

In politics Mr. Giffin is a prohibitionist, and in religion a devout Presbyterian. Formerly he was a deacon in this church and a Sunday-school superintendent in Union church, Hoaglin township. For nine years he was a director in the county agricultural association; he has held office in grange No. 400 since its organization, and for four years has held the position of county lecturer, or pomona. Since his marriage Mr. Giffin has kept a diary of events, and also a strict account of income and expenditure, down to a postage stamp, and can tell the cost of a bushel of grain, each year, on any field. In 1893 he filled the office of superintendent of the cattle department for the State Fair association, and in 1894 served, by request, as superintendent of the swine department, for the performance of which duties he received from the exhibitors an unsolicited vote of thanks. He is now solicited to write for the American Agriculturist on topics pertaining to farm industries. Mrs. Giffin has been equally successful in the management of her department of the farm, and from the products of her chickens and cows has paid for nearly everything that has come into the house for years. Mr. Giffin was the nominee of the prohibition party for the office of state senator of the Thirty-second district, in the fall of 1895, but, of course, his party was too weak, numerically, to secure his election.

GEORGE M. HALL, a prominent dry-goods merchant of Van Wert Ohio, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, February 12, 1842, and is a son of John N. and Elizabeth (Rader) Hall. He was reared and educated by his maternal grandparents until thirteen years of age, when he was placed in the office of a general merchant, with whom he remained four years. In May, 1861, he left Bremen on a steamer, and after a passage of twelve days was landed in New York, friendless and alone. His stay in that city was but brief, and he came almost immediately to Van Wert, whither his brother, G. A., had preceded him. Here he was employed for two years by T. S. McKim, and in August, 1863, he enlisted in company M, Second Ohio heavy artillery, and followed the fortunes of his regiment until 1864, when he was detailed as clerk at the headquarters of George H. Thomas, and as such served until honorably mustered out at Nashville in September, 1865. On his return to Van Wert, he was engaged as clerk by J. S. Brumback, with whom he remained until 1882, when he opened his present dry-goods establishment at No. 10 West Main street. He carries a well assorted stock of staple and fancy dry goods, cloaks, notions, etc., valued at $20,000, and from the start has done a very profitable and prosperous trade. His store is 25 x 132 feet in dimensions, and he also carries a duplicate stock in the second story.

Mr. Hall's marriage took place in Van Wert, May 29, 1873, to Miss Harriet L. Smith, a native of Van Wert, Ohio, born March 18, 1852—a daughter of Dr. Wm. M. Smith, of whom a biography is given on another page of this volume. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hall five children have been born, in the following order: Eva B., Jessie L., Grace M., Erma Joyce and Raymond Richard. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and strictly follow its teachings. In politics Mr. Hall is a republican, for three years was a member of the school board and still takes a lively interest in the educational matters. Fraternally he is a master Mason. His conscientious treatment of his patrons has made his store a favorite resort for buyers, and his meritorious conduct as a citizen has given him a high social position.

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PETER HALL, trustee of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an old and highly respected citizen of the same, is a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, and son of Peter and Sarah Hall. The father was born in Fauquier county, Va., in the year 1774, his ancestors having been among the early English settlers of the Old Dominion.

Peter Hall, Sr., was reared on a Virginia plantation, early learned the carpenter's trade, and about the beginning of the present century moved, in company with another family, to the county of Muskingum, Ohio, settling in Zanesville, when that city was a frontier village of about a dozen log cabins. Here he worked at his trade, until disabled by a fall from a horse, after which he followed shoemaking. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Gutridge, was born about 1795, and she bore her husband ten children, only three of whom are now living, viz: Rebecca, wife of James Gabriel; Peter, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Abigail Rutan. In politics Peter Hall was conservative, but generally acted with the democratic party; he was a charter member of one of the oldest Masonic lodges of Virginia, and for many years was a member of the Baptist church, to which his wife also belonged; he died, in 1850, at the age of seventy-six years; his wife survived him until 1878, at which time she departed this life at the age of eighty-five.

Peter Hall, the immediate subject of this biography, was born May 26, 1828. His education embraced a few years' attendance in the public schools of Muskingum county, and when a lad in his teens learned the potter's trade, at which he worked until his thirty-second year, making frequent flat-boat trips down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, in the meantime, to dispose of his wares. In 1861 he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and purchased 120 acres of woodland in the township of Harrison, upon which he erected a small log cabin and began the task of clearing the almost impenetrable forest, by which his place was covered. Here he lived for twenty-two years, during which time he developed a good farm, drained and otherwise improved his lands, erected a modern residence and other buildings, and made his place one of the best in the neighborhood. In 1883 Mr. Hall disposed of his farm in Harrison township, and purchased his present place in the township of Union.

In 1862, Mr. Hall enlisted in the national guards, company C, for five years' service, and in May 1864, his company volunteered and entered the regular United States army. His command was at once sent to Point Lookout, where he did guard duty the greater part of the time until the expiration of his term of enlistment. In 1857, he was united in marriage to Hannah Christy, daughter of William and Rosanna (Hostler) Christy, of Mahoning county, Ohio, a union blessed with the birth of two children: Emerson, of Fort Wayne Medical college, and Wilson, who lives on the home farm. Mrs. Hall was born in the county of Muskingum, Ohio, in 1826, and died in 1880. She was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and had a large circle of friends, wherever her lot was cast. In 1883 Mr. Hall wedded Mary Bryant, daughter of Enos and Mary (Newman) Bryant.

Mr. Hall has been an active member of the Presbyterian denomination for nearly forty years, the greater part of which time he has been an elder in the local congregation to which he belongs. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being a knight templar Mason, and also is a leading Odd Fellow, and an active member of the Patrons of Husbandry. While somewhat conservative in politics, he keeps well posted upon the great political questions of the day, and supports the democratic party's national platform, but in local affairs votes for the man best fitted for office, irrespective of party affiliations; he was elected trustee of Union township in 1892, discharged the duties of the position in a manner highly satisfactory to all concerned, was nominated by acclamation, and re-elected, in the spring of 1895, by a large majority.

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HENRY C. HAMILTON, a popular conductor on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, was born in Montgomery, Franklin county, Vt., June 26, 1852. He is a son of Joshua C. and Charlotte E. (Dunbar) Hamilton, natives of Vermont, and respectively of Scotch and English descent. It is well known that the family of Hamilton is one of the most prominent in Scotland. Joshua C. Hamilton was a son of Rufus Hamilton, a pioneer of Vermont, and a citizen of that state. Rufus Hamilton was a member of the legislature of Vermont, for a number of terms, and likewise filled the offices of magistrate and judge. So long as the whig party existed he was one of its ardent supporters, but when the republican party was organized he enlisted in its ranks, and was thenceforth until his death a leading republican. He was one of the strong anti-slavery men in his day, and was one of the best of men in every way. He died in 1871, mourned by all that knew him.

Joshua C. Hamilton, son of Rufus and the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1827, lived most of his days in Montgomery, Vt., and there followed the business of stock dealer the greater part of his life. In politics he was a republican of the pronounced type, an uncompromising opponent of the extension of slavery, and a devoted patriot until his death, which occurred in 1880. His wife, the mother of the subject, died in 1865, leaving a family of five children, the youngest of whom was adopted by a cousin living in Montreal, Canada.

The boyhood of Henry C. Hamilton was spent at home on the farm in Vermont, and in attending the public schools. While still a young man Mr. Hamilton began to learn the carpenter trade, but that trade not being in accordance with his tastes he took to railroading, and he has been thus engaged ever since. At the age of twenty-six he left home and emigrated to Detroit, Mich., accepting a position as engineer on the old Canada Southern, now the Michigan Central, railroad. This position he filled eight years. He then went to Norwalk, Ohio, where he accepted a similar position on the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad, occupying it for one year. Then he removed to South Lyon, Oakland county, Mich., and accepted a position as conductor on a passenger train on the Toledo & Ann Arbor railroad, which position he retained three years. From South Lyon Mr. Hamilton moved to Van Wert, taking a position as freight conductor on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, when the road was comparatively in its infancy. This position Mr. Hamilton held one and one-half years, and was then promoted to passenger conductor, which position he has held ever since, and he is in point of service the oldest conductor on the road.

Mr. Hamilton was married October 25, 1882, at Grosse Isle, Wayne county, Mich., to Miss Ettie Groh, daughter of Charles and Julia Groh, natives respectively of Germany and Canada—the latter of French descent. Charles Groh came to America at the age of eighteen, and has been a resident of Grosse Isle fifty-five years. He is still living at the age of eighty-four, hale and hearty, and in the possession of all his mental faculties. All his life, until within the last few years, he followed farming, but now he is retired. His wife died in 1885. To the marriage of Mr. Hamilton and Miss Groh there has been born one daughter, Charlotte, and the family is living in an elegant home on First street, Van Wert, surrounded by a host of friends and kind neighbors, all of whom hold Mr. Hamilton and his family in the highest regard. He is a member of all the fraternities of Masonry of Van Wert, and of Ivanhoe commandery, Knights Templar, of Syrian Temple, or the Mystic Shrine, of Cincinnati. Mr. Hamilton is an enthusiastic republican, and has been a delegate of his party to county and state conventions. In religion both Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Protestant Episcopal church, and are active workers in the cause of religion.

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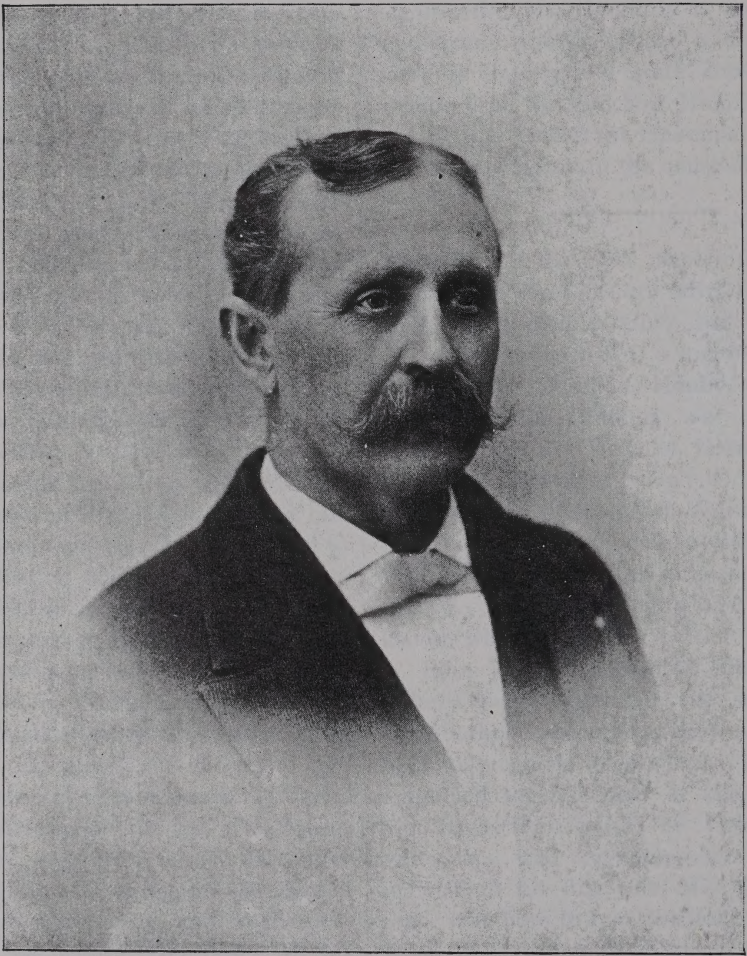
JOHN J. HANBY, superintendent of the Van Wert county farm, is a native of Perry county, Ohio, and was born December 9, 1856, a son of William W. and Amanda (Overholt) Hanby, who were the parents of nine children, viz: John J., our subject; Sarah A., wife of Jesse Mechling, of Van Wert county; Joseph C., of Licking county; Alma F., wife of William Faller, of Van Wert county; Lincoln, of the same county; William G., also of the same county; Benjamin T., of Perry county, and Alta B. and David, with their father.

John J. Hanby grew to manhood on his father's farm, attended the schools of his neighborhood about sixty days each year until he had reached his majority, and then was employed for one year at farm work by the month; he then rented his father's farm for two years, and on September 1, 1880, was married to his first wife, Miss Clara E. Zartman, who bore to him the following children: Josie Z., Vernon O., Chester A. and Clara Elsie E. The mother of this family died December 16, 1891, and in April, 1893, Mr. Hanby, for his second wife, secured the hand of Miss Mary E. McCabe, daughter of Joseph and Margaret McCabe, of Van Wert county, and this union has been blessed with one daughter—Ella Ethel.



G. S. Freeman

Mr. Hanby came to Van Wert county in 1881, and settled in Ridge township, where he is recognized as a model farmer. He is a gentleman of strict integrity and a true Christian, being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the United Brethren congregation. In politics he is a stanch republican, and in the spring of 1895 was appointed superintendent of the county farm, succeeding Dallas Johns. The institution, under his management, is kept neat and clean, both as to buildings and grounds, and the inmates are well cared for in all respects. Fraternally, Mr. Hanby is a member of lodge No. 251, I. O. O. F., uniform rank, which meets at Van Wert. Socially, Mr. and Mrs. Hanby are held in as high respect as any of the residents of Ridge township, and the personal regard which is felt for him is not confined to Ridge township alone, but is extended throughout the county.

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GEORGE S. FREEMAN, the genial and affable proprietor of the Hotel Marsh, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Flint, Mich., born February 22, 1845. His father, Joseph Freeman, was born in New Jersey, in 1804, left his native state in 1836, and made his way to the town of Flint, Mich., where he followed the trade of carpentering. He was married in Flint, Mich., in 1840, to Louisa Kimbal, who was born in the state of New York in 1818, and to this union were born three children, viz: Ellen, wife of J. G. Fisher, a furniture dealer; George S., our subject, and Delaskie D., a grocery merchant of Flint, Mich. The father was a republican in politics, and was a successful business man, and died in 1871, a pious member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His widow became the wife of Horace Bristol, and now resides in Milwaukee, Wis.

George S. Freeman was reared in Flint until twenty-six years of age, when he engaged as an assistant with Newell & Co., in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, and in 1872 went to Bellevue, Ohio, and there engaged as a machinist in a furniture manufactory, where he remained until 1874, when he went to Fremont, and for eight years was clerk in the Ball Hotel; thence he went to Fostoria, Ohio, where he had charge of the Hayes House for two and a half years, when he returned Fremont and for a year and a half was proprietor of the Ball Hotel; he next went to Frankfort, Ind., and for six years was proprietor of the Coulter House, the leading hotel of that city, and then again went to Fremont, Ohio, and once more conducted the Ball Hotel for a year; he then purchased the Hotel Marsh, in Van Wert, and took possession thereof in May, 1892. This is the finest hotel building in the city, contains forty-five rooms, is steam heated, and is now the best conducted establishment of its kind in northwestern Ohio, its tables being unsurpassed in any particular.

George S. Freeman was united in the bonds of matrimony, in Bellevue, Ohio, April 15, 1873, with Miss Dela Ford, who was born in Bellevue, January 4, 1854, a daughter of John and Thurza (Joint) Ford, and this union has been blessed by the birth of four children, viz: John, clerk in the Hotel Marsh; Harry and Harold, deceased, and Florine. The family are communicants of the Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Freeman is a republican. Fraternally he is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

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LEVI HARNLY, deceased, was born June 17, 1831, in Richland county, Ohio, a son Christian Harnly. When brought to Van Wert county Levi was but a lad, and it was in this county that he was reared to manhood and educated in the public schools. In 1851 he bought forty acres of land in Ridge township, upon which he made his home until 1864, when he was drafted into the army and was assigned to company K, Seventy-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, Seventeenth army corps, and fearlessly marched and fought with Gen. Sherman to the sea, but on the triumphal progress of the troops to take part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., was drowned in Tar river, N. C., about May 1, 1865. His estate was worth about $2,000, and he had been a most kind and loving husband; and his death was a source of great grief to his sorrowing widow. To her it is now proposed to devote the remaining portion of this sketch.

Miss Milla Morse was born in Tully, Onondaga county, N. Y., May 24, 1831, and she is a daughter of Barak and Rhoda (Gurney) Morse, the former a native of Boston, Mass., and the latter of the state of Maine. Miss Milla Morse was married to Levi Harnly in Van Wert county, Ohio, April 14, 1859, the ceremony being performed by Rev. W. A. Baker. The events of her subsequent life will be related further on in this sketch, a few words being given first to the history of her parents.

After their marriage they located in Onondaga county, N. Y., where Mr. Morse entered a tract of land, upon which he was engaged in farming for several years; moving thence to the town of Tully, in the same county, he kept a hotel for a few years, and later became a contractor for the construction of a section of the great Erie canal, which extends from lake Erie to the Hudson river. Having fulfilled his contract he retired to Tully, where he passed the remainder of his life, making his home with his eldest daughter, Mrs. Mary Strail. The death of his wife occurred at Chenango Forks, Broome county, N. Y. The children born to the marriage of Barak and Rhode Morse, were ten in number, as follows: John, deceased; Mary, wife of R. Strail, of Tully, N. Y.; Rachel, deceased; Relief, widow of the late Dr. P. J. Hines, of Van Wert; Rhoda, deceased; Phebe, deceased; Eliza, widow of L. Russell, of Pennsylvania; William, deceased; Milla, widow of Levi Harnly, and Maria, wife of Peter Hire, of Middlepoint, Ohio. Mr. Morse was in politics a democrat, and Mrs. Morse was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both always appreciated to a high degree the value of an education for the young, and did all in their power to give the best instruction to their children that they could afford.

Mrs. Milla Harnly was but fifteen years of age when she came to live with her sister, Mrs. P. J. Hines, of Van Wert. Being well educated in the public schools, she began teaching when eighteen years old, her first two terms being in Ridge township, for her services there receiving $1.50 per week. This was in the early history of Van Wert county. That her success in this Ridge township school was observed by those in charge of educational matters is evident from her being called to Van Wert, where she had charge of one of the city school for several terms, after which she went to Washington township and taught there two terms. Then, after the death of her husband, she taught two terms in Tully township, and in 1868 moved to Van Wert to educate her children. Soon afterward she established a select school, and in the following year she was again employed in the union schools of Van Wert, having charge of the first primary grade for about twelve years, at the end of which time she retired permanently from school work.

Mrs. Harnly is the mother of three children, viz: Mary, wife of D. J. Cable, an attorney of Lima, Ohio; Clara, deceased wife of J. E. Montgomery, postmaster of Van Wert, and David G., decsased. Since the death of her daughter, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Harnly has taken charge of the three children thus left without a mother, and has been in every possible way a mother to them. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was a leader in the woman's crusade at Van Wert, of the W. C. T. U., and for eight years was district secretary of the W. F. M. S., of Lima district. She is the owner of three fine residence properties in the city of Van Wert, and at the age of sixty-five is passing her days cheerfully and happily, still engaged in active christian work. Mrs. Harnly has a most lovable disposition, and is esteemed by all her neighbors as one of the most intelligent and gracious ladies of the city of Van Wert.

It will be noticed that David Harnley, a brother of Levi Harnly, and whose sketch follows, spells his name differently, and in his sketch will be found further details of the ancestry of Levi.

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DAVID HARNLEY, of the firm of Collett & Harnley, grocers of Van Wert, Ohio, and a son of Christian and Nancy (Reiff) Harnley, was born near Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, November 17, 1833. Christian Harnley, the father, was born near Manheim, in Lancaster county, Pa., and by his marriage to Nancy Reiff became the father to nine children, viz: Maria, widow of A. Gilbert, of Kansas; Abraham, killed at the battle of Kenesaw mountain, which took place June 27, 1864; an infant, deceased; Levi, a sketch of whose life appears above; David, the subject of this article; Anna, of Kansas; Christopher, who was a member of company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, was wounded at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, was taken thence to Saint Louis, where he had his leg amputated, and there died; the ninth child was named Benjamin, and is now a resident of Kansas, where he is engaged in farming. The parents, on coming from Pennsylvania to Ohio, located in Richland county, where the father was engaged in weaving until 1848, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased land in Ridge township, where he farmed until his death. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics the father was a republican. They left a finely cultivated farm of eighty acres, beside other valuable property. The father was a man of peace and would sacrifice his own best interests rather than have trouble. He was a great friend of education and gave his children the best he could afford.

David Harnley, the subject of this sketch, at the age of twenty-one years, being released from the legal control of his parents, began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed until his enlistment, August 4, 1862, in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, which was assigned to the Fourth army corps, then to the Twenty-third army corps, and then to the army of Tennessee. He was first under the command of Capt. William S. Scott, then under Capt. W. T. Exline, and then, on the consolidation of his regiment with the Fiftieth Ohio infantry, was under Capt. Williams. Mr. Harnley was appointed orderly sergeant in 1863 and held this rank until discharged at Wilmington, N. C., March 4, 1865, when the consolidation took place and all surplus officers released from duty. The injuries sustained by Mr. Harnley while fighting for his country were caused by a sword-thrust in the groin at Cynthiana, Ky., and by a gun-shot at Kenesaw Mountain in June 1864.

On his return to Van Wert Mr. Harnley resumed carpentering, which he followed until the results of disabilities contracted during his army life, mentioned below, warned him to refrain from hard labor. He then, in 1883, formed a co-partnership in the grocery trade in Van Wert, with William Collett, under the firm style of Collett & Harnley, and since then the firm has been doing an excellent trade at their original stand on East Main street, handling choice groceries, provisions, queensware, tinware, and every thing pertaining to their line of business.

The marriage of Mr. Harnley took place November 6, 1856, to Miss Eleanor T. McCoy, a native of Van Wert county, born March 17, 1836, a daughter of D. W. and Esther (Gillespie) McCoy, who were the parents of four children, viz: Alexander, a farmer of Allen county, Ohio; Sarah Jane, deceased; Crayton William, a stock dealer of Van Wert, and Eleanor T., the wife of our subject. The parents of this family are now both deceased. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harnley have been born two children—Harriet Lucretia, wife of William Smith, Jr., and Abigail Franes, wife of Sherman Allen, of the firm of Allen Brothers, grocers of Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Harnley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a class leader, and in politics Mr. Harnley is a prohibitionist. He has been a member of the board of education and also of the town council; he is an Odd Fellow and a member of the G. A. R., and is highly respected throughout the community.

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WILLIAM HARP, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in 1861 on the farm he now occupies, which farm his father settled upon in the wilderness forty years ago. Here William Harp grew to manhood, assisting his father, and in 1887 he married Margaret R. Putman, daughter of Isaac and Sophia Putman, who were born and grew to manhood and womanhood in Mercer county, Ohio, and became the parents of the following children: Hughey, Solomon, Alexander, Fidelia, wife of Jesse King; Mary, wife of Date Krick; Rosa, wife of Charles Agler; Margaret, wife of William Harp; Laura and Frank, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. William Harp have been born two daughters—Rosa, who died in infancy, and Blanche, now four years of age. Mrs. Mary Harp at present makes her home with our subject, her son. Mr. Harp is the owner of 120 acres of very fertile land, eighty acres of which lay in Liberty township; this land is thoroughly underdrained, Mr. Harp having laid over 2,500 rods of tile, the whole being now under a high state of cultivation. In politics Mr. Harp is an uncompromising democrat.

Jonas Harp, the father of William Harp, our subject, is a native of Miami county. He has always been a farmer, and married Mary Putman, to which union were born five children, viz: Commodor; Rosanna, wife of Henry Flager; Andrew, of whom an extended notice is given elsewhere; Lydia, married to Henry Brunni, William, who married Margaret Putman. Jonas Harp first located here when the country was a wilderness and here his family were reared; he was in politics a democrat, was an honest, hard-working man, and died on his farm December 25, 1861. The Putman family were early settlers of this county, also, and were greatly respected by all the pioneers. Mrs. Harp was born in Somerset county, Pa., in the year 1829, and was but eleven years of age when brought to Van Wert county by her parents; she did all the work of a man—grubbed, hoed corn, picked brush and cooked by an old walnut stump that stood in her present door-yard, and, having no table, the family ate their frugal meals on an old wooden chest. This lady is still living, vigorous in mind and body, and is still capable of

William Leahy

Annie Feasby

doing a hard day's work. Of such material as the Harp family were the early pioneers of Van Wert county, who have wrought out through hard toil—the toil of which their descendants have but the faintest idea—the beautiful fields that now embellish the country, and have erected the elegant mansions that dot the landscape as far around as the eye can reach.

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**WILLIAM FEASBY**, one of the leading farmers of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old English family of farmers, and is an Englishman himself by birth, although he has no recollection of his native land, having from infancy been reared in the United States. His father, Joseph Feasby, was born on a farm in Yorkshire, England, and there married Elizabeth Robinson, to which union were born two children, Jane and William. In 1851 Joseph Feasby brought his family to the United States, and in June of the same year settled on forty acres of land in the woods in Tully township, which land he cleared up. During the Civil war he removed to Van Wert city, but died in Tully township, on the farm, in 1889, at the age of seventy-five years. He had been a democrat in his politics, and was trustee of Tully and Harrison townships for seven years; had been a trader in and shipped live stock, and at one time was the largest shipper of cattle in Van Wert county. He was widely known as an excellent business man, and was implicitly trusted in for his integrity and straightforward dealing.

William Feasby, whose name opens this biography, was born in Yorkshire, England, July 28, 1848, and was a mere infant when brought to this country by his father. He received a fair education, was reared a farmer, and January 3, 1878, married Anna Kirk, also a native of Yorkshire, England, born June 26, 1856, a daughter of James and Mary (Elliott) Kirk. James Kirk came from Yorkshire in 1870, and settled on a farm near Van Wert. He now lives near Cincinnati, the father of two children, Joshua and Anna, and a highly respected citizen. After marriage, Mr. Feasby settled on a farm of eighty acres, which he had purchased in 1870, and had partly cleared, and to which he has since added until he now owns 280 acres, all cleared up and improved, excepting forty acres. In 1889 he built his present brick residence, which is two stories high and very substantial. To Mr. and Mrs. Feasby have been born thirteen children, as follows: Mary E., born Sunday, September 7, 1878, at 1 o'clock A. M., and died September 23, 1878; James, born November 14, 1879, at 3 A. M., on Friday, and died August 20, 1880; Mary J., born at 7 P. M., Saturday, March 5, 1881; Flora A., born at 6 A. M., Sunday, February 12, 1882; Dorothea H., born June 7, 1883, at 8 P. M., Thursday; Rosa E., born at 1 P. M., Tuesday, December 9, 1884; Joseph M., born Friday, at 3 A. M., August 21, 1886; First Viola, born January 1, 1888, on Sunday, at 1 A. M.; Joshua B., born 8 A. M., Wednesday, July 24, 1889; Charles C., born at 1 P. M., Thursday, December, 25, 1890; Benjamin F., born at 10 P. M., Monday, March 14, 1892, an infant son, unnamed, born at 1 A. M., Tuesday, April 19, 1893, and died June 5, 1893, and Willis, born June 6, 1895, at 1 A. M.

Mr. Feasby is a democrat in politics, and has served as supervisor four terms, and has been a member of the school board nine years, and is yet serving; he is a member of the I. O. R. M. of Convoy, and is highly respected as a useful citizen. He has a good farm and has been a dealer in cattle all his life, and is widely and favorably known throughout Van Wert county as one of its most successful traders in live stock.

JOHN H. HARR, a deceased pioneer farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born December 30, 1818, in Fairfield county of the same state. His father, John Harr, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., was of German descent, became an early settler of Fairfield county, Ohio, and there married Miss Martha, daughter of John and Catherine (Wise) Stolter. To the marriage of John Harr and Martha Stolter were born two children—John H., and Elizabeth. After marriage, John Harr, Sr., located with his wife on a farm in Fairfield county, where he resided until his death.

John H. Harr, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, but was a young man when his father died. In 1843, when twenty-five years of age, he came to Van Wert county with his mother and her sister, Fannie, making the journey with horses and wagons. Here, in 1837, he had entered 160 acres in the woods, the deed being signed by M. Van Buren, president of the United States, in August, 1837. This land, after undergoing the usual hardships and privations of frontier life, he succeeded in converting into a blooming farm, improved with modern and substantial buildings, that are furnished with all the latest-invented conveniences. The property has also increased to 180 acres, and it is all under a high state of cultivation.

In December, 1850, Mr. Harr married Miss Nancy Henney, daughter of William and Mary (Sands) Henney. The father, William Henney, was a pioneer of Van Wert county, having settled in Tully township in 1838. To Mr. Harr's union with Nancy Henney there were born thirteen children, viz: William W., who died in infancy, and twelve that grew to maturity and were named: Wilson R., Corwin, Uriah S., Alice L., Abraham L., Adanirum, Franklin (deceased), Newton, Emma John, Perry and Mary E. Of these, Wilson R. married Etta Leslie, is now a resident of Parsons, Kans., is a machinist, and the father of two children; Corwin is the husband of Della Bronson, and has one child; Uriah S. married Bell Watters, is an employee in the railroad shops at Parsons, Kans., and is the father of four children; Alice L. is the wife of Benjamin Brittson, a farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and is the mother of one child; Abraham L., now on the home farm, married Mary Seekings, who has borne him four children; Adanirum, a carpenter, married Nettie Lockman, who is now deceased, and is the father of one child; Frank M., a photographer, died in Chicago, and Mary E., is the wife of Ellsworth Snyder, a farmer of Harrison township.

John H. Harr was a stanch republican, always enjoyed the confidence of the people of Harrison township, and for two terms served them as township assessor. He was an honored member of the Lutheran church for many years, and for a long time an elder. He was one of the founders of the Harrison township congregation, contributed liberally towards its church edifice, and was a member of the building committee, His wife was also a devout member of the same congregation. Mr. Harr was one of the first auctioneers of his part of the county and as such became widely and favorably known. He was recognized as a man of the strictest integrity and as a truly public-spirited citizen. He died October 2, 1895, deeply mourned by the community in which he had so long lived and whom he had done so much to serve.

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WILLIAM CLARKSON HASTINGS, B. S., M. D., a leading physician and surgeon, of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of New Castle, Henry county, Ind., is a son of William and Jane (Reece)

Hastings, and was born November 20, 1852. William Hastings and Miss Jane Reece were united in marriage November 30, 1831, and at once located near New Castle, Ind.; and engaged in farming, and on their farm Mr. Hastings died, May 2, 1854. Mrs. Hastings retained her residence on the place until 1859, when she removed to Richmond, Ind., in order to avail herself of the educational advantages of Earlham college for herc hildren, her husband having assisted it financially in its early history. Here Mrs. Hastings resided until 1873. She now resides with her son, Dr. S. G. Hastings, of Muncie, Ind., a physician of considerable note in that city. Her eight children were born and named in the following order: David, deceased; John R., deceased; Martha C.; Rebecca J.; Dr. S. G.; Dr. A. H., of Winchester, Ind.; Sarah A., deceased, and William C., the subject of this sketch. The parents of this family were reared as members of the Society of Friends, and in politics the father was a whig. The latter was a man of more than ordinary mental ability, took great interest in educational matters, and was very successful in his financial management.

Dr. W. C. Hastings received his literary education at Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., for which purpose he was taken to that city by his mother when he was about seven years of age, and there he pursued his studies until 1873, when he was graduated from that institution. He then entered the office of Dr. O. P. Baer, of Richmond, under whom he studied medicine until his graduation from the Pulte Medical college of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1880, when he located for practice in Winchester, Ind., where he passed one year, and, in 1881, removed to Van Wert, Ohio, where he has since resided, meeting with encouraging success in his practice and being fully recognized for his professional ability. The doctor was happily married August 26, 1874, in Camden, Ind., to Miss Anna Grisell, the accomplished daughter of Albert and Rachel (Starbuck) Grisell. Mrs. Hastings was born on the 13th day of July, 1855, and is a lady of culture and many excellent traits of character. The home of Dr. and Mrs. Hastings has been brightened by the birth of two intelligent boys: Albert C., who was born December 26, 1879, and Frederic W., whose birth occurred on the 18th day of October, 1882. Politically the doctor is a republican, and while taking an active interest in public affairs is by no means a partisan in the sense of seeking official position at the hands of his fellow-citizens, preferring to devote his attention to his chosen calling. He has established the reputation of a successful physician, and has been rewarded with a large and lucrative practice from the beginning of his professional career. The doctor is a prominent member of the Homeopathic State Medical association of Ohio and of the American institute of Homeopathy, and as a general practitioner his success nas been most flattering. For the last ten years his practice has been so extensive as to compel him to employ an assistant, and at times two, to aid him in his work. While eminent in his profession the doctor is also a man of varied acquirements, of fine esthetic taste and culture, and has done much reading in general literature, having a liberal acquaintance with the best authors. He is a man of fine presence, being above the average height and possessing a well-knit frame, and impresses all with whom he comes in contact by his courteous and dignified bearing. Fraternally he is a member of the F. & A. M., in which he has taken the degree of sir knight, and for some years has been prominently identified with the order of Odd Fellows. In religion both the doctor and his wife are devout Presbyterians, and their social standing is on par with that of the foremost citizens of Van Wert city and county.

NATHANIEL F. HATTERY, a progressive young farmer, is a native of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, where he still keeps his residence, and was born April 29, 1866. His great-grandfather, Thomas Hattery, was a boy when he came from France with his father, who settled in Delaware county, Pa. Andrew Hattery, grandfather of subject, was born in Delaware county, Pa., and was married, in Somerset county, to Rachael Smith, who bore the following children, but not in the order named: James, Eaton, John, Joseph, Andrew, Thomas, Edward, Josiah, Lydia, Rachael and Nathaniel. From Somerset county, Pa., the grandparents moved to Brooke county, Va., and ten years later came to Ohio and entered land in Carroll county, where they resided until 1842, when they came to Van Wert county and settled in Hoaglin township, where their days were ended in the Presbyterian faith. Of their children, Nathaniel Hattery, the father of our subject, was born in 1822 in Brooke county, Va. (now W. Va.), and when he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, with his parents, there were but nine families in Hoaglin township. Here he entered land and hewed out of the wilderness a farm which finally contained 220 acres. January 22, 1853, he married Ellen Acheson, and had born to him the following children, named in the order of birth: Elizabeth J., Thomas F., John E. and Clara (deceased), Mary E., Hermia, John A. (deceased), Margaret E. and Nathaniel F. The father of this family was a very prominent man in the township, and for six years served as township trustee, two years as township clerk, and four years as township treasurer. In politics he was first a whig, and later a republican; in religion he and wife were Presbyterians, and very regular in their church attendance, and both were highly esteemed by their neighbors. Mrs. Hattery was called home August 10, 1876, and Mr. Hattery followed her March 12, 1882.

Nathaniel F. Hattery, our subject, has been an agriculturist from his earliest days, and most emphatically a progressive one. He has himself cleared up his farm of forty-five acres, which is a model of neatness and thrifty care. It is improved with a good dwelling, a barn of appropriate dimensions, and is well ditched and highly cultivated. September 6, 1888, Mr. Hattery married Lydia C. Harvey, daughter of Samuel B. and Martha (Carr) Harvey, of Hoaglin township, and four children have come to bless the household, viz: Arthur L., Walter, Hila O., and an infant not yet named. In politics, Mr. Hattery is strongly republican, and is an ardent advocate of the cause of public education; he is liberal in his aid to all religious denominations, is a member of the Hoaglin grange, No. 400, and socially he and wife bear a high reputation.

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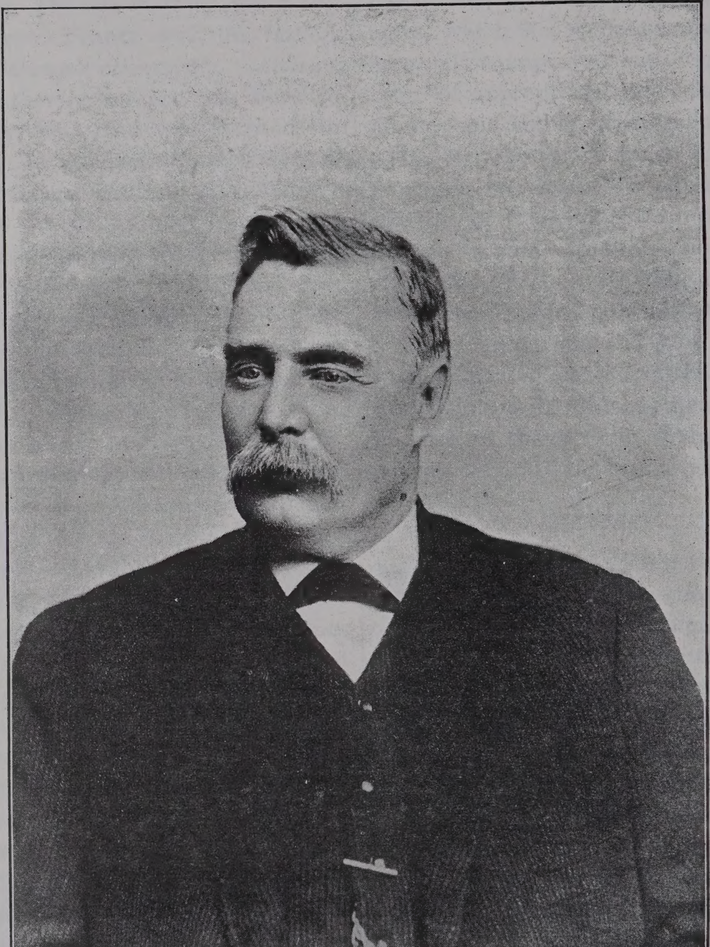
PHILIP HOVERMAN, a well-known farmer and manufacturer of lumber and drain tile, is a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, born October 18, 1858. His father was born in Germany, October 8, 1820, and there married his first wife, and afterward immigrated to the United States, settling in New York. After the death of his wife, which occurred in the aforesaid state, the elder Mr. Hoverman moved to Marion county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming, and where he married his second wife, Elizabeth Hoffman, mother of the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Hoverman resided in the county of Marion until 1856, at which time they moved to Van Wert county, locating in Liberty township, where Mr. Hoverman was engaged in farming the remainder of his days; his widow still resides on the home farm, but lives a part of the time with her son.



Rodney Graham

Philip Hoverman was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, October 18, 1858. Reared a farmer, his early life was one of great industry, and he found means to obtain a fair English education, embracing the branches usually taught in the district schools. In addition to agricultural pursuits Mr. Hoverman followed the carpenter's vocation for a period of fifteen years, and in 1891 engaged in the manufacture of lumber and draining tile, purchasing at the same time a small farm, upon which his mill and factory stand. In a financial sense he has met with success, and, by strict attention to his various enterprises, has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence, which represents the labor of his own hand. In addition to the mill which he first purchased, he is operating at this time a saw-mill in Ohio City, and has recently bought a large amount of standing timber in Van Wert county. Mr. Hoverman is a local politician of the democratic party, as were also his ancestors before him, and at this time he is filling his second term as township trustee. He married Caroline Emrich, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Huffman) Emrich, and has a family of three children—Otto, Charles and Edward. Mr. Hoverman is a member of lodge No. 771, I. O. O. F., and with his family belongs to the German Reform church.

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RODNEY GRAHAM, one of the leading farmers of Van Wert county, Ohio, an old settler of Tully township and the present township trustee, is of sturdy Scotch-Irish descent and comes from an old colonial Pennsylvania family. His great-grandfather was a soldier in the patriot army in the Revolutionary war and had his lip shot off at the battle of Cowpers, in North Carolina. William Graham, son of the above and grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the war of 1812. When a young man he came to Athens county, Ohio, where he married Nancy Cassel, and was one of the original pioneers and an organizer of the township of Lee, where he had settled when there were but three other white families within its limits, but numerous vicious Indians, who often made raids upon the settlement. He succeeded in clearing up his farm and in acquiring a large amount of land, and was well known throughout the country for his integrity and sagacity as a business man. To himself and wife were born twelve children, named as follows: Henry, Sophia, William, James, Elias, Samuel, Wilson, Hannah, Martha, Nancy, Ivy and Elizabeth Graham.

Samuel Graham, one of the children above enumerated and the father of our subject, Rodney, was born in Athens county, Ohio, June 12, 1818, was reared a farmer and there married Miss Nancy Wheeler. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Graham were eleven in number and were named Rodney, Ivy, Mary J., Sarah E., Lydia A., Samuel E., Martha, Susanna, Armentha, Eliza, and one that died in infancy.

Samuel Graham continned his residence in Athens county, Ohio, until 1846, when he moved to Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., and settled on eighty acres in the wild woods, where he eventually made a good home, greatly increased his acreage, and still retains 160 acres of fine land. His first wife died in Monroe township, and for his second companion he married the widow of Peter Crush, but to this union no children have been born. Mr. Graham is a member of the United Brethren church, in politics is a democrat, and is one of the most highly respected citizens of the county of Allen, Ind.

Rodney Graham, whose name opens this biographical notice, was born August 4, 1841, in Athens county, Ohio, on the home farm.

At the age of five years he was taken by his father to Allen county, Ind., and still remembers seeing that gentleman cutting his way through the black swamps of Ohio. He received the usual education of the pioneer days, was reared as farmer lads usually are reared, and on April 10, 1862, was married in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., to Miss Nancy J. Clem, daughter of Noah and Magdalen (Ridenour) Clem. These parents, Noah Clem and wife, were born in Shenandoah county, Va., moved to Champaign county, Ohio, and thence, in 1840, to Allen county, Ind., where Mr. Clem cleared up a farm and became quite wealthy. He was one of the organizers of his township, was the first justice of the peace, and performed the ceremony for the first couple married in Monroe. He and wife were parents of thirteen children, viz: Alfred, Benjamin, Mary, Margaret, Nancy J., Jacob, Noah, Susannah, Elizabeth, Isabelle, John, Joseph, and Joshua. Mr. Clem was born September 27, 1809, is a Jacksonian democrat, and still survives.

After this happy marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Graham they resided in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., until 1865, when they moved to his present farm, which then contained but eighty acres, in Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Graham, by their joint labor and by "pulling together," have increased their acreage to 400, and have, beside, given their son, William, forty acres. Mrs. Graham is a member of the Methodist church, and Mr. Graham has the entire confidence of the people of Tully township, whom he served four terms as township trustee. Mr. and Mrs. Graham are the parents of three children, viz: William J., who married Mary Bainbridge, and owns a market in Chicago; Florence, who is married to Gilbert Gyer, a farmer of Tully township, and Martha, the wife of Augustus H. Schroeder, a taxidermist of Atlanta, Ga., and the mother of one child. Mr. and Mrs. Graham are among the most honored of the residents of Tully township and the county of Van Wert, he being well known throughout the county for his genial manners and unsullied business integrity and sterling worth.

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**LEWIS A. HARVEY**, the genial superintendent and manager of the Grange warehouse of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Union township, Van Wert county, August 31, 1851, a son of James and Wilhelmina (Rees) Harvey, natives of Hoaglin township in the same county, where Lewis A. was reared on his father's farm. He made his home at the residence of his parents until 1884, although for a number of year prior to this date he had been employed in job carpenter work and bridge building. He was educated in the country schools of his township and also took private lessons in mathematics of S. B. Devore for a year. In April, 1884, he came to Van Wert and was employed as superintendent of the Patrons of Husbandry warehouse and held the position until 1887, when he was elected auditor of Van Wert county, assumed the office in September, 1888, and most satisfactorily filled the position for six years and five weeks, having been twice elected by the democratic party, of which he is a stanch member—the first time by a majority of 198 votes and the second time by 891 majority, a fact which speaks for his integrity and ability louder than words. Since 1888, also, he has been engaged as superintendent and manager of the warehouse, in which he has two-thirds interest; in 1890 he began to traffic in hay, and in 1894 handled over 150 carloads; he is also connected with the Ohio City warehouse and purchases grain at Convoy, Scott, Dixon, Middlepoint and

Venedocia, and handles about 450 carloads per year. He has been a member of the Hoaglin grange since 1874, and in all respects is a shrewd business man, with a reputation that has never been impugned nor tarnished. Fraternally he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and socially he holds a very high position among the citizens of Van Wert city and county.

James Harvey, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of William and Sallie (Watson) Harvey, was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 21, 1828, and was thirteen years of age when brought to Van Wert county. Since that early age he has been identified, more or less, with the history of his township. He was educated in one of the pioneer log school-houses of his day, containing the rudest and most primitive improvised furniture within, and surrounded without with wild woods infested with savage beasts of prey and abounding in game. He became an intelligent and sturdy farmer, and married, October 24, 1850, Wilhelmina Rees, born August 31, 1826, a daughter of Christopher and Charlotta (Quasy) Rees, natives of the kingdom of Bavaria, in the empire of Germany. The Rees family came to America in 1840, located in Montgomery, Ohio, for a year, and then, in 1841, moved to Van Wert county, where they hewed out a farm of 280 acres. The children, who were all born in Germany, were named as follows: Frederick, Henry, Wilhelmina, Lewis (died in Germany), Caroline, August (died in Germany); those who reached this country are now also deceased, with the exception of Mrs. Harvey.

James Harvey was married in Union township, lived there five years on a rented farm, and then moved to Hoaglin township, where Mr. Harvey now owns a fine farm of ninety-nine acres, well drained and cultivated, and improved with a good, new, modern, frame residence, good barn and outbuildings, and stocked as a specialty with registered Poland-China hogs—all realized through his own hard labor. Following are the names of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey: Lewis A., ex-county auditor for six years; George H.; Amanda and Miranda, deceased; James M.; Francis D.; Clara A., and Perry H. In politics Mr. Harvey is a stanch democrat. Of the children enumerated above, James M. resides on the old homestead and cares for it generally.

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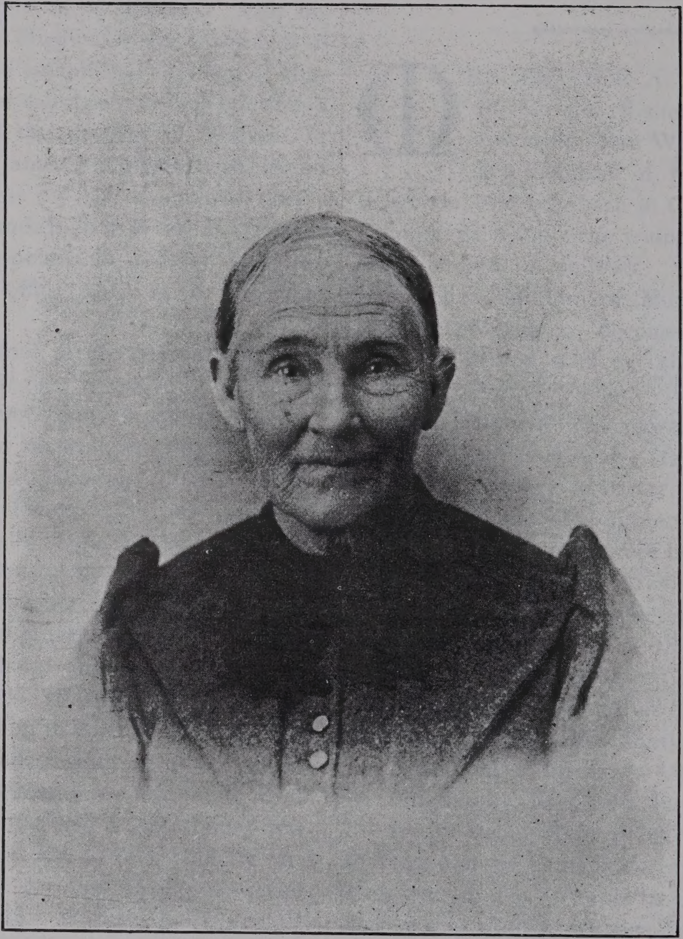
HON. JAMES F. HIGGINS, mayor of Van Wert, Ohio, is a son of Ralph P. and Laura M. (Doup) Higgins, and was born in Shelby county, Ohio, August 31, 1860. Ralph P. Higgins was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, December 28, 1823, while his wife was born in Frederick county, Maryland. They were married in Shelby county, in 1852, lived on a farm until 1873, and then removed to Piqua, Miami county, where Mr. Higgins is now passing his declining years in retirement. They had born to their marriage three children, in the following order: William H., deceased; Edward D., of Denver, Colo., and James F., whose name opens this paragraph. The father is, as was his wife, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; in politics he is a republican, is trustee of his township and for many years served as justice of the peace; he has been very successful in life, still owns two farms, aggregating 260 acres, in Shelby county, Ohio, and has always been regarded, wherever he has lived, as an upright and intelligent gentleman.

Mayor James F. Higgins was reared on the home farm in Shelby county, Ohio, until thirteen years of age, when, in 1873, he was taken by his parents to Miami county and finished his schooling at Piqua, after which he resided with his uncle, E. R. Doup, in Brooklyn, N. Y., and for two years remained with said uncle, and in 1879 came to Van Wert, Ohio, in the capacity of buyer and shipper of lumber for the same gentleman, which position he held until 1885, when, in connection with his brother, William Higgins, then a resident of New York city, he established the firm of Higgins Bros., lumber merchants, which continued in the trade until the decease of William, in 1891. In 1894, James F. Higgins was elected mayor of Van Wert by the republican party, with whom he stands high in favor, as he does, indeed, with the public in general, and took possession of his office April 13, of the same year.

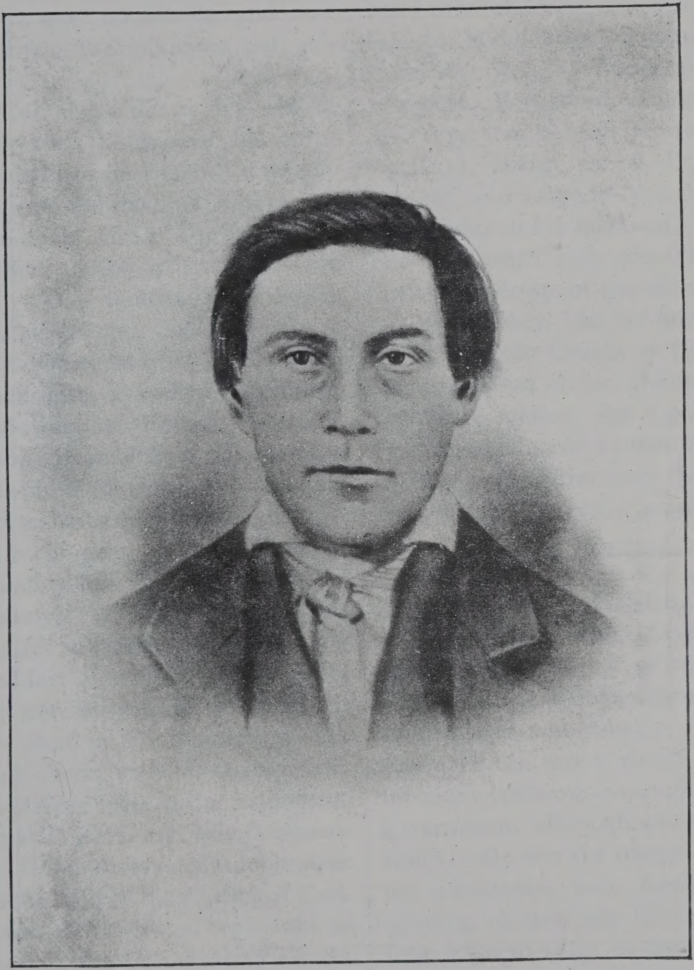
His marriage took place in Covington, Ky., to Miss Lulu E. Brown, a native of Memphis, Shelby county, Tenn., and a daughter of Orlando and Josephene Brown, now deceased, and this union has been gladdened by the birth of one child, Ralph Pendry, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, whose ranks his fine appearance and manly proportions greatly adorn. In all the attributes of manhood and useful citizenship Mr. Higgins stands conspicuous among his fellows, and few men in Van Wert county have as wide and varied acquaintance as he, or have made as strong impression on the public mind. In his early youth formed a determined purpose to succeed, and his position socially, and his standing in the business world, are proofs that so far in life this purpose has been fully realized; and, judging by the past, it is safe to predict for him a future of still greater honor and usefulness. He is a man of positive convictions, firm in its adherence to what he considers the right, and in the performance of his official functions has proved a most careful and impartial public servant. Mr. Higgins is characterized by a strong and vigorous personality, is dignified in bearing, and impresses all with whom he comes in contact as a typical representative of the sturdy and intelligent manhood for which the great commonwealth of Ohio has long been noted.

MRS. ESTHER A. FISHER, widow of Samuel Fisher, late of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a daughter of John and Hannah Ferguson, and was born in Cecil county, Md., October 30, 1829—the youngest of seven children, named as follows. George, deceased; Mrs. Eliza Moore, of Michigan, deceased; William; Margaret, deceased; Robert; Mrs. Rebecca McVay, and our subject, Esther A., now Mrs. Samuel Fisher.

Mrs. Esther A. Fisher was educated in the select school of her native state, and was first married, February 25, 1847, to John F. McCullough, a son of John and Susan McCullough, to which union were born the following children: Samuel H., May 30, 1848; Susan J., January 22, 1850; George W., May 18, 1852; Harriet A., June 8, 1855; Margaret E., October 13, 1857; William C., April 8, 1860. Mr. McCullough, the father of these children, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., August 14, 1827, and was a farmer. After marriage he, with his family, lived on a farm in Lancaster county for twenty-four years, and then moved to York county, same state, and several years later—about 1857—came to Ohio and located in Fairfield county, whence, in 1861, he came to Van Wert county and purchased a small farm in Liberty township, on which he located his family, and in the same year enlisted in company H, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing he was seriously wounded in the foot and was consequently laid up in the hospital at Saint Louis, Mo., where he recovered, and, on re-



MRS. ESTHER A. FISHER.



J. F. McCULLOUGH.

turning home, enlisted in the Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry for the remainder of the war. During his services in his two enlistments he took part in the severe campaigns of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, and at Dallas, Ga., gave up his life, and now rests in a grave among the unknown but gallant brave.

After Mr. McCullough's death, his widow, our subject, with the assistance of her sons, managed the home farm in Liberty township until 1869, when she sold the place and moved to her present home in Union township. In June, 1870, she was united in marriage with Samuel Fisher. This lamented gentleman was a son of Jacob Fisher, and was born in Crawford county, Ohio, May 25, 1822, and was reared a blacksmith, as well as to farming. He first married Julia A. French, to which marriage were born five children, all of whom are now residents of Paulding county. Samuel Fisher was also a gallant soldier in the late Civil war and served in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, of Paulding county. At the close of this internecine struggle he resumed blacksmithing and farming, and lost his wife in 1868. After his marriage to our subject he retained his residence on his farm in Paulding county for twelve years, and there, with his second wife, our subject, stood very high in the estimation of his neighbors as a useful and valuable member of society. His untimely death took place May 8, 1892, in the faith of the Church of God. In politics he was a republican and was an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He held several local offices, having been quite popular with his party, and being always recognized as an honest, intelligent and trustworthy citizen.

After the death of her lamented husband Mrs. Fisher soon returned to her old home in Union township, Van Wert county, where she is now residing with her daughter, Susan J., one of the children born to her first marriage. Susan J. McCullough was married November 26, 1868, to Jacob Wise, a son of James and Julia A. (Bartin) Wise, and has borne her husband three children, named as follows: James H., of Middlebury, Summit county, Ohio; Cora A., wife of Frank Rolsten, of Union township, Van Wert county; and Zelma A. Mr. Wise was born in Morrow county, Ohio, April 11, 1847, is of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, and came to Van Wert, Ohio, with his parents in his boyhood, and here his life has ever since been identified with the agricultural interests of the county.

Mrs. Fisher, like her husband, is a devoted member of the Church of God, in which faith she has reared all her children. The relict of two brave soldiers, she is passing away, a venerated and honored woman, the remaining years of her life, awaiting only the call of the Being after whom her church is named.

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J. ARTHUR HINES, M. D., was born in Van Wert, Ohio, September 12, 1842, and is now recognized as one of the most experienced physicians and surgeons of the county. His grandfather, Jacob Hines, was a native of Maryland, and for many years was an employee of the national government, although he was by trade a tinsmith. He was the owner of a few slaves, but for conscience, sake freed them before the opening of the late Civil war. He passed from 1840 to 1850, or ten years of his life, in Van Wert county, Ohio, and while here was a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he had always taken an animated interest. To him and his wife, Susannah, were born three children, viz: Mrs. James W. Barker, of Washington city; Philip J., father of our subject, and Johanna R., deceased.

Mrs. Susannah Hines departed this life, a sincere Christian, in 1835, at the age of forty-nine, while Jacob, her husband, lived to the remarkable old age of ninety-seven, dying in 1874. Philip John Hines, M. D., son of Jacob and Susannah, and the father of Dr. J. Arthur Hines, was born in Fredericktown, Md., August 11, 1815, and was educated in Washington, D. C., chiefly, and there read medicine under the renowned Dr. Thomas Miller, who was the attending physician of every president of the United States, from Washington to Lincoln. Mr. Hines then entered the University of Maryland, from the medical department of which he graduated in 1837. Dissatisfied with the laws of the United States which disfranchises the residents of the District of Columbia as far as national offices are concerned, Dr. Hines came west in 1838, tarried for a while in Bucyrus, Ohio, and then settled in Van Wert, then a mere village of the backwoods order, and was one of the committee, when the town was created the capital of the county, appointed in 1839, to transfer the county records from the former county seat, Willshire. He taught school and practiced medicine in Van Wert, and being intelligent and popular, was elected and served as representative in the state legislature in 1847 and 1848. In 1849 he was seized with the gold fever, went to California, and remained there until 1852, when he returned to Van Wert and resumed the practice of medicine, served as county clerk and as county auditor, and under the administration of President Pierce as postmaster of Van Wert from 1852 to 1856, when he once more resumed practice, which he adhered to until 1869. He brought the first stock of drugs ever seen in Van Wert, and conducted a trade in this line until his death, on September 12, 1884. His wife, Relief Morse, whom he married March 6, 1841, was a native of New York state, was the first female teacher in Van Wert, where she taught two years, and was also a member of the first Methodist Episcopal church class organized in the city. She departed this life October 20, 1886, the mother of the following-named children: J. Arthur, M. D.; Mary A., wife of W. W. Hillerman, of Springfield, Ohio; Robert, deceased; Sarah A., deceased; J. B. and C. E., of Van Wert.

J. Arthur Hines received his preparatory education in his native city, and in 1859 entered the Columbian National college, at Washington, D. C., where he remained, pursuing his studies, until the building was taken possession of, among others, for hospital purposes, by the military authorities, when he returned to Van Wert, remained until 1866, and then went back to the District of Columbia, studied at and graduated from the medical department of Georgetown university, the platform, on the occasion—graduation day—being graced by the presence of President Grant and numerous statesmen of national renown. Our young physician immediately began practice at Van Wert, where his abilities were at once recognized, and here he has met with that tide of prominent life which has "led on to fortune," his specialty being the diseases of children and women. He has also been unusually successful in his general practice, and this success led to his appointment as county physician to the poor, as well as his appointment, September 15, 1893, as special examiner of applicants for pensions, the doctor being a faithful and stanch member of the democratic party.

The doctor was most happily married, on the 6th day of September, 1874, in Van Wert, to Miss Elizabeth J. Hayes, a native of the state of New York, born April 22, 1857, and daughter of James and Elmira (Down) Hayes, natives of N. Y., and to this union have been born two children, viz: Frank H., a graduate in pharmacy of the Ada Normal school, and Mary Eva. Dr. and Mrs. Hines are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their daily walk in life proclaims the sincerity of their belief in the faith. Fraternally the doctor is a council member of the Masonic order and a member of the I. O. O. F., while in his professional sodality he is an honored member of the Ohio State Medical society and the American Medical association. His fine personal appearance makes him an ornament to the social circle in which he moves, and his intellectual mind sheds a luster on all subjects which he cares to discuss.

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CHRISTOPHER R. HILLER, a much respected farmer of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, was born May 10, 1847, a son of Frederick and Anna Mary (Smith) Hiller, Frederick Hiller being a weaver by trade. Frederick and his eldest son, also named Frederick, came to America in the spring of 1853, and stopped at Dayton, Ohio, where the father followed day labor for a number of years. In the fall of the same year Christopher and his mother and sister followed, and joined the father at Dayton. Frederick and Anna Mary were the parents of the following children: Frederick, who died in early manhood; Mary M., the deceased wife of John Berger; Christopher R., our subject, and Jane, who was born in Ohio, and is now the wife of Joseph Buxton. Until 1870, Frederick Hiller was a renter, living a part of the time in Indiana. In the year last named he came to the farm now owned by our subject, having previously purchased the same. The family rented a room of a neighbor, which they occupied for three months, while the building of the cabin was in progress. It is necessary to add that this tract of land was entirely in the woods, containing nearly 100 acres, and here Frederick Hiller dwelt until the time of his death, November 20, 1873; his widow then married John Kuhl, who was killed seven years later in a railroad accident. Mrs. Kuhl then married John Roberts and died August 13, 1895.

Christopher R. Hiller has given his entire life, since coming to Van Wert county, to farming, with the exception of four years passed in the manufacture of tile. September 25, 1875, he married Margaret Daut, a daughter of Leanhart and Anna (Britting) Daut, both natives of Germany, who came to America in 1859, locating in Hamilton, Ohio, where the father was drowned in the canal in May, 1862. In 1864 Mrs. Daut wedded George Brill at Dayton, Ohio, and to this union were born the following children: George, a farmer of Van Wert county; John, of Paulding county, Ohio, and Anna, wife of James Miller, of Van Wert county. Mrs. Brill died February 17, 1896. To Mr. and Mrs. Hiller have been born nine children, viz: John, George, Martha Louise, Jacob, Margaret Carrie Victoria, Charles, Leanhart (deceased) Rudolph Richard, Franklin William Otto, and Frederick Lee. Since fourteen years of age Mrs. Hiller has been a true Christian woman, she and her husband being both devout Methodists. In politics Mr. Hiller is a democrat, and socially he and family are highly esteemed as kind neighbors, most desirable friends and are self-respecting citizens.

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HENRY HIPSHER, a thriving farmer of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Marion county, Ohio, was born July 27, 1834, and is a son of Asrom and and Mary (Myers) Hipsher, both natives of Pennsylvania. Asrom was born December 7, 1807, and Mary, his wife, March 8, 1812, and their marriage took place March

24, 1832. Asrom Hipsher, who was a farmer, miller, carpenter and joiner, came to Ohio in 1831 and resided in Marion county until 1836, when he brought his wife and son (our subject) to Van Wert county. He first entered eighty acres of land in Pleasant township, but four years later removed to the village of Van Wert, where he resided until December, 1848, and then settled in York township, where his death occurred April 24, 1850, and that of his wife March 23, 1857. This couple were the parents of the following children: Henry; Eliza, wife of Peter Pixler; Martin, who married Sarah Traxler, and who enlisted in 1862 and died of measles in 1863; Rachel, deceased wife of the late Mr. Wappinger; Daniel, who for four years was a soldier, married Hester Tuttle, and is now a resident of Brown county, Kans.; Nancy, wife of Joseph Tuttle, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and James, who married a Miss Taylor and is a resident of Michigan.

Henry Hipsher, carpenter as well as farmer, in 1868 purchased his present farm in York township. The tract then included ninety acres only, but by additional purchases he has increased it to 154 acres, nearly all of which he has placed under cultivation. In 1854 Mr. Hipsher married Miss Mary Pixler, daughter of Henry and Mary Pixler, to which union have been born nine children in the following order: Eli, deceased husband of Emma Nash, who now resides near Ohio City; Josephine, who was first married to the late Henry Thomas, and is now the wife of Ismah Goodwin; Milly and Alexander H., both deceased; Elihu, at home; Amanda, wife of Richard Hughes; Willis, at home; Rosina, now Mrs. Edward H. Lamar, and one child who died in infancy.

August 2, 1862, Mr. Hipsher enlisted in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and for three years did faithful and gallant service in defense of his country's flag. He took part in the battles of Black River, Jackson and Missionary Ridge, being wounded in the groin, November 25, 1863, in the last-named fight, and being assisted off the field by his comrades, John W. Penn and Philip Siler. For fifteen months he was confined to the hospital, but was part of the time, during his convalescence, detailed as nurse, and was also part of the time in the commissary department. July 14, 1865, he received an honorable discharge and returned to his family. In his politics Mr. Hipsher is an ardent republican, and he and family, in religion, are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church, which he aids substantially from his ample means. The social standing of Mr. Hipsher and family is with the best families of the township and county, by whom they are fully appreciated as good and useful members of the community.

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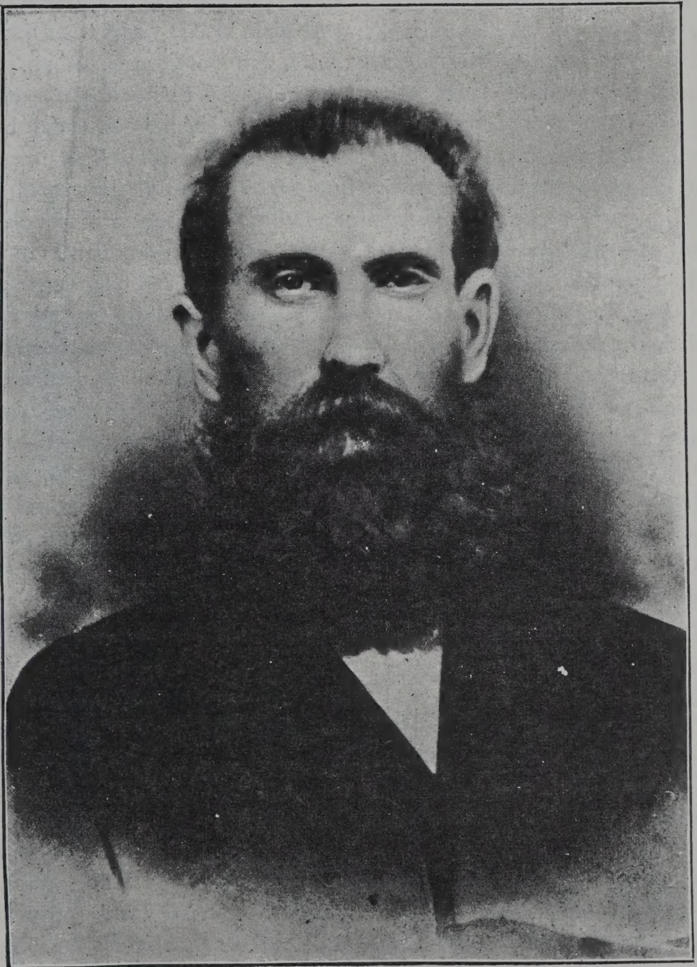
ISAAC GRUBAUGH, a deceased farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and once a well-known citizen, was a son of Jonathan and Margaret Grubaugh, and was born in Morrow county, Ohio, April 6, 1845. Jonathan Grubaugh, the father, was born in Germany in 1780, and when a boy was brought to America by his parents, who settled among the hardy pioneers of Richland county, Ohio, and there Jonathan was reared to manhood on a farm, was twice married, and by the second marriage left as his only progeny the subject of this sketch—Isaac Grubaugh. His mature years were principally passed in Morrow county, where his death occurred in his ninety-sixth year. During his long and useful life he cleared up two wild farms from the forests of Ohio, and was a factor in the redemption of the state from the wilderness.

Isaac Grubaugh received his literary educa-



Isaac Grubaugh.

tion in the schools of Morrow county and was from his childhood till death a tiller of the soil. September 24, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Glover; in 1878 he came to Van Wert county, and purchased the farm in Union township where the family still resides, and here died April 10, 1894. Mrs. Carrie Grubaugh was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1851, a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Endsley) Glover, and bore her deceased husband five children, viz: Ora, wife of George Bennett; Olive M., deceased; William, Clark and Jessie. Isaac Glover, father of Mrs. Grubaugh, was also born in Coshocton county, Ohio, where he followed school-teaching and farming until 1853, when he moved to Paulding county, Ohio, and settled on a tract of wild land, which had previously been entered by his father. This land Isaac Glover cleared up and improved, and on it made a home for eighteen years, uniting his proiession as teacher with the calling of a farmer; he then came to Van Wert county and purchased a home in Hoaglin township, where he died April 9, 1881, and where his widow still lives. He was a member of the Royal Arcanum of Van Wert, a member of the Presbyterian church, and as a republican served as township trustee and justice of the peace in both Paulding and Van Wert counties, and was an upright and highly respected citizen.

Mrs. Nancy Glover was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1839, and was married at twenty years of age, bearing to her hnsband the following children: Mrs. Carrie Grubaugh, widow of our subject; Harriet, wife of Abraham Norris, of Union township; Jennie, married to Frank Bemer, of Hoaglin township; Joel, who married Anna Ludwig, now in New Mexico; Nancy, wife of Marcus Reed, of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio; Cynthia, at home with her mother; Porter, of Van Wert; Bettie, at home; Jessie, at home, and Sarah, deceased. Mrs. Glover is also a member of the Presbyterian church and now makes her home on the old farm in Hoaglin township, where she is highly esteemed by all her neighbors and others who have the happiness of knowing her. Mrs. Grubaugh, is not a member of any religious denomination, but is, as was her husband, a free contributor to the cause of religious as well as educational organizations, and to all worthy enterprises tending to the elevation of the moral and material improvement of the community in which he lives.

Isaac Grubaugh was one of the most respected of the residents of Union township. He was a member of Scott lodge, I. O. O. F., by the members of which he was held in the highest esteem; in politics, he was a republican without guile; as a citizen, he was active and useful; as a father, gentle and indulgent, and as a farmer, was skillful, industrious and successful. His untimely death, in the prime of life, suddenly occurred April 10, 1894, and his loss was a deep affliction to his family as well as a cause of sincere sorrow to the community in which he had so many years led an honorable life.

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ISAAC HOAGLIN, an early pioneer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a prominent farmer, is of German-Irish extraction, but of descent from a long line of American ancestors. His grandfather, Aaron Hoaglin, was a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, was reared to farming, later moved to Richland county, where he became quite prominent, and finally died in Wyandot county in the spring of 1849. He was a hero of the Revolutionary war, in which he served the unusually long term of eight years, or during the whole struggle, and in which conflict a brother sacrificed his life.

Aaron Hoaglin, son of the Aaron mentioned above, and his wife, Sarah (Emery) Hoaglin, were born in Jefferson county, Ohio, his birth having occurred November 6, 1800; he, also, like his father, was reared a farmer. He moved to Richland county with his father, and was there married to Miss Sarah Emery, daughter of David and Mary (Fisher) Emery, the resulting children being named Rosella (Mrs. Harvey), Nicholas D., David E., Isaac, Edith L. (Mrs. Reese, now deceased), Elizabeth (Mrs. Snow), Enoch, and Melissa (Mrs. Yoh). The family came to Van Wert county in 1839 and settled on the land now owned by the subject of this sketch. As Aaron was the first settler in the region, the township on its erection was named Hoaglin in his honor. He felled the trees on his land for a space sufficiently large to put up a log cabin, but he was more of a hunter than farmer, and had killed as many as three deer before breakfast. Those were the days of Johnny cakes and venison and bear, and wild game of all kinds abounded throughout the country. For the first thirteen months of their residence here, Mrs. Hoaglin never saw a white woman, and when one did make her appearance she was German, a langugge which Mrs. Hoaglin did not understand. The father of Isaac, Aaron Hoaglin, was a man of much endurance, and on one occasion carried on his shoulder a sack of flour weighing sixty pounds from Hog creek, in Allen county, to his cabin, a distance of forty miles. Aaron was trustee of his township for many years; he and wife were charter members of the United Brethren church, and in the primitive days the congregation met at their houses, but, to attend quarterly meetings, rode a distance of forty miles on horseback. In later life, however, Mrs. Hoaglin transferred her membership to the Methodists, as their house of worship was nearer to her abode, and in this faith she died May 1, 1878.

Isaac Hoaglin, whose name opens this biography, was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 29, 1836, and was consequently but three years old when he was brought with the remainder of the family to Van Wert county and Hoaglin township. He was of course reared to all the hardships of pioneer farm life. He became a leading man in the community, financially and socially; has been steward of the Methodist church, and for many years a superintendent of the Sunday-school; he is a Patron of Husbandry and member of grange No. 400. October 4, 1860, Isaac Hoaglin was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Sabina E. Rank, of whose family further mention will be found in the sketch of W. L. Rank, her brother, of Van Wert city. The children that have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hoaglin were born in the following order: William M., July 6, 1861; Sarah E. C., January 14, 1867; Joseph E., December 22, 1872—died February 26, 1873; Rozillah Cleona May, born May 20, 1877; Pearl N., August 6, 1879; Jeremiah C., June 24, 1881; Sabina O., April 10, 1884. Mr. Hoaglin's farm comprises eighty-six acres of fine arable land, improved with a new modern residence and barn, and other farm buildings containing every convenience. In politics Mr. Hoaglin is a strong democrat, but has never been a seeker after office, being content to enjoy in quiet the high esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow-citizens throughout the county.

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NICHOLAS D. HOAGLIN, deceased, and until late a prominent farmer of Hoaglin township, and one of the oldest of the pioneers of Van Wert county, was born in Richland county, Ohio, November 4, 1830. He was nine years old when his parents brought him to Van Wert county, and of this county he was a continuous resident until his lamented death, December 21, 1895, at the age of sixty-five years. During his residence in this county of nearly sixty years, he saw it transformed from a place fit only for the abode of wild beasts into a beautiful and prosperous country, inhabited by a highly civilized people. His life was spent constantly on the farm, and farming was his sole and constant occupation.

On July 3, 1856, he was married to Mary Anderson, a daughter of Rugh and Catherine (Drake) Anderson, who removed from Carroll county to Allen county, Ohio, in 1840, where Mr. Anderson purchased a farm of 160 acres in Monroe township, upon which farm he spent the rest of his life. At first Mr. Anderson was a whig in politics, but later he became a republican. He and his wife had the following children: Andrew, Rachel, Jacob, John, Jennie, Abraham, W. T., Mary, David, Robert, and Joseph. The mother of these children died September 16, 1857, and the father died in October, 1873.

Mr. Hoaglin after his marriage settled down upon a farm in Hoaglin township of sixty-three acres, and he made it what it is to-day—a good farm. Afterward he purchased twenty-four acres in Ridge township, and upon this farm he erected good buildings, including house, barn, and such other out-buildings as were needed on a modern farm. In politics he was a domocrat and took an active interest in the success of his party. He served as township trustee, as clerk and as assessor, holding each of the last two offices six years. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he had been a class leader for thirty-one years. Toward the support of his church he contributed most liberally, in money and also through moral and social methods. He and his wife were parents of the following children: Isaac W.; Phœbe A.; Joseph L., and John N., all well educated and all well known throughout the township and county.

J. N. Hoaglin, son of our subject, was born May 31, 1864. He spent his boyhood on the farm until he was twenty years old, when he went west, remaining one year. Mr. Hoaglin when a young man took a special course in penmanship and has taught several classes. February 4, 1894, Mr. Hoaglin married Orpha Lusk, daughter of R. G. and Louisa Lusk, prominent people of Adams county, Ind. Mrs. Hoaglin lived only nineteen months after marriage. She was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, May 22, 1873. No children were born. Mr. Hoaglin now makes his home with his mother, having succeeded, on the death of his father, to the management of the homestead. Mr. Hoaglin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a democrat.

Turning now to the ancestry of the Hoaglin family. The grandfather of Nicholas D. Hoaglin was Aaron Hoaglin. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and one of the first settlers of Jefferson county, Ohio. Later he removed to Richland county, and still later to Van Wert county. Here he entered 240 acres of land, which was afterward settled upon and improved by his sons. He died in Richland county in 1840, a highly respected citizen and one who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Aaron Hoaglin, his son, and the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Richland county, Ohio, and removed his family to Van Wert county, in 1839, in a wagon, making the journey almost wholly through a new country. His wife remained in Van Wert, then a hamlet of only five cabins and on the frontier, while Mr. Hoaglin erected a log cabin for the reception of his family. This cabin when completed stood in the primitive woods surrounded by frog swamps. Nevertheless, the family contrived to make themselves comfortable, and to permit therein the holding of religious services, both Mr. and Mrs. Hoaglin being ardent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hoaglin aided his denomination largely during those early days, not only in the way of erecting their first house of worship, but he also sustained the society in every other way in his power. He was a democrat in politics and held the office of township trustee for several terms. He was also honored by his fellow-pioneers by being considered the most prominent early settler in the township, and in being recognized by them as a valuable citizen and kind neighbor, in such a manner as to perpetuate his memory by naming one of the townships of Van Wert county in his honor. His death occurred in 1864. His wife, Sarah Emery, was born in 1807. They were married in 1827 and she died May 1, 1878.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hoaglin were as follows: Rosell A., wife of O. H. Harvey, of Monroeville, Ind.; Nicholas D., the subject of this sketch; David E., a farmer of Union township; Isaac, a farmer of Hoaglin township; Edith, deceased wife of Henry Reese; Enoch M., a farmer of Union township; Melissa, wife of Benjamin Yoh, of Van Wert. The mother of these children was a most devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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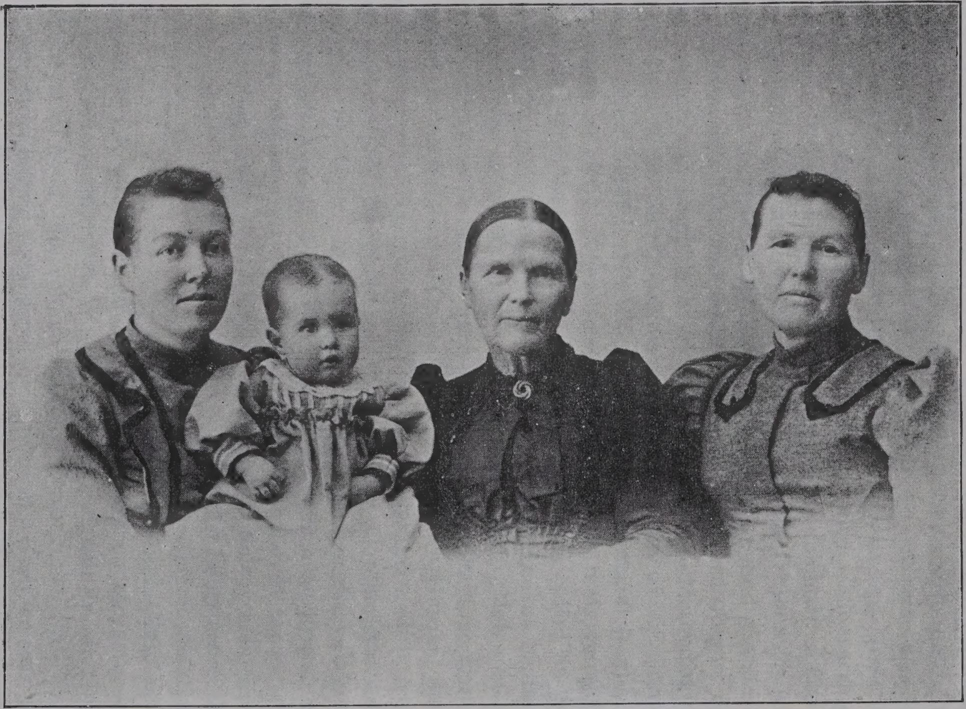
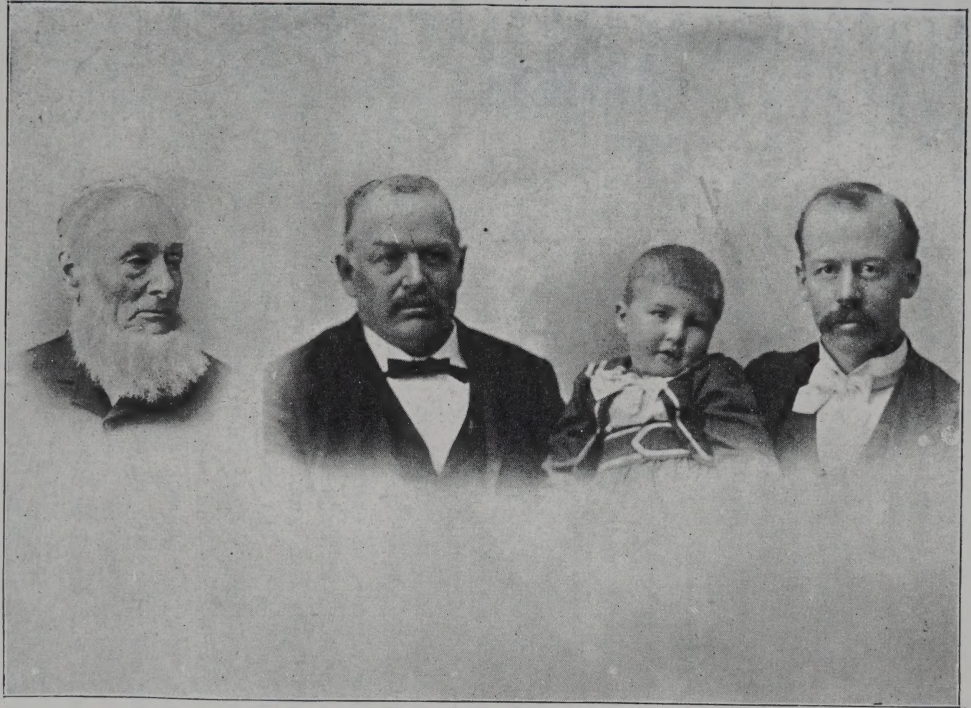
JOHN M. GARDNER, a farmer and ex-soldier of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of good old colonial stock, his ancestors having come from England in an early day. From these hardy colonists, descended Jesse Gardner, grandfather of our subject, who was for many years a citizen of New Jersey, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in New Jersey.

Reuben C. Gardner, son of Jesse and father of our subject, was born in Essex county, N. J., February 28, 1811, but was reared in Orange county, in the same state, where he served an apprenticeship of three years at shoemaking. He was an unusually well-informed man, although self-taught chiefly, receiving, however, the meager advantage of the common schools of his early day. He first married Susan L. Myrick, who bore him the following children: Lydia A., Jesse H. (died young), Jesse W. (died while serving in the Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry), Valera (died young), Phebe I., John M. (our subject), Harriet, Josephine and Susan. The mother of these children died August 1, 1848, a devout member of the Methodist church, and the second marriage of Mr. Gardner was to Lydia Roloson, daughter of Joseph Roloson, and to this union were born, Sarah (died in infancy), Seth, Joseph E. (died at twenty-one years), Eunice, Jane (died at eighteen), Ciers, Lemuel J., Martin L., Helen, Rueben P., Walter and Ida M.—the four last named deceased. The second Mrs. Gardner died April 11, 1888, in the Presbyterian faith, and the third marriage of Mr. Gardner was with Lucy Baldwin. Mr. Gardner has always been active and prominent in church work and was an elder and exhorter in the Methodist church for many years, but is now a member of the Presbyterian church, it being nearer his home. He has been living on his fertile farm of 125 acres in Delaware county, Ohio, since February 16, 1855, where he enjoys the respect of the surrounding community. In politics he is a strong prohibitionist.

John M. Gardner was born in Delaware county, Ohio, January 29, 1845, and has been a farmer from his youth. August 22, 1862, he enlisted in company K, One Hundred and Twenty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and served in the campaigns of Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, participating in the battle of Perrysville, Ky., and the skirmish at Triune,



MRS. JESSIE MEDFORD. JENNIE MEDFORD. MRS. MARY LEWIS. MRS. J. M. GARDNER.



R. C. GARDNER J. M. GARDNER. W. O. GARDNER. O. M. GARDNER.

Tenn.; and at Chickamauga, Ga., on the second day of the two-day fight, September 20, 1863, was struck by a fragment of shell (2 by ¼ inches), which buried itself in the fleshy part of his hip, and so disabled him that he was unfitted for further service and was honorably discharged May 30, 1865. He still retains in his possession this fragment of shell and still limps from the injury it inflicted. The marriage of Mr. Gardner took place December 18, 1868, to Miss Olive Lewis, daughter of Morgan S. and Mary (Shoemaker) Lewis. The father, Morgan S. Lewis, was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., August 10, 1826, and the mother, Mary Shoemaker, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, September 2, 1828; they were married in Delaware county, where the mother still resides. The father owned a grist and saw-mill in Morrow county, Ohio, which he successfully operated until a short time before his death, December 30, 1887, a member of the Methodist church, in which he had long been a steward and class leader. In politics he was a prohibitionist. The grandfather of Mrs. Gardner, Morgan Lewis, also was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., July 10, 1808, was likewise a miller as well as millwright, and married Cyrena Schofield, in Onondaga county, N. Y. They both died in Morrow county, Ohio. The great-grandfather of Mrs. Gardner was Jonathan Lewis, who was born and reared in Onondaga county, N. Y., but passed his latter days in Morrow county, Ohio. The children born to Mrs. Gardner's parents were named, Josephine, Olive, Cynthia, Lester E., William J., Orrin J. and Cyrena, all still living.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Gardner came to their present home of 125 acres soon after marriage, and have had born to them the following family: Orson M., who has been a teacher for six years, and is now engaged in his profession in Mercer county, Ohio; Edith, Jessie, Lewis, Ralph C., Mary and Agnes. Mr. Gardner's farm is improved with a modern-built residence and a substantial harn and other suitable structures, and is excellently well cultivated. In politics he is a republican and has served in the position of township trustee; he has long been steward and class leader in the Methodist church and a Sunday-school teacher; he is also a member of grange No. 1333, and is notable as an energetic and useful citizen. Subject's maternal great-grandfather was in the battle of Monmouth in the Revolution.

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GEORGE M. HOAGLIN, the popular superintendent of the public schools and civil engineer of Scott, Ohio, and a member of one of the oldest families of Van Wert county, was born in Hoaglin township July 23, 1861, and is a son of David E. and Elizabeth (Snyder) Hoaglin, a biographical record of whom will be found in the sketch of the Hoaglin family.

George M. Hoaglin laid the foundation of his education in the common schools of his native county, and supplemented this by entering, in 1881, the Northern Indiana Normal school at Valparaiso, where he took a course of scientific studies, including teaching and civil engineering, and was graduated therefrom in 1886. In the intervals between his studies he taught in the common schools of Van Wert county from 1881 to 1886, and then for a year engaged in book canvassing, which proved an excellent school for a business training. He then engaged in civil engineering in the office of Geyer Bros., at Paulding, Ohio, and while with this firm received the appointment of school examiner for the county of Van Wert, a position he resigned two years later, in 1890, having been elected during the interval, in 1888, superintendent of the public schools of Scott—which office he also resigned in 1890. He then went back to Paulding and engaged in civil engineering; in 1891 he was elected city engineer, served until 1893, and then returned to Scott, where he entered into the hardware business with his brother-in-law, Edgar C. Schnorf. The same year he was appointed school examiner of Paulding county, and still holds that position.

The marriage of Mr. Hoaglin took place March 28, 1889, to Miss Jennie G. Schnorf, a school-teacher, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, March 5, 1870, a daughter of William C. and Mary E. (Renner) Schnorf, now of Paulding. To this congenial union have been born two children—Burton R. and Georgia N. The father of Mrs. Hoaglin, William C. Schnorf, was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1834, a son of Jacob, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Ohio. He was a gentleman of extensive means and was twice married—his second wife being Mahala Brandon, of Butler county, Ohio, who became the mother of eighteen children, of whom William C. was the third son. The father of this large family died in Montgomery county in 1858, and honored and respected citizen. William C. Schnorf was reared a farmer and was educated in the common schools of Montgomery county. In 1861 he married Mary E. Renner, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, April 29, 1844, a daughter of Emanuel and Sarah (Cecil) Renner, the union resulting in the birth of four children, viz: Dolia, wife of Edward Hahn, of Mandale, Ohio; Colfax, a hardware merchant of Cloverdale, Ohio; Edgar C., of the hardware firm of Hoaglin & Schnorf, Scott, Ohio, and Jennie G., now Mrs. G. M. Hoaglin. Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schnorf are members of the United Brethren church, and after marriage resided in Preble county until 1887, when they removed to Paulding county, where they still reside, being among the most highly respected members of their community. Mr. Schnorf is a republican in is politics, and as a farmer is recognized as one of the most skillful in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoaglin are prominent members of the Paulding Methodist Episcopal church, and he is also an active member of the Van Wert lodge of Freemasons. In politics he is an ardent democrat, was elected mayor of Scott in 1894, and May 6, 1895, was unanimously re-elected superintendent of the schools of Scott. He is an energetic and enterprising gentleman, and has made a success of his chosen line of trade, and holds the confidence and esteem of all with whom he is associated.

THE HOAGLIN FAMILY of Van Wert county, Ohio, descended from Aaron Hoaglin of Pennsylvania, who was among the earliest pioneers of Jefferson county, and later of Richland county, Ohio, and still later entered 240 acres of government land in Van Wert county, which in after years was settled upon by his sons, he dying in Putnam county about 1840. Aaron, ssn of this pioneer, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1799, and lived in Richland county until October, 1839, when he came to Van Wert county and settled on the wild land entered by his father, there being at that time only five log cabins in the present city of that name. In his honor was the township of Hoaglin so named. He was an active democrat, held many local offices, and died in 1864, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a prominent member. His widow, who had born the maiden name of Sarah Emery, was born in 1807 and was married at the age of twenty years. She became the mother of eight children, viz: One who died unnamed, Rozella, Nicholas D., David E., Edith, Elizabeth A., Enoch M. and Melissa. She, also was an earnest worker in the Methodist church and died in 1874.

David E. Hoaglin, father of George M. Hoaglin, was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1832, and when six years of age was brought to Van Wert county by his parents. Here he grew to manhood on his father's farm, and is now the owner of 120 acres, which he has cleared, underdrained and otherwise so improved that it ranks among the best farms of its size in the county. In politics he is a stanch democrat and has held the offices of district clerk and township trustee, in both positions giving entire satisfaction. He has been three times married; first, January 31, 1856, to Elizabeth Snyder, daughter of John and Catherine (Nunnamaker) Snyder, and to this union were born the following children: Harriet A., wife of Haxton P. Borrow, of Van Wert; William, deceased; Horace M., deceased; Catherine M. J., wife of James Davis, a farmer of Union township; George M.; John A., deceased; Francis E., a farmer of Union township; David M., deceased, and an infant, deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Hoaglin was a devout member of the Methodist church, in which she took a deep interest, and in the faith of which she passed away April 10, 1866, her loss being keenly felt by her fellow church members and in the home circle. February, 1873, Mr. Hoaglin chose for his second helpmate Miss Almira J. Curren, who was born January 6, 1843, a daughter of Jesse and Catherine Curren, of Morrow county, and to this union were born five children, viz: Archie E., Jesse E., Clyde L., Ada C. and Winona M., all at school. This wife was also a consistent member of the Methodist church, and died, much lamented, September 15, 1887. The third marriage of Mr. Hoaglin took place December 26, 1888, to Miss Maggie J. Haynes, who was born January 1, 1846, a daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Braddish) Haynes, natives of Vermont and early pioneers of Hardin county, Ohio. This lady also is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which her husband has been identified since early manhood, and in which he holds a high position—contributing liberally of his means to its support. Mr. Hoaglin is one of the most enterprising farmers of Union township; he is a useful citizen and holds the confidence and esteem of a large circle of friends and of the public at large.

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JACOB HOELLE, one of the most reputable citizens of Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, is a native of Germany, having been born in Leidringen, Wurtemberg, February 2, 1834, a son of Jacob and Mary (Stein) Hoelle. He attended the schools of Wurtemberg until he reached the age of fourteen years, and was employed in rustic occupations until twenty, when he came to America, in 1854, reaching Miamisburg, Ohio, direct, where he at once engaged at farm work. Here he married Mary, daughter of John Jacob and Mary B. (Houser) Rumple, to which union have been born eight children, of whom four died while still young and four lived to maturity, the latter being named John G., Jacob F., Christina H. and Anna B. At Willshire, Van Wert county, he enlisted, in September, 1862, and was mustered into company G, Twentieth Ohio volunteer infantry, October 6, 1862, for nine months, under Capt. Uptegraff, and served until honorably discharged at Vicksburg, Miss., August 13, 1863, his term having exceeded ten months. In August, 1864, he re-enlisted for one year, or during the war, at Lima, Ohio, in company F, Sixty-fourth Ohio infantry, under Capt. Norman K. Brown, of Van Wert, and served until his discharge at Camp Parker, near Nashville, Tenn., in August, 1865, the war being then closed. His service to his adopted country reached the term of nearly twenty-two months, including his two enlistments, and the engagements in which he took part were those at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin and others. At Franklin Mr. Hoelle's regiment went in with 397 men and came out with 274, and this was the hardest fight in which he had an experience. At this battle, in a bayonet charge, to capture a battery, a ball struck his knapsack and lodged in a pair of stockings, and he was also clubbed over the head with a musket and partially stunned; with these exceptions he suffered no other casualities, saving a confinement in the hospital for two months from chronic diarrhœa during his first term of service. After the war was over, Mr. Hoelle returned to Van Wert county and bought eighty acres of land in the woods, two miles north of Convoy, of which he cleared off twenty-seven acres, then sold and moved into town, entered into mercantile business, made for himself a good name, and considerable wealth, and is now retired. He and wife are members of the Lutheran church and in politics he is a democrat. He has always been a straightforward man, and has won the respect of all who know him.

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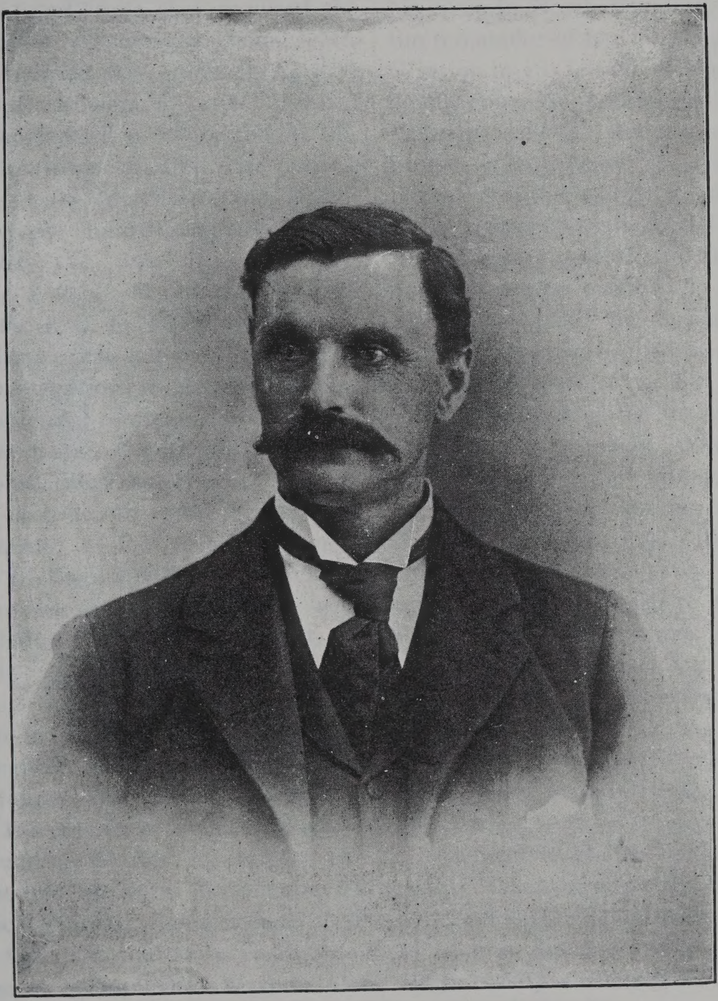
WILSON FLETCHER HIRE, of Van Wert, Ohio, formerly a most extensive dealer in tobacco and cigars, and now in the grocery trade, was born in Van Wert county May 6, 1847, and is a son of Jeremiah and Sarah (Summersett) Hire. The father was born in Clarke county, Ohio, February 22, 1818, and was a son of Abraham Hire, a native of Germany, the former born in 1795. He and wife came to America separately, met in New York, and were there married in 1812, and located in western Pennsylvania, where they lived on a farm until 1834, when they came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and cleared up a farm in Washington township, on which they resided until called from earth. They were the parents of six children, named Mary, Jeremiah, John, Elijah, Peter and Josiah.

The father of our subject, Jeremiah Hire, was sixteen years old when he came with his parents to Van Wert county, and here he resided with them on the frontier farm until twenty-one years of age, when he went to farming in Washington township, worked hard until 1892, when he retired to Van Wert and died in peace in May, 1894, leaving 120 acres of finely improved land. His marriage took place in Washington township, 1843, to Sarah Summersett, who was born in West Virginia January 13, 1822, a daughter of John and Rachael (Shillenbarger) Summersett, and by this union were born the following children: Mary J., wife of Charles Davis, of Ridge township; John A., deceased; Wilson F., our subject; Loraine E., married to Charles Crosby, a merchant of Van Wert; Rachael A., wife of John Addison, an employee of the Standard Oil company at Van Wert; M. R., a stave manufacturer; William G., chief clerk for Lewis Graves, proprietor of the "Hub" grocery; Frances, deceased; Lucy, wife of James Davis, of Ridge township; and Lincoln, Sullivan and Ophelia, all three deceased. The mother and father of this family died respectively January 27, 1870, and May 15, 1894, both respected members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Wilson Fletcher Hire was reared on the farm in Washington township and remained with his parents until 1865, and then went to work in the Eagle Stave works, laboring until March, 1885, when, with a capital of $25, he embarked in the tobacco business in a small room on North Washington street; July 15,



WILSON F. HIRE.

1887, he moved to South Washington street, and in May, 1894, secured the fine large room adjoining the Marsh hotel, where he carried a stock valued at $15,000, and did a large wholesale trade in northern Ohio and eastern Indiana, and also a retail trade that required the constant attention of one salesman. Mr. Hire was first married in Van Wert, April 7, 1872, to Mary C. Bowers, a native of Allen county, Ohio, born April 6, 1851, and to this union were born three children, viz: Carrie C. (deceased), Lola (deceased), and Hazel. The mother of these children was called to her last rest January 15, 1892. Mr. Hire is a member of the I. O. R. M., of the National Union and of the I. O. O. F., and in his politics is a republican. He has been industrious, enterprising and sagacious in his business, now owns considerable real estate, and is emphatically a self-made man. On June 6, 1895, Mr. Hire sold his tobacco business, and November 28 purchased one-half interest in the grocery and provision trade with L. E. Crosby, and under the firm name of Crosby & Hire. March 18, 1896, Mr. Hire was united in marriage with Elizabeth M. Erler, a native of Van Wert.

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DELCINA C. HOGHE, widow of Clement R. Hoghe, and daughter of William A. and Nellie (Jones) Warner, is a native of Tennessee, where her birth occurred March 22, 1843. The father was a native of North Carolina and a son of Frederick Warner, a descendant of an early English family of that state and a tailor by occupation. William A. Warner was reared and educated at Winston, N. C., and when young learned the tailor's trade with his father, who was a skillful workman. After becoming proficient in his trade he went to Sullivan county, Tenn., where, in 1841, he married Nellie Jones, who bore him the following children: Delcina C.; Penelope A., wife of Gideon Miller; Decatur F., of Richmond, Ind.; Mrs. Mary Miller and William A., all deceased except Decatur and the subject of this sketch. In 1848 Mr. Jones returned to his home in North Carolina, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in the town of Winston in 1852. He was a man of deep religious convictions, belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and succeeded well in his business affairs, leaving his family a comfortable share of this world's goods. In 1857 Mrs. Nellie Jones entered into the marriage relation with Thomas Fetter, of North Carolina, by whom she had one child, a daughter, Alice (deceased). Mr. Jones was born about the year 1820 and was called from the scene of his early labors in March, 1868.

Delcina C. Warner received a good education at Salem academy, Winston, N. C., and after the death of her father, which sad event occurred when she was ten years of age, made her home for some time with an uncle, Henry Runnager. In June, 1865, she went to the town of Hope, Ind., where the year following she was united in marriage to Clement R. Hoghe, a union blessed with the birth of seven children, whose names are as follows: Harry W., of Van Wert; Carrie W., of Pleasant township; Perry R., who resides on the home farm; Nettie E.; Terry D.; Abraham C. and Princess L.

Clement R. Hoghe was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1843, and was a son of Abraham and Eliza (Caldwell Hoghe, both parents of German descent and early pioneers of the above county. When a small boy Mr. Hoghe was brought by his parents to the county of Van Wert, in the common schools of which he acquired a fair English education, and, until the breaking out of the late Civil war, assisted his father on the farm. In 1862 he entered the army, enlisting in October of that year in company B, Tenth Ohio cavalry, with which he served for sometime in the eastern army and afterward saw much active service in Tennessee, Georgia and other states. During his period of service he participated in some of bloodiest battles of the war, including Gettysburg, Nashville, Jonesboro, Chickamauga, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, and numerous other engagements of the Atlanta campaign, in all of which his conduct was that of a gallant defender of the nation's honor. He was early wounded at Mossy Creek, and at the close of the war was honorably discharged in 1865. On quitting the service Mr. Hoghe returned to Van Wert county and engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, which he followed with encouraging success until his death, which occurred on the 21st day of November, 1893. In all the essentials of true manhood Mr. Hoghe was not wanting, and few citizens of Pleasant township stood as high in the estimation of the people as he. He wielded an influence for the democratic party, the principles of which he ever intelligently defended, and more than once was honored by his fellow-citizens with official positions, in the discharge of the duties of which he proved himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him. He belonged to the G. A. R., was an active worker in the Van Wert grange, of which his wife was also a member, and in his death his family lost a kind husband and indulgent father, and the community one of its most esteemed and highly respected citizens.

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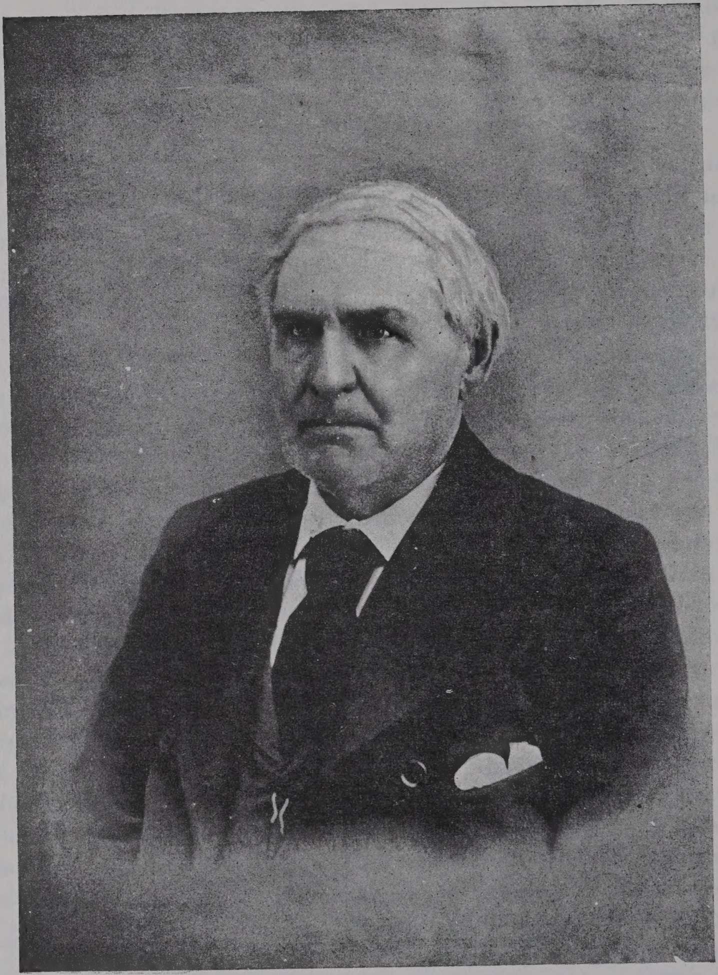
**JAMES M. HOMAN**, grocer, flour and feed merchant, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 8, 1855, a son of Emanuel and Salome (Yockey) Homan, natives of Washington county, Pa. Emanuel Homan was one of the pioneers of Wayne county, where he followed the vocation of stationary engineer until his death in 1877, having lost his wife February 1, 1870. Of the ten children born to these parents, seven still survive, viz: Eber (of Indiana), Martha, Eliza, William J., Henry, Caroline and James M. The parents were consistent and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church; in politics the father was a republican and served 100 days in the Union service in the late war.

James M. Homan left his parental roof in Wayne county at the age of fourteen years, went to learn the miller's trade with Reuben Sellers, at Dalton, Ohio, and with him remained until he was twenty years of age, having become proficient in his trade; he then went to Toledo, Ohio, where he was employed in milling until 1877, when he went to Massillon, Ohio, where he was employed in a mill until 1881, when he moved to Warsaw, Ind., where he lived until 1885, and then came to Van Wert, and was employed in the Union mills until 1894, when he opened his flour, feed and grocery store on Main street, in the old court-house building, where he has built up a good trade, carrying, as he does, a well selected stock of general groceries.

The marriage of Mr. Homan took place at Dalton, Wayne county, Ohio, December 15, 1878, to Miss Minnie J. Stager, who was born in Jonestown, Lebanon county, Pa., August 15, 1862, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Roebuck) Stager. This happy marriage has been blessed by the birth of three children, born in the following order: Roy C., September 23, 1879; James Frank, August 11, 1881, and Mary E., March 30, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Homan are sincere members of the Methodist Episcopal church; Mr. Homan is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, in which he has passed all the chairs, and for the past five years has been secretary of the order; he is also a member of the Knights of Maccabees.



WILLIAM HEATH.

He owns a nice home at the corner of First and Walnut streets, where his leisure hours are passed in domestic felicity, and in the enjoyment of social intercourse with his numerous intimate friends.

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WILLIAM HEATH, an experienced and respected farmer of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Auglaize county, Ohio, and was born December 29, 1824, son of John and Nancy (Tomlin) Heath. John Heath came to what is now Van Wert county, in the year of 1836, and entered 240 acres of land in the wildest of wildernesses, which he succeeded in converting into one of the finest farms of the township, now owned by our subject. Eighty acres, however, on which our subject now resides were entered by an uncle, John Tomlin. William Heath, our subject, relates that his father caught many wolves, on his settlement here, and made it aprofitable business, as the government was at that time paying $4.25 for wolf scalps, although Mr. Heath was a farmer and followed that vocation until his death at the age eighty-nine years, his wife having reached four-score years. This worthy couple reared a family of four sons and five daughters, who were named, in order of birth, as follows: Lovis, Betsy, James, Jane, Melchia, Mary, Joseph, William and John, all now deceased with the exception of our subject (William), and Betsy, widow of John Bevington.

At the age of twenty-six years William Heath, the subject of this sketch, wedded Adeline Crook. She was a true and faithful helpmate and died a sincere Christian. In February, 1889, Mr. Heath took for his second wife, Mellie Devoe, and to this union were were born six children, named in order of birth as follows: Nancy, William, Harrison, Emma (deceased), Reed and James. Mr. Heath is a prosperous farmer, now owning 1,160 acres of land, the greater portion of which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. Mrs. Heath is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which Mr. Heath also affiliates. In politics Mr. Heath is a republican, and considers it his duty to vote for his party at each and every election, although he is by no means an office seeker. Mr. Heath has been one of the most enterprising citizens of York township, and has won the respect of all with whom he has come in contact, being especially esteemed for his honesty, and for his interest in all enterprises that would tend to the public good.

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WILLIAM HENDERSON, a retired manufacturer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born near Cannonsburg, Washington county, Pa., September 28, 1814, a son of William and Elizabeth (Harpe) Henderson. The father, William, was also a native of the Keystone state and was reared in Washington county, there learned the wheelwright's trade, and there married Elizabeth Harper, a native of Ireland, by whom he became the father of five children, viz: Robert, deceased; William, our subject; Jane, Elizabeth and John, deceased. Mr. Henderson followed his trade in Pennsylvania until 1815, when he came to Ohio and settled in Jefferson county, where he died in 1857 and his wife in 1837, both devoted members of the United Presbyterian church.

William Henderson, the subject of this biographical notice, was but six months old when his parents settled in Jefferson county, where he was reared, until nineteen years of age, on the home farm; he then apprenticed himself to learn carriage and wagon making, for three years, to George Hott, his compensation for the whole term to be $100 and board and washing. When he had finished his apprenticeship he had saved $85 of his $100. He then assisted on the home farm for a year, and the following two years he engaged in carriage making on his father's place; he then moved to Martinsburg, Knox county, Ohio, where he was successfully engaged in carriage and wagon manufacturing from 1840 until 1872, when he came to Van Wert county, and, in company with William Scott, established a stave and heading manufactory at Convoy, which was profitably conducted until the spring of 1873, when the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Henderson purchased the ground and erected the fine residence which he still makes his home, at the corner of Wall and Caroline streets, in the city of Van Wert. In 1874 Mr. Henderson, whose nature would never permit him to lead a life of inactivity as long as health and strength were his, and being a man of foresight and enterprise, established a factory for the making of wooden stirrups at Van Wert, which he conducted until he had the misfortune to lose his wife, when he retired.

Mr. Henderson was married in Knox county, Ohio, February 14, 1841, to Miss Rachael Kerr, a native of Washington county, Pa., and a daughter of John and Sarah (Scott) Kerr. Four children were born to this union, but the fell destroyer, Death, invaded the household and carried away three of the children in infancy, and the eldest child, Sarah E., at the age of forty-six years. The wife and mother was called away in 1882, dying in the faith of the United Presbyterian church, of which she was a pious member, and to which church Mr. Henderson also belongs.

In his earlier days Mr. Henderson was a Jacksonian democrat, but later changed his views and became an ardent republican; yet he has never been an office seeker. Mr. Henderson formerly owned large tracts of land in Ohio, Iowa and other states, but these he has disposed of for other real or personal property. His present real estate consists of forty acres in Van Wert county and valuably city property, and he takes much interest in the building and loan association of the city. Mr. Henderson has always been an enterprising and energetic business man, and is public spirited and philanthropic, and no undertaking designed for the well-being of the people of the city or county goes without help from his willing hand or assistance from his freely opened purse.

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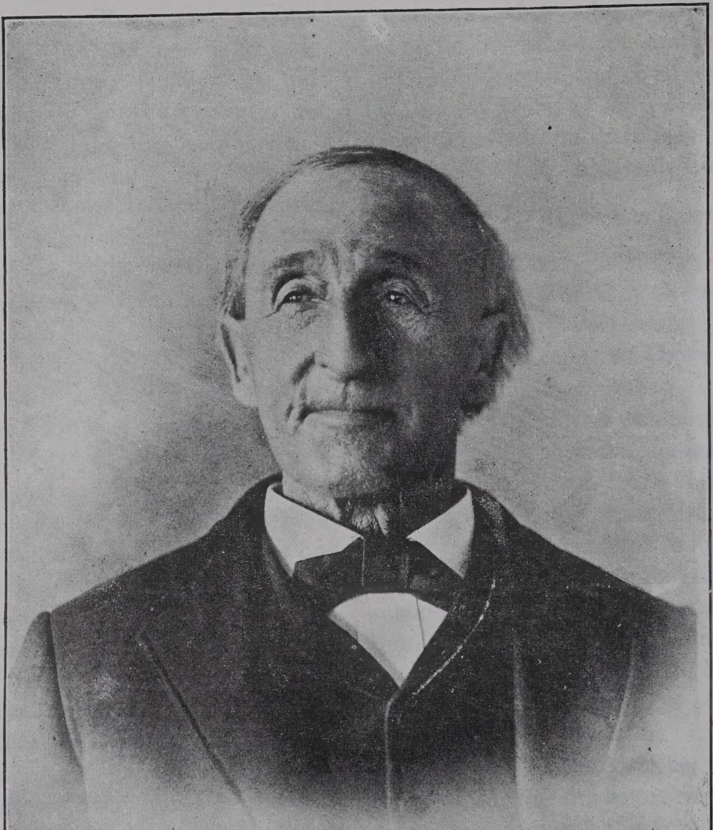
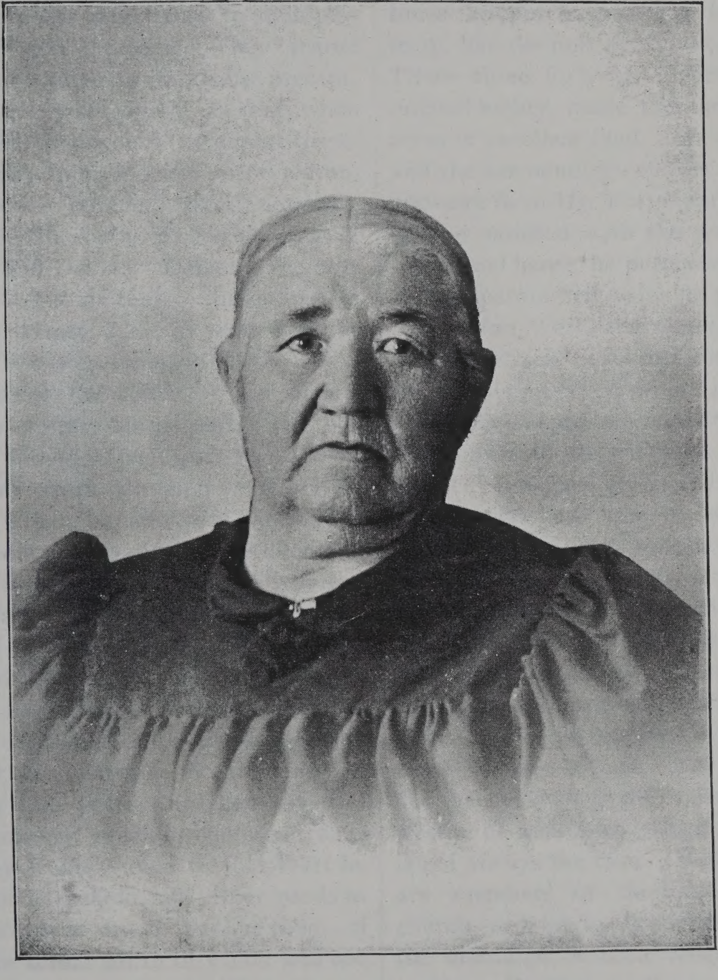
DANIEL FORTNEY, a prominent citizen of Van Wert city, a pioneer of Van Wert county, and a successful farmer, was born in Union county, Pa., September 1, 1817. He is a son of Samuel Fortney, who was born in New Jersey, in 1798, and who, when he was ten years old, moved with his father's family to Beaver township, Union county, Pa., where lived about twelve years. His education was limited to the ordinary branches of a common-school training, including nothing of the higher branches; but notwithstanding this he was naturally bright and intelligent, and quick to pick up the essential points of any occupation or trade with which he came in contact. However, he appeared to have a stronger predilection for the carpenter trade than for any other, and acquired this trade at an early age. His natural mechanical ability enabled him to readily master it, and in it he was very successful. In Union county, Pa., he was married to Miss Catherine Mowery, a native of the state, and with his family he removed in 1821 to Wayne county, Ohio. Here he bought a farm upon which he lived the rest of his life. following farming as well as his regular trade, which he found of great use to him in the then new country. Politically he was a democrat, though official honors had no attraction



DANIEL FORTNEY.



MRS. CHRISTINA FORTNEY.

for him. Both he and his wife were members of the German Presbyterian church, and they both lived true to their religious convictions of right and duty. They were a noble pioneer couple, industrious, economical and courageous, seeming to court rather than to shun pioneer hardships and dangers. They reared their children according to the Bible precept, in the way that they should go, so that when they became old they would not depart therefrom. Of these children there were eleven, named as follows: Daniel, Adam, Margaret, Mary, Samuel, Elizabeth, Catherine, Sarah, George, Leah and Delilah. Daniel is the only one yet living. The mother of these children died in Adams county, Ind., in 1854, and the father died in Wooster, Ohio, in 1866.

Daniel Fortney, the subject of this sketch, is now in his seventy-ninth year. He was reared on his father's farm, and hence farm life came to him naturally in after years. However, like his father, he was very handy with all kinds of tools, and could do anything well that came to his hand to do. When his father removed his family to Ohio Daniel was four years old, and he remained at home assisting on the farm for the next nineteen years. He then, in 1840, began life for himself, marrying, on June 25, of that year, Miss Christina Snowbarger. After his marriage he remained in Wayne county four years, and then removed to Van Wert county, reaching here in 1844. On the journey from Wayne to Van Wert he removed all his household and other goods in a wagon, which was drawn by one team of horses, and the actual worth of which was not more than $300. Arriving in Van Wert county, he purchased eighty acres of timbered land in Liberty township, and settled down upon it with the view of making it his home for life, for without a fixed abode owned by himself a man is without a home. This timbered land he immediately began to clear, and after many years of clearing, draining, improving and building upon, he made it one of the best farms in Van Wert county. His ambition, however, was not satisfied with the possession of eighty acres of land, and hence at three different times he purchased forty acres more, each forty, like the first eighty covered with timber. There three forty-acre tracts, added to his original eighty, made the farm consist of 200 acres of excellent land, for which Van Wert and the surrounding counties are noted. This 200-acre farm Mr. Fortney still owns. Neither was he satisfied with the ownership of farm lands, and hence he purchased and now owns three separate and valuable properties in the city of Van Wert, and one similar property in Ohio City, about six miles south of Van Wert. All of this property, which is at the present time very valuable, Mr. Fortney has acquired by his own efforts, industry and careful management. Some years since Mr. Fortney thinking he had done his share of labor retired from the farm to one of his pieces of property in Van Wert, where he now resides in comparative ease and comfort, free from all cares and anxieties, for with his own hands he has won a competency for his later years. Politically he is a democrat and is a man of liberality in his views and opinions. He is also charitably disposed, always ready to help the poor and needy, where the poor and needy are worthy of assistance, which in a certain sense is not always the case. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, prompt in its support and faithful in the discharge of their religious duties. Mr. and Mrs. Fortney are the parents of five children, as follows: Mary Jane, born September 20, 1843, married John Burton, and died in 1864; Melissa, married Coleman King and lives in Mercer county; Lucinda, died April 1, 1857; Lacy A., married Milton B. Evers, May 9, 1886, and is living in Van Wert county, and

Emma married Newton Putnam, and is living on the homestead farm in Van Wert county.

Christina Snowbarger, wife of Mr. Fortney, was born May 15, 1824. Her father, David Snowbarger, was born in Pennsylvania, and at an early age learned the trade of weaver, at which he worked during his entire life. In early manhood he removed to Wayne county, and there lived until his death, which occurred in 1844. He was a democrat and a member of the Dunkard church. He married Rachel Horn of Pennsylvania, who was a member of the same church as himself, and died in 1861, in Steuben county, Ind. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Samuel, Jacob, David, Elias, Christian, Elizabeth, Mary and Susan. Four of these children are dead, viz: Samuel, Jacob, Elizabeth and Mary.

Christina Snowbarger was born in Pennsylvania, and resided with her parents until her marriage to Mr. Fortney, since which time she has resided in Van Wert county. She is a most excellent lady, kind hearted and sympathetic, and of a most lovable disposition. She is unfortunately afflicted with rheumatism, which keeps her in retirement, but she bears her sufferings with patience and resignation, and it is possible that her naturally sweet and patient disposition shines all the more brightly because of her affliction, on the principle that the fragrance of the crushed rose is more powerful and penetrating than when the flower is still flourishing on its parent stem. Mr. Fortney's entire family is highly respected by all the citizens of Van Wert, and by all their large circle of acquaintances and friends.

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JOHN HEFFELFINGER, a highly respectable resident of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, is of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent and stands at the head of a most respectable family in the township mentioned.

Philip Heffelfinger, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a farmer of Pennsylvania and of his children are remembered the names of the following: Jacob, Benjamin, Michael and Martin; of these, Martin, the father of our subject, was born on a farm near Pittsburg, Pa., and was taught the trade of a carpenter. He was married to Mary Boner, and soon afterward came to Ohio and located in the town of Iberia, in Morrow county, where he passed his remaining years. His children were twelve in number, and were named in order of birth as follows: Leitia, Margaret, Sarah, Matilda, Martin, Samuel, James, John, Hibberd, Elizabeth, Annie and Candace—all of whom were born at Iberia, except Leitia, who was born in Pennsylvania. He died at the age of seventy years, a member of the Methodist church, in which he was a class leader, and of which his devoted wife was also a leading member. In politics he was a democrat, but had five sons in the Civil war—Samuel, Martin, James, John and Hibberd—all in Ohio infantry regiments excepting Martin, who served in an Indiana regiment. These brothers all served fully three years, and James went all through the war—making a splendid record for one family.

John Heffelfinger, the especial subject of this biography, was born in the town of Iberia, Morrow county, Ohio, March 11, 1841. He was educated in a pioneer school, learned farming, and when about twenty-one years of age, enlisted, at Iberia, in company I, Eighty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three months, and was enrolled at Camp Delaware, Ohio, October 3, 1862. He took part in the battle at Harper's Ferry, was taken prisoner, held ten days and paroled. On his return home he entered, at Iberia, company K, One Hundred and Seventy-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, September 10, 1864, to serve one year, and was honorably discharged June 28, 1865, at Charlotte, N. C., having served until the close of the war. His severest experience was at Nashville, Murfreesboro, and in a hand-to-hand fight near Tullahoma, Tenn., and at Kingston, N. C., and of course took part in all the battles and skirmishes in which his regiment was engaged. At Murfreesboro, in the winter of 1864, he was badly frozen while on duty, was taken in an ambulance to the hospital, was confined two weeks, and came out a confirmed rheumatic, having been laid up thirteen months at a time since his return home, and still being a sufferer from this disorder.

The marriage of Mr. Heffelfinger took place in Morrow county, August 31, 1867, to Miss Margaret A. Derr, who was born in Morrow county August 9, 1850, a daughter of George and Rebecca (Stein) Derr, natives of Pennsylvania and the parents of seven children, viz: Sarah, Susannah, John, William, Clinton, Mary and Margaret A. George Derr was of Scotch descent, early came to Morrow county, Ohio, for a number of years kept a hotel, and died at about seventy-two years of age. He gave all his sons to the salvation of the Union —John, William, and Clinton—of whom William served in the Ohio infantry, and Clinton in the Missouri infantry.

After his marriage, Mr. Heffelfinger resided in Morrow county until 1868, when he came to Van Wert county and settled on forty acres of land in the woods of Jackson township; of this he cleared twenty acres, and then traded for his present property, which he has cleared entirely from the woods, and has also cleared much land for other persons, including thirty acres for P. Snyder. He has now a most comfortable home and is recognized to be one of the most practical agriculturists of the township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heffelfinger have been born six children, viz: George, Cora, Elizabeth, William, Ward and Christian—the first three of whom were born in Morrow county, and the last three in Van Wert county. In politics Mr. Heffelfinger is a republican, and fraternally is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic—and no family stands in higher repute than his.

WILLIAM HERTEL, dealer in boots and shoes on West Main street, near North Jefferson street, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Opholterbach, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, July 12, 1832, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Helman) Hertel. The father was a brewer and died in the old country in 1836, followed by his widow in 1846. They had a family of eight children, born in the following order: Benjamin and George, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of George M. Wise; Emily, deceased; Adam, a farmer of Van Wert county; William, our subject; Philip, of Van Wert county, and Margarita. The parents were members of the German Lutheran church, and in worldly matters the father was quite successful, dying worth about $25,000.

William Hertel, whose name is at the head of this biography, acquired a fair education as a lad in his native town, and at fourteen years of age was apprenticed to a shoemaker. Having learned the trade, he worked as a journeyman in the old country until 1852, when, in October, he sailed for America, and after a voyage, lasting five weeks, was landed in New York; thence he went to Pittsburg, Pa., and three days later to Canton, Ohio; there he tarried three weeks, and then walked the long 200 miles to Van Wert, arriving with not a cent in his pocket, but twenty-five cents in debt. Here he worked the first year for a

Mr. Coffin, next for James Clark three or four months, and thence went to Delphos, Ohio, and worked for Mr. Sheeter a year, when he returned to Van Wert and started a shop about four miles out in the country, which he occupied for two years. At this period, February 28, 1857, he married, in Wells county, Ind., Matilda Allen, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, August 8, 1837, and to this union have been born twelve children, of whom eight survive, namely: Lizzie, wife of William Pfingstay; Jennie, married to Philip Pfingstay; William, Jr., a dealer in poultry and eggs at Van Wert, and George, Adam, Frank, Charles and John, living with their parents, who are members of the Lutheran Evangelical church.

Upon his marriage Mr. Hertel bought a farm of 160 acres, in Liberty township, Van Wert county, on which he resided seven years, when he sold his property and returned to the city of Van Wert, and in 1866 resumed the boot and shoe trade in the same building that he still occupies. His stock is now valued at $5,000 and he is engaged, also, in making and general repairing. He owns, in addition to his store and stock, a farm of 160 acres in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, and several lots in the city. He has been industrious in all his undertakings, upright in all his dealings, and judicious in the investments of his earnings, and thus stands high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens. In politics he is a democrat.

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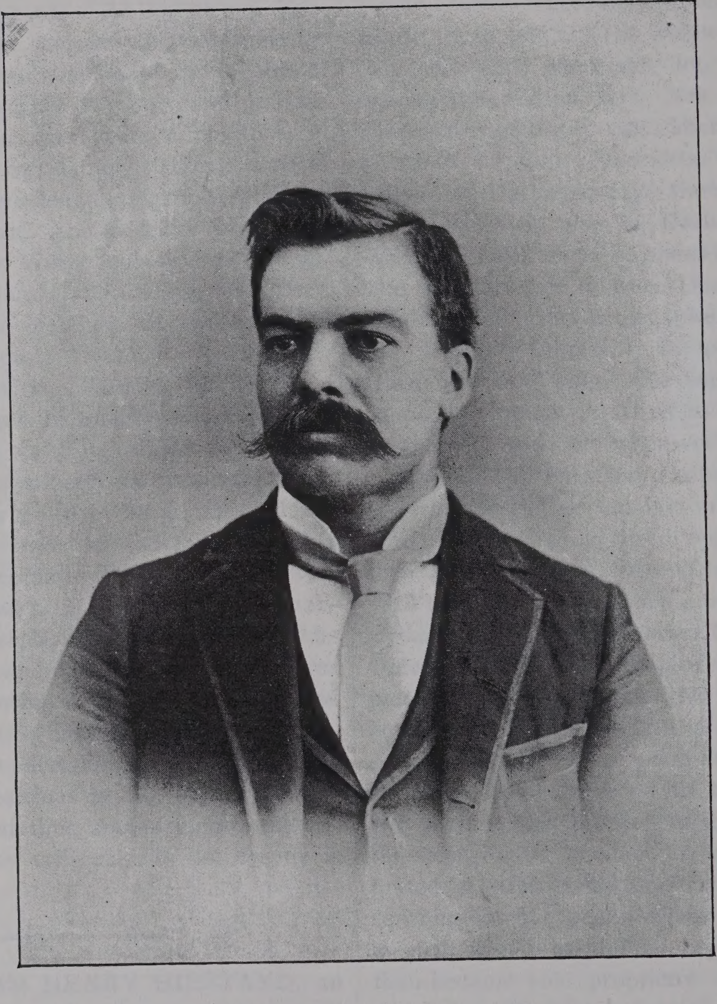
WILLIAM HENRY HIESTAND, an experienced and expert blacksmith of Van Wert, Ohio, and a successful mechanic, was born in Darke county, Ohio, August 12, 1853. His father, Daniel Hiestand, a native of Lancaster county, Pa., married, in that state, Charlotte Mendenhall, née Brown, a native of Maryland, widow of Noah Mendenhall. Daniel Hiestand was a farmer, and about 1847 came over the mountains to Ohio, and was engaged in milling in Clarke county until 1848, when he removed to Darke county, where he followed farming until his death, in 1857. His widow survived until July 27, 1889, when she, too, passed away, leaving five children, viz: Mrs. Charlotte Ann Lintemuth, of Big Rapids, Mich.; Horace D., of Van Wert, Ohio; Henrietta, wife of G. W. Brown, of Darke county; Martha R., wife of Oscar McCabe, also of Darke county; and William H., whose name opens this paragraph. The Hiestand family were Dunkards in their religion, while the Browns were members of the Disciples church. In politics Daniel Hiestand was a whig. He was a very industrious man, much attached to his home, and was greatly respected wherever known.

William H. Hiestand was but four years of age when his father was laid in his grave, and until eight years old lived with his mother; then lived with his sister, Mrs. Lintemuth, until twelve years old; then made his home for a year with his brother, Horace D., of Arcanum, Ohio, and was then employed at the same place by H. A. Kepner for two years; he bound himself with his brother, Horace D., as an apprentice for three years at blacksmithing, and when he had finished his time worked for two years for his brother as journeyman until the spring of 1874, when he, with Horace D., united in partnership and carried on blacksmithing for five years, when Horace D. was elected sheriff of the county. Our subject then became sole proprietor of the business, which he still operates, owning a lot 22 x 66 feet on North Jefferson street, and also owning a neat residence on Maple avenue.

Mr. Hiestand is an accomplished musician, having begun the study of music in 1866. At Arcanum he became a leader in 1871, and



WILLIS M. HUNTER, M. D.

soon after coming to Van Wert organized Hiestand's band, with nine pieces, and this number he has increased to twenty pieces; he also organized the Willshire band, and in 1877 the Middlepoint band, and in addition, instructed a choral band in Van Wert; besides these, he organized and instructed the band at Delphos and a number of others. Since 1884 he has also been a member of the Fort Wayne city band. It is thus quite evident that Mr. Hiestand is thoronghly proficient in his art. The marriage of Mr. Hiestand took place in Van Wert, Ohio, October 28, 1882, to Miss Mary Jane McIntosh, who was born near Columbus, Ohio, October 8, 1857, a daughter of Robert and Margaret C. (Murch) McIntosh, the fruit of the union being two children, viz: Norma and Jean C. Mr. and Mrs. Heistand are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is a trustee, and the family is highly respected among all classes of Van Wert citizens.

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WILLIS M. HUNTER, M. D., a prominent and rising young physician of Middlepoint, Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in York township, in the same county, March 29, 1867. His grandfather, Dr. John Hunter, came from France, became one of the most eminent of the physicans of West Virginia, was a slave owner, and lived to be quite an aged man.

William H. Hunter, the only child born to Dr. John Hunter and the father of our subject, was born in West Virginia March 1, 1844, and two weeks later lost his mother; he was then placed by his father, the doctor, with the family of Hesekiah Clemons, the compensation being and worth $2,700, for the rearing of the motherless child. In 1845, Mr. Clemons removed to Greene county, Ohio, taking with him his young charge, then but a year old, and the latter here received a common school education. At the age of about seventeen, William H. Hunter enlisted from Greene county in company I, Thirty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, served out his time and received an honorable discharge. Among the many hard-fought battles in which he participated were Missionary ridge, Stone River, Lookout Mountain, and although he was active in the performance of his duty in each and every march, campaign, battle and skirmish in which his regiment was engaged, he was neither sick nor wounded, nor taken prisoner.

He came from Greene county to Van Wert county, Ohio, and, May 22, 1866, the marriage of Mr. Hunter took place, in Van Wert county, to Miss Eliza J. Demint, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, February 20, 1850, a daughter of James and Mary (Hillyard) Demint. James Demint was a soldier in the Seventy-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, was transferred to company B, Seventh reserves, August 12, 1863, and died at Nashville, Tenn., in hospital, September 6, 1864, while in the service, leaving the following children: Jesse, John, Cynthiana, Eliza J., and Susanna. To this marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have been born three children, viz: Willis M., Frank J., and Ida E. Both parents are devoted members of the Methodist church. In politics Mr. Hunter is a republican, and is a member of Zeller-Hamilton post G. A. R., No. 260, at Middlepoint, and is also a charter member of the Willshire lodge of I. O. O. F.

After the war had closed, in 1865, he settled on forty acres of wooded land in York township, Van Wert county, Ohio. This tract he cleared up and sold, and then moved to Washington county and purchased eighty acres; this tract he also cleared up and sold, and then, in 1890, moved to Willshire township, where he has now a fine farm of 180 acres, under excellent cultivation and improved in every essential. He is a gentleman of high social position, and is prominent as a citizen, and in this capacity is as faithful to his duty as he was as a soldier during the dark days of the Rebellion.

Dr. Willis M. Hunter was educated preparatively at the Western Ohio Normal school, at Middlepoint, began the study of medicine with Dr. L. E. Ladd in 1888, and next attended the Baltimore Medical college, of Baltimore, Md., from which he graduated in 1892. He immediately began the practice of his chosen profession at Wren, Van Wert county, where he was very well received, and remained six months; then sought a broader field, and for two years and a palf was in active practice at Worstville, Paulding county; he there met with phenomenal success, was elected coroner of Paulding county in 1894, on the republican ticket, with a plurality of 746 votes, and finally located in Middlepoint, where he has a large scope for the exercise of his skill, and where his professional abilities are now fully recognized. Dr. Hunter is here associated with his former preceptor, Dr. L. E. Ladd, and their success is most flattering. In politics Dr. Hunter is a republican, and socially he has drawn about him a host of friends.

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SAMUEL B. HERTZ, a popular hardware dealer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Union county, Pa., August 3, 1832. His parents, John and Mary (Keim) Hertz, were born in the same county in 1798 and 1800 respectively, and were there married in 1822, settled on a farm and there passed away their lives. They had born to them a large family of children, of whom seven grew to maturity and were named as follows: N. W., a physician now deceased; Joseph, a farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio; Samuel B., the subject of this sketch; Ann, wife of J. H. Heinly of Kansas; Mary, now Mrs. Moses Spacht, of Pennsylvania; Lydia, deceased wife of David Spangler, of Van Wert, and John L., a merchant of St. Paul, Minn.

Samuel B. Hertz was reared on the home farm in Pennsylvania, and was educated in the pioneer schools of his native county, acquiring a very fair stock of knowledge, by which he was enabled to teach school in his own and neighboring counties for nine years during the winter, the summers, as usual in such cases, being passed on the farm. In 1863 he came to Van Wert and united with his brother, Dr. U. W., in the hardware trade, which they carried on together for three years, when our subject bought out the entire stock, and has, since that time, conducted the business on his sole account, carrying a large and well selected assortment of glass, oils, paints, sash, doors, blinds, general hardware, both shelf and heavy, and all the modern labor-saving agriculture implements. For several years, also, Mr. Hertz has been connected with his brother-in-law, J. R. Heinly, in the lumber trade.

Mr. Hertz was united in marriage at Milton, Pa., October 4, 1855, with Miss Ellen Rank, who was born in Union county, Pa., January 18, 1837. Her grandparents settled on a farm in Union county in 1794, and this farm is still in the family, and in 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Hertz were there present at the celebration of the centennial of the Rank family in the county. In 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Hertz adopted, as their own, Edna Rank, then four years of age whom they have reared to almost womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Hertz are members of the Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Hertz is a republican. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F., in which order Mrs. Hertz has taken the Rebekah degree. Mr. Hertz owns his business block on the southeast corner of Main and Jefferson streets, and has done business on the same site ever since he came to the city. He also owns two business places on West Main street and his neat residence on North Jefferson street. His integrity as a business man has never been brought into question, and socially he and family stand among the best circles of Van Wert.

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**CHARLES E. HEUSCHKEL**, a prominent business man of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Saxony, Germany. John Frederick Heuschkel, father of the subject of this sketch, was also born in far-famed Saxony, Germany, in 1801. Being the son of a farmer, he was reared on a farm, and followed the noble calling of an agriculturist during his entire life. He was a man of the highest moral character and in matters religious was a member of the Old German Lutheran church, always living in accordance with its precepts. In 1824 Mr. Heuschkel was married to Miss Hannah Neundorf, by whom he had six children: Christiana, Fritz, Charles E., Gottlieb, Amandus and Wilhelmina, all of whom are living with the exception of Christiana, who died in 1854. Fritz, the second born, still lives in Germany; Charles E., is a resident of Van Wert, Ohio; Gottlieb lives in Indiana, and Amandus is married and lives in Fort Wayne, Ind. Wilhelmina, like Fritz, still remains in her native land.

Charles E. Heuschkel, the subject of this sketch, followed the trade of miller in his native country for seven years. In 1854, having heard much of the opportunities of making a fortune in the United States, he came to this country, landing in New York, in which city he remained two years, emigrating thence to Cleveland, Ohio. From this time until the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion Mr. Heuschkel followed boating on Lake Erie, and then, like thousands of others of his native countrymen, believing that the Union should be preserved, he enlisted as a member of company K, Seventh Ohio infantry, in which regiment he served two years. Then, after a short furlough, he re-enlisted, becoming a member of the Mississippi marine brigade, and served in this organization until 1865. Though never wounded during the war, he was on the sick list four months. Among the numerous battles in which he was engaged were those of Crosslane, Va., and Richmond, Miss. While he was serving on a gunboat on the Mississippi river, an incident occurred which Mr. Heuschkel recalls with much satisfaction, as to that incident he owes his existence on the earth today. He was standing with his gun pointing through a port hole ready to fire on any rebel that might appear in sight, when Sergeant Vaughn came along and asked him to remove his gun and let him look through the port hole, so that he could get a view of the rebels. Scarcely had the sergeant taken his position at the port hole when he received a bullet in the head, which killed him instantly. Mr. Heuschkel is kindly remembered by the government for which he risked his life by the receipt of $14 per month as a pension. Being mustered out of the service Mr. Heuschkel settled in Van Wert, Ohio, and has been engaged in business here since 1866, and he has by industry and fair dealing accumulated a competency for his declining years.

Mr. Heuschkel was married, in 1866, to Miss Albertina Geyer, who was born in 1835. Frederick Geyer, her father, was a native of Saxony, born September 28, 1809. By trade he was a tailor, beginning to work at this trade at an early age. Mr. Geyer was married in August, 1834, to Miss Ethel Beyer, by whom he was the father of nine children, viz: Albertina, Wilhelmine, Albert, Edward, Ferdinand, Charles, Robert, Mary and Rosa All of the children are living, except Albert and Rosa. Frederick Geyer was a man of most excellent character, a consistent Christian and a liberal man, kind to all and charitable in thought and deed. Politically he was a member of the democratic party from his arrival (with his entire family) in this country in 1852. Albertina, wife of Mr. Charles C. Heuschkel, was born in Saxony, Germany, as has been intimated before, and when brought to the United States by her parents she was seventeen years old. From New York, where she landed, she went to Marion county, Ohio, and thence came to Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Heuschkel have no children of their own, but in 1869 they adopted Miss Minnie Huffman, who is now the wife of Charles Scheidt, a prosperous business man of Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Heuschkel are members of Saint Peter's Evangelical church of Van Wert, and are highly esteemed and consistent Christians.

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ROBERT HUFFINE, a farmer of Liberty township, is a son of Samuel and Catherine Huffine, the father born in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1815, and the mother, who was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Fletcher) Gilliland, and descended from one of the early families of New Jersey. Shortly after the marriage of Samuel Huffine and Elizabeth Gilliland they settled in Westmoreland county, Pa., thence moved to Greene county, that state, where they spent the remaining years of their lives. They were both devout members of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Huffine was an old-line whig. Their children, in order of birth, are as follows, Harriet, Robert, Sarah Jane, Mary E., Minnie, Zacharias, Hiram, Hettie, Nancy and Samuel.

Robert Huffine, the immediate subject, was born January 18, 1844, in Westmoreland county, Pa. He was reared a farmer, early chose that useful calling for his life work, and his education embraced the branches usually taught in the common schools. He remained at home, assisting his father with the labor of the farm, until 1865, in March of which year he enlisted in company A, Sixth Pennsylvania calvary, with which he served until August the year following, participating, during his period of service, in the campaigns of Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky.

After his discharge Mr. Huffine returned to his home in Pennsylvania, where, on the 11th day of February, 1869, he was united in marriage to Zelda Sidle, whose birth occurred March 23, 1850. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Huffine and wife came to Van Wert county, Ohio, locating in Liberty township, where they now own a good farm, substantially improved and containing many of the conveniences which render country life desirable.

Mr. Huffine is a good farmer and exemplary citizen, and is numbered among the substantial men of the township of Liberty. Politically he is an uncompromising supporter of the republican party, and fraternally belongs to the Scott post, No. 100, G. A. R. He and wife are Methodists and active workers in the local congregation to which they belong. The following are the names of their children: Gussie L., John B., Katie K., Effie J., Frank, James O., Lawrence and Harry—all living.

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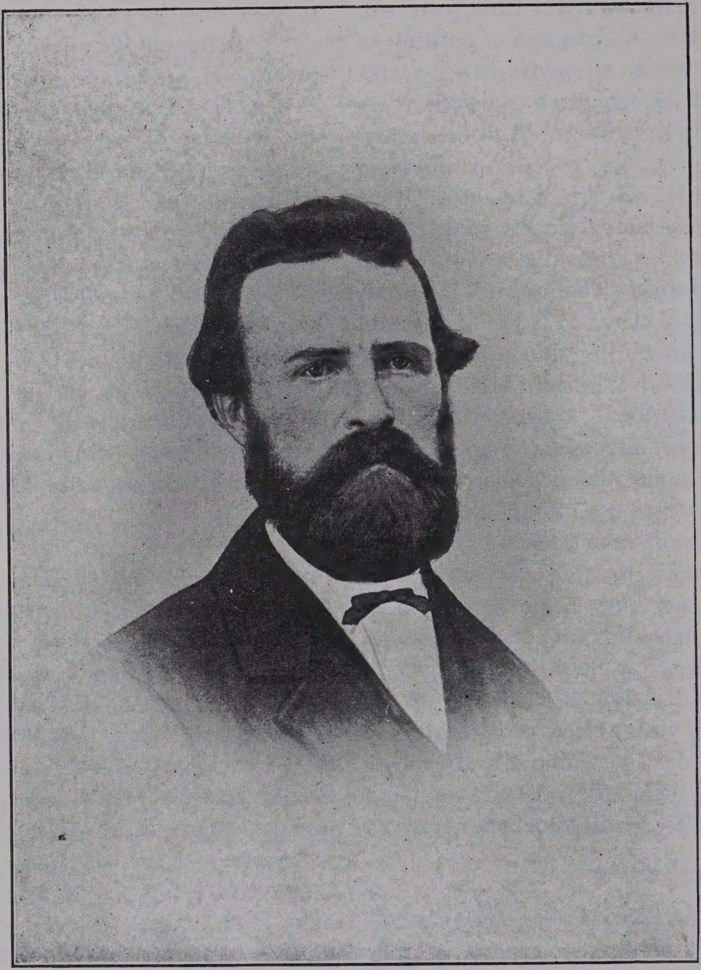
THOMAS HUGHES, a prosperous farmer of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, was born October 14, 1818, and is a son of Edward and Elizabeth Hughes. At the age of twenty-eight years, in 1845, Thomas Hughes, his wife and one child, Dorothy, came to America, and passed a year near Emmittsburg, Md., where he pursued his trade of



Isaac N. Glover

MRS. CARRIE GRUBAUGH.

MRS. ORA B. BENNETT.

BYRON G. BENNETT

Nancy Glover

masonry; he then went to Armstrong county, Pa., where he remained a year and a half, and then passed a year and a half in Cincinnati, Ohio, whence he came to Van Wert county, where he had previously entered 160 acres of his present farm, all then in the wild woods. This land he has cleared and improved and added to until he owned 280 acres, but of this he has disposed of eighty, keeping 200 for his own use; he married Margaret Thomas, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Jones) Thomas, the union being blessed with ten children, viz: Dorothy, the wife of Obadiah Hundly, a farmer of Washington county, Ore.; Richard T., a conductor on the Panhandle railroad, married to Nancy Clover, and residing at Bradford, Ohio; Elizabeth, who died August 16, 1879, at the age of thirty years. Edward, who was also a conductor on the Panhandle railroad, married Rachael Tomlinson, made his home at Columbus, Ohio, and died February 5, 1892; David, who resides on a farm joining his father's, was married December 4, 1879, to Sarah Slentz, who died February 2, 1892, David next marrying Jane Baltzell; Joseph, who owns a farm joining that of his brother David, and was married to Ellen Kiggens; John, who married Martha Archer, and is now superintendent of his father's farm; Mary, wife of Samuel Simpson, of Van Wert; Martha E., the wife of Thomas Miller, a farmer of Union township, Mercer county, Ohio; and Margaret, the wife of William George, a farmer of York township, of Van Wert county. For twelve years Thomas Hughes has held office as trustee of his township, and has also served as land appraiser and assessor. Mr. Hughes and his family have been strict supporters of the Calvinistic church, of which he has been treasurer for twenty-three years and deacon seventeen years. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are the grandparents of forty-three children and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Hughes is one of the honored and most respected citizens of Van Wert county, is a man who never knew guile, and whose character is spotless as newly fallen snow. Mr. Hughes is like many other of his nationality, who are noted for their industrious and economical habits as well as for being good citizens. He is a moral, upright man, and at all times found to be in the right, and casts his influence in behalf of the education of the rising generation, as well as the up-building of the morals of the community. Socially he and wife are very popular wherever known, and their home is noted for the hospitality they dispense at their beautiful home in York township.

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ISAAC N. GLOVER, deceased, in his day one of the leading and influential agriculturists of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, April 17, 1829, a son of Joel and Elizabeth (Shannon) Glover. The father, Joel Glover, was probably born in Jefferson county about 1800, and was a son of Josiah Glover, a native of Maryland. After his marriage Joel resided in Crawford county, a short time, then followed farming the remainder of his days in Coshocton county. His fifteen children were born in the following order; Israel, Isaac N., Josiah, William, Samuel, Sarah J., Cuthbert, Sarah E., Thomas Harrison, Nathan, Shannon, Joel C., John, Cynthia, and Mary. The father was very successful as a farmer and very popular as a republican, being frequently elected by his party to township offices. He was, for many years, an elder in the Presbyterian church, to which denonination his wife also belonged, and in the faith of which the latter died in 1885, and he in 1887.

Isaac N. Glover was reared to farming, and on November 8, 1849, was united in wedlock with Miss Nancy Endsley, daughter of

Thomas and Matilda (Carr) Endsley; the children born to this happy union were as follows: Mrs. Carrie Grubaugh, whose sketch appears on another page; Mary E., who died at the age of thirteen; Harriet, wife of Abraham Norris; Mary Jane, married to Frank Beamer; Joel T., of New Mexico; Nancy B., wife of Marcus Reed; Cynthia E., at home; Isaac P., of Van Wert; Bettie S. and Jessie. Mrs. Nancy Glover was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, April 2, 1829. Her father, Thomas Endsley, was born August 23, 1801, was one of the early pioneers of Harrison county, was a farmer, and married Matilda Carr, a daughter of John and Nancy (Welch) Carr; to this union the following children were born: John, Robert (drowned in his youth), Mrs. Nancy Glover, James, Andrew and Thomas B. (deceased), William, Samuel C. (deceased), Mrs. Mary J. Love, of Lee, Ill., an infant that died unnamed, and Ella (deceased). Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Endsley settled in Coshocton county, where he followed farming until his death, which took place September 8, 1894, he being then an elder in the Presbyterian church, in the faith of which, also his wife died in 1855.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac N. Glover settled, after marriage, on a small farm in Coshocton county, but three years later Mr. Glover sold his place and in 1853 purchased a piece of wild woodland in Paulding county. There he built a house of logs and began clearing off the forest, teaching school meanwhile, as he had done while in Coshocton county. In 1855, his house, with its entire contents, was destroyed by fire, and the next two years were passed in Coshocton county; in 1857 he returned to his farm in Paulding county, rebuilt his dwelling, and until 1871 was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of his township. During the interval, however, he enlisted, in May, 1864, in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry for 100 days, at the expiration of which time he resumed farming. In 1871 he purchased the present homestead in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying April 8, 1881; with his wife he was a member of the Presbyterian church; he was also a member of the Royal Arcanum and politically was a republican, by which party he was held in the highest esteem, and by it honored with an election to every township office within its gift wherever he chanced to reside, and was also made county school examiner while residing in Paulding county. He was a successful farmer, and as a citizen was esteemed as a gentleman whose integrity was beyond the shadow of suspicion. His widow, with her three daughters, resides on the homestead, in Hoaglin township, honored and respected by all the community.

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NOAH HYATT, a prominent citizen of Van Wert, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born October 20, 1840. His father, John Hyatt, was of Irish descent, and was born in 1820 in Pennsylvania on a farm, was educated there in the common schools, was reared a farmer, and followed agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1880. John Hyatt was a republican in politics, and was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Nancy Lawhead of that state. She was a member of the Christian, or, as it is sometimes called, the Campbellite church, and died in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1845. John Hyatt, when he removed from Pennsylvania to Clinton county, Ohio, came with an old gray horse and twenty-five cents in his pocket. With this small capital, behind which, however, was plenty of energy and pluck, he began life there for himself. At first he purchased a piece of timbered land, srventy-five acres, entirely on credit, which would be a difficult thing to do at the present time. This land he cleared, improved and paid for, and lived upon it till his death. By his marriage to Miss Nancy Lawhead he became the father of the following children: John Henry, married and living in Iowa; Noah, the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann; Sarah Jane; George W.; Marshall and Elizabeth. Of these six, two are still living, viz: Noah and Sarah Jane. After the death of the mother of these children, John Hyatt married Miss Myra Winpigler of Clinton, Ohio, by whom he had the following children: Barney, married and living in Illinois; Emma, married and living in Clinton county, Ohio, and Louis, deceased.

Noah Hyatt, the subject of this sketch, was born in Clinton county, Ohio. Educated in the common schools, he remained at home with his father on the farm until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in company F, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Maj. Stiles, on July 4, 1863, and served until July 4, 1865, precisely two years. During these two years of service he saw much hard fighting, and did a great deal of marching. In 1864 he was taken sick and was in the hospital three months. His disease was measles, and afterward varioloid, which left him paralyzed to some extent, and he has suffered from paralysis ever since. For his services and disease he is receiving a pension from the government of $6 per month.

After returning from the war he went to Clinton county, he began farming and was married to Miss Eliza Emry Anson Moore of that county. To this marriage there were born three children, viz: Eliza Marion, born March 23, 1872; Harris, born in March, 1873, and Jennie, born in 1878. In 1872 Mr. Hyatt came to Van Wert county, settled on a farm, and worked it until old age and infirmities compelled him to retire from active life. He is a republican and a member of the Christian church.

Caleb Moore, father of Eliza Emry Anson Moore, was born in Pennsylvania. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that calling all his life. He removed from Pennsylvania to Clinton county, Ohio, where he bought a farm on which he lived the remainder of his life. He was the father of the following children: John, William, Harris, Ellen, and Emry, all of whom are living but Ellen, who was married to David Osborn and was a member of the Quaker church. Those that are living are all married. The first wife died, and Mr. Moore then married a Miss Miller, of Clinton county, Ohio, and to this marriage there were born two children, viz: Lena, married and living in Canton, Ohio, and Herbert, married and living in Iowa. The second wife of Mr. Moore died in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1885. Mr. Moore is a republican and takes great interest in public affairs, realizing that it is necessary for all good men to look to the welfare of their party, in order that those who are not so good shall not control its destinies, which in all cases means defeat to the party. He is a member of the Friends' church, and adheres strictly to the precepts of his religion in his daily life.

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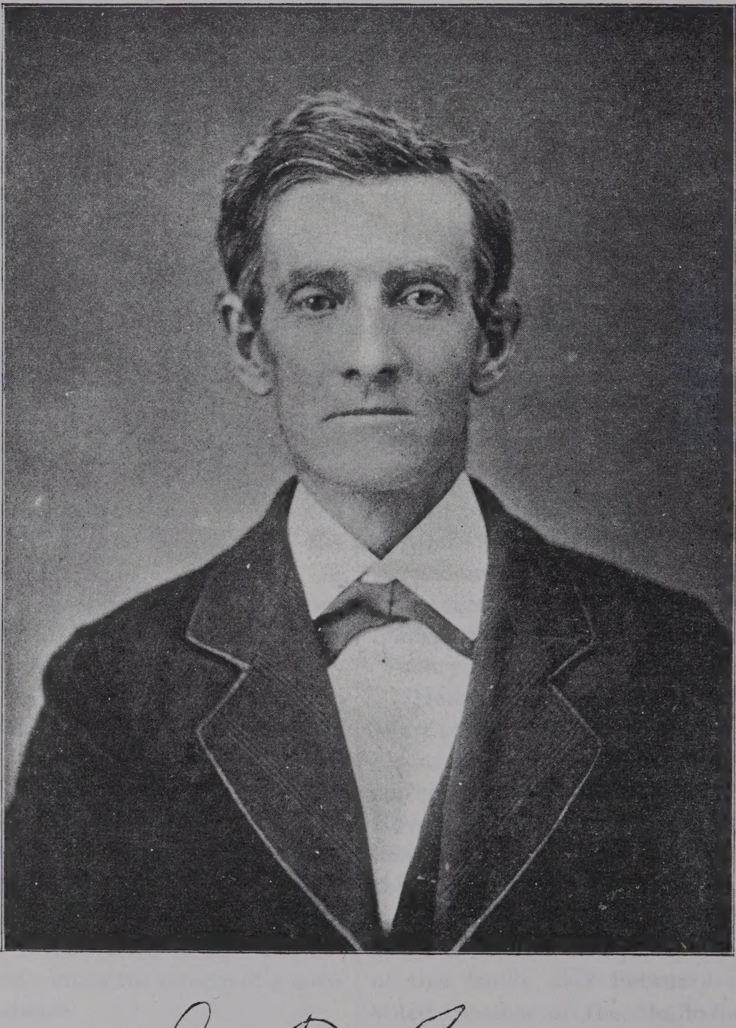
CHARLES H. HYMEN, a successful young farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of German extraction and was born in Huron county, Ohio, October 11, 1857. His father, who spelled the name Heymann, was a native of Nassau, Germany, born November 24, 1825, and came to America when a young man, settled in Sandusky county, Ohio, married Catherine, daughter of Matthias Paulen, who died in Germany. The father and mother, after nine years of farming life in Sandusky county, came to Van Wert county in 1863, where the father first bought forty acres, to which, by hard labor, he added forty, and was entirely a self-made man. He died September 23, 1888, a member of the Evangelical association; his widow still resides on her own farm of forty acres, a part of the original homestead in Van Wert county.

Charles H. Hymen was reared a farmer and also learned carpentering—a trade which he followed eight years. He married Susan M. Rumble, daughter of Henry and Paulina J. (Leech) Rumble, November 17, 1880, and the attention of the reader is called to the sketch of the life of Mr. and Mrs. Rumble at the conclusion of this mention. Mr. Hymen and his wife have resided on their present farm ever since their marriage, and he has been closely identified with the interests of the county since he reached his majority. His children were born in the following order and are named Henry Ray, Shirly G. and Gladys M. His farm consists of eighty acres of fertile land, all well ditched and in a high state of cultivation, the improvements, which are excellent in their character, having been chiefly made by himself—the farm also having been acquired through his own hard labor—and may well be termed a model. In politics Mr. Hymen is a stalwart republican, and has held the office of township clerk for four years. He is liberal in his aid financially to the churches, and is earnest in his promotion of the cause of public education. Fraternally he is a member of Pequod tribe, No. 102, I. O. R. M.; and socially he and family enjoy the esteem of a wide circle of acquaintance.

Henry Rumble, a retired farmer of Hoaglin township and the father of Mrs. Hymen, was born in Fayette county, Pa., April 3, 1825. His great-grandfather, Jacob Rumble, with his wife, came from Germany and was among the earliest settlers of Fayette county, Pa. Henry Rumble, his son and the grandfather of the present Henry, was born in Fayette county, Pa., was a farmer and soldier, and married Elizabeth Hague, a native of the same county. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, was a Jacksonian democrat, and died in his native county, a member of the Presbyterian church, after a life of great usefulness. Jacob Rumble, son of above Henry, and father of Henry Rumble of Hoaglin township, was born in Fayette county, Pa., January 1, 1795, and died January 1, 1832. He married Susanna Gans, a daughter of Jacob and Rosanna (Rumble) Gans, the former an early settler and a wealthy farmer of Fayette county and also a patriot of the war of 1812. The children born to this union were named Elizabeth (Samtniens), Henry, Catherine (Watkins), Alexander, and Bashdy (Guinn). The father of this family was a democrat in politics, a Baptist in religion, and was carried away by that fell disorder, small-pox, January 1, 1832; the widow, however, kept her family of children together and reared them to lives of usefulness and to respectability. She was born January 1, 1800, and died January 1, 1868.

Henry Rumble, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was reared to farming in his native county of Fayette county, Pa., received a solid common-school education, and November 14, 1849, was first married to Pauline Leech, daughter of Jesse and Susan Leech, the marriage resulting in the birth of the following children: Bruce W., Annie B., Alexander C., Susan and James W. The mother of this family died February 1, 1875, a devoted member of the Methodist church, and sincerely mourned by her husband, children, and an extensive circle of faithful and loving friends. The husband mourned her loss until January 31, 1884, when he married Leah Schott. See sketch of Henry Rumble.



S. B. Jones

RHODA C. JONES, widow of Samuel B. Jones, who was a highly respected citizen of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in 1825 near West Milton, Miami county, Ohio, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Miles) Coate. Samuel Coate, father of Mrs. Jones, was a native of South Carolina, born in 1799, and a son of Henry Coate, who was born in the same state in about 1771, of English parentage. Henry Coate was a blacksmith and farmer, married Mary Hasket and became the father of Samuel Coate, mentioned above, who was the second son. About 1805 the family immigrated to Ohio, coming in wagons and consuming six weeks' time in making the journey. Henry Coate took up 200 acres of government land in the wilds of Miami county, built a log cabin and settled his family among the wild men and wild animals of the region. Indeed, on their way hither a young brother of Henry was captured by the savages; he adopted their dress and manners, and never returned to civilization; another child of the family was subsequently murdered by the Indians, while in its mother's arms. Henry Coate was a pious Quaker minister, and was held in high esteem by the pioneer neighbors, among whom he died, in 1848, in his seventy-eighth year.

Samuel Coate, the father of the lady whose name opens this sketch, was reared on the pioneer farm of his father and received but a limited common-school education. Under his father he learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until failing health warned him to seek other employment; he therefore engaged in merchandising in Newton township, Miami county, Ohio, a business he followed the remainder of his life. In 1824 Samuel Coate was united in marriage with Mary Miles, a daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Pearson) Miles, the fruit of this union being one child—Rhoda C., named above. Mrs. Coate was born in South Carolina in 1804, but at the age of two years was brought to Miami county, Ohio, by her parents, who were among the earliest settlers of the county. This family was also of English extraction and of royal blood. Jonathan Miles was well known in Miami county, where he was an honored citizen, and where he died, in 1868, in his ninetieth year.

Mary (Miles) Coate, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home place of her parents in Miami county, received a fair common-school education, became an active worker in the Friends' church, and died May 10, 1891. Samuel Coate also was a member of the Friends' church, and in politics was a stanch republican, filling several local offices under the auspices of that party. His death took place in 1847—honored and respected by all who knew him. Rhoda C. (Coate) Jones was also educated in the common schools of Miami county, and in 1843 was united in marriage with Samuel B. Jones, of Miami county, and this union was blessed by the birth of ten children, viz: Dr. Henry W., of Van Wert; Laban J., deceased; Rev. Ephraim M., deceased; Roswell B., of Troy, Ohio; Samuel C., lawyer of Columbus, Ohio; Rev. Barton K., Charles F., John W. and Josephine J., all four deceased, and Lambert W., a lawyer of Van Wert. The father of these children was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1820, a son of Philemon and Naomi (Tucker) Jones, early emigrants from Tennessee. Samuel B. Jones was reared a farmer and was identified with the agricultural interests of Miami county until 1876, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased the farm on which his widow still resides; with his wife he was a member of the Friends' church, and in politics he was a stanch republican, being frequently honored with local offices. He was a practical and successful farmer, a useful and public-spirited citizen, honorable in all his dealings, and held the confidence and esteem of his fellow-men until his lamented death, June 26, 1889, in his sixty-ninth year.

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RICHARD JARVIS, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Wales, where his birth occurred in the year 1822. His father, James Jarvis, was a farmer of that country, and a man well known in the neighborhood where he lived. By his first wife, whose maiden name was Mary Evans, he had six children, as follows: Laura, deceased wife of John Humphreys; John, died in 1895; William, who lives in Wales; Richard, subject of this sketch; James, died in 1893; and Ellen, who died after reaching womanhood. The mother of these children departed this life when the subject was a lad of seven summers, and about the year 1831. James Jarvis entered into the marriage relation with Anna Griffiths, who bore him a daughter—Jane. James Jarvis died in his native country at the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

Richard Jarvis grew to manhood in his native country, was reared a farmer, and at the age of twenty-one married Miss Mary Bebb, who was born August 2, 1819, relative of William Bebb, formerly governor of Ohio. To this union were born nine children. Richard, whose first anniversary of birth was celebrated on board the vessel, while the parents were making their voyage to the United States; he is now in the real estate business in the city of Minneapolis, Minn. The second in order of birth was Margaret Ann, who first married William Owen, after whose death she became the wife of Richard Chapman; her third husband is Morgan H. Morgan, one of the most influential and prosperous farmers of Jennings township. She was the first Welsh child born in Venedocia, and was also first to receive baptism in the church of that place. The third child, Laura by name, married Joseph E. Thomas; James, the next, died at the age of thirty; Mary Ellen; and Mary Jane, wife of William Meredith, to whom she was married February 27, 1896. The mother of these children, a most excellent woman, noted for her piety and many good works, was called from the scene of earthly labors January 2, 1891, her death being not only a sad bereavement to her her husband and children, but a great loss to the neighborhood, where she is held in kind and loving remembrance. She was a member of the Calvinistic Methodist church, and exemplified her religious profession in her daily life.

Mr. Jarvis, in the fall of 1847, engaged in the boiler-makers' trade in Cincinnati, and was thus employed until 1848, in the spring of which year he came to Van Wert county and located on a tract of sixty acres of land in the township of York. Upon his arrival he found himself considerably in debt, and the aforesaid land was deeded him by William Bebb, who required pay for the same in labor. The land was densely wooded at the time, and required an immense amount of toil to be cleared and fitted for cultivation. Mr. Jarvis was equal to the task, however, and in due season had the place fairly well improved, but disposed of the same in 1858 and purchased his present farm, consisting of 200 acres, lying in Jennings township. Subsequently he disposed of a part of the latter place and made many substantial improvements on the part retained, and now has one of the finest and most valuable places the township of Jennings. He has been a successful farmer and stock raiser, and as a citizen stands high in the estimation of the community where he resides. His life has been characterized by honorable and upright dealing, and his reputation is without a blemish. Mr. Jarvis is a remarkably well-preserved man, and inherits many of the noble traits, both physical and mental, of his respected ancestors. For many years he has been an active member of the Calvinistic Methodist church, in which he held the office of trustee for three years, and for some time served as superintendent of the Sunday-school. He has filled other positions of public trust, among them that of school director. He believes that the liquor traffic should be suppressed by the strong arm of the law, and hence is a prohibitionist in politics.

IRA W. JOHNS, a farmer and assessor of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born April 23, 1854, the youngest son of Jacob W. and Eliza J. (Houston) Johns, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Welsh and Irish extraction, respectively. The paternal grandparents were married in Wales, and on coming to America first located in Keystone Valley, Pa., and later came to Ohio. Jacob W. Johns was born June 5, 1816, and in early youth accompanied his parents from New Athens, Penn., to Richland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, was educated, and followed farming there until his marriage, June 10, 1837, with Mrs. Eliza J. Ellar; the following October they came with ox teams to Van Wert county, Ohio, where, reaching the Auglaize river, Mr. Johns cut his road through the forest to Harrison township. This incident occurred when there were but two houses in what is now the city of Van Wert, and after reaching their destination Mrs. Johns did not see a woman's face for over three months, their nearest neighbor being seven and a half miles distant. They lived in their wagons until Mr. Johns could cut the timber and build a log cabin, and for food they lived, in the meantime, on a 500-pound bear Mr. Johns was so fortunate as to kill soon after arrival. He had brought with him a drove of sixteen fine hogs, which persisted in laying around the cabin, and Mr. Johns, remembering an old saying, threw in their midst a paw of the bear he had killed, and the sixteen fine hogs, in accordance with the saying, were soon lost to his sight and future profit.

Mr. Johns lived eighteen months on this entered tract of eighty acres, and in 1839 sold out and bought eighty acres, on which his widow and youngest son still live, and thus for the second time cleared up a home from the forest. There was an abundance of game in those early days, and Indians were numerous, but peaceable. Wolves also abounded and were destructive of young stock, and on one occasion Mrs. Johns had the temerity to face the depredating beasts and rescue from them a young calf and carry it into the cabin. Mrs. Johns carded and spun the linen and wool for making into clothing for the family, and thus all the hardships, as well as pleasures, of frontier life were experienced. But Mr. Johns prospered and became the owner of 160 acres of good land, of which he sold eighty acres, reserving eighty acres for a homestead. He bought and sold furs and pelts, became later quite an extensive dealer in live stock, and in prime of life, March 23, 1865, was called away from his sorrowing family—a member of the Baptist church, and in politics a democrat. He was a free contributor to his church, and assisted to build the first Baptist house of worship that was erected in his township. His children comprised six sons and six daughters, who were named as follows: Margaret Ann, Alfred D., Sarah L., Dallas W., Ivan D., Lucy A., Caraline, Ira W., a deceased infant, Clara A., Mary E., and William Crayton. Of these, Margaret A. became the wife of Andrew Flutter, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Sarah L., the wife of R. J. Wyburn; Lucy A., the wife of E. R. Baker, Van Wert; Dallas W. married Frances Gaylord, of Columbia City, Ind., and then Julia Wyburn, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Clara A. is the wife of Louis Keihm, of Milwaukee, Wis., and Mary is married to Jerry Kreider, of Van Wert, Ohio.

Mrs. Eliza J. Johns was born December 13, 1818, in Beaver county, Pa. a daughter of Alexander and Peggy (Feasel) Houston, and of German parentage; these parents passed their lives in Beaver county, Pa., where Mrs. Houston, the mother, died when her daughter, Mrs. Johns, was but three or four years old, leaving the latter to be reared, to the age of sixteen, by her grandmother, Elizabeth Houston, at which age she was first married at Mansfield, Ohio. After locating in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, she united in the Baptist church, of which she is still a faithful and devout member, at the age of seventy-seven years. The first marriage of Mrs. Johns was with Frederick Ellar, to whom she bore one daughter, Lucinda, now Mrs. Jonathan Tumbleson. Mr. Ellar died about twenty-seven months after his marriage, and soon after that event his wife became Mrs. Jacob W. Johns, the mother of our subject. Mrs. Johns has borne thirteen children, is the grandmother of forty-four children, and the great-grandmother of twenty-nine children.

Ira W. Johns, whose name opens this biography, was born on the farm on which he is now living, and was educated in the common schools of his township. At the age of twenty years he began life for himself, moving to Lafayette, Ind., where he worked he worked on the Wabash railroad for ten years—two years as brakeman and eight years as conductor. October 1, 1877, he married Miss Virginia Colegrove, who was born in Lafayette, January 9, 1859, a daughter of James and Louisa (McNeal) Colegrove, of German and Irish descent. To this union were born five children, of whom three are living—Guy V., Edna A. and Robert A., and two who died in infancy—Myrtle P. and Lucy B. In January, 1884, Mr. Johns abandoned railroad work and located on the T. S. Gilliland farm, on the Ridge road, northeast of the city of Van Wert, where he resided six years, and then returned to the old homestead, to care for his mother. In politics Mr. Johns is a democrat, and in the spring of 1895 was elected assessor by a majority of twenty-nine in a republican district; fraternally he is a Knight of Maccabees. For four years he has been most favorably known throughout the county, having been an auctioneer of note for several years.

James Colegrove, father of Mrs. Johns, was a very prominent citizen of Tippecanoe county, Ind., and died in the prime of life, while serving his third term as county sheriff. Mrs. Johns has two brothers—Alonzo, a farmer near Lafayette, Ind., and William A., an engineer on the B. & O. railroad, living at Garrett, Ind. These three now constitute the sole representatives of the Colegrove family.

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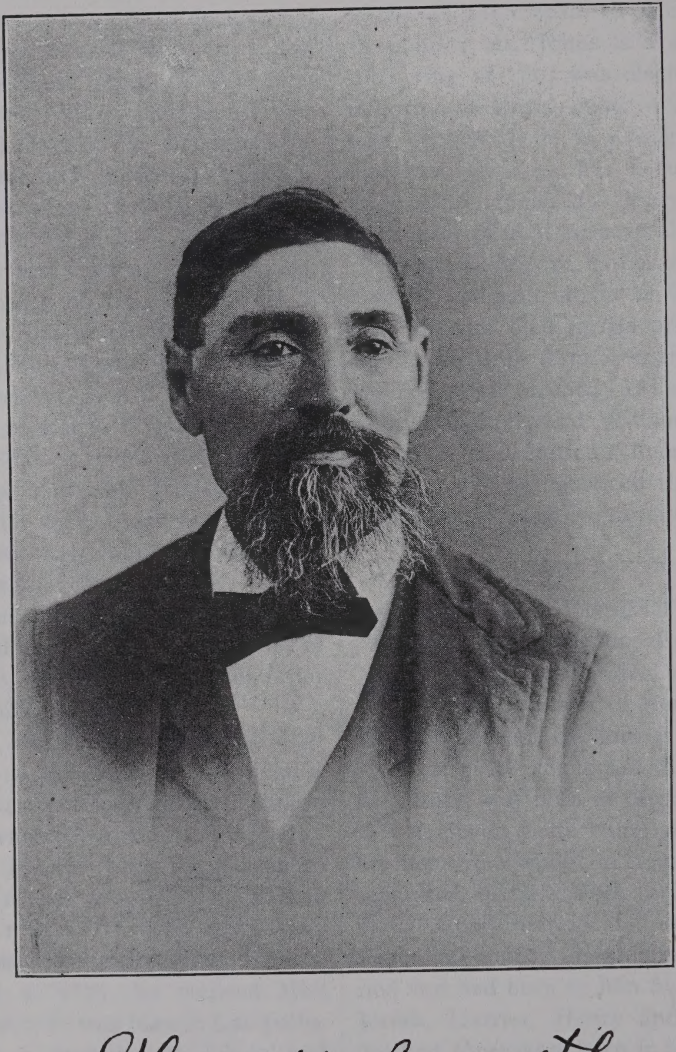
HENRY GUNSETT is a native of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born December 3, 1841, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Smith) Gunsett, the former of whom was one of the original pioneers of the county. Henry, the father, was born in Germany, and when a lad of eleven years came to America with a brother, from whom, in some way, he became separated in New York city and never again met. Henry first located in Pennsylvania, in Schuylkill county, in which state he was married and had born to him five children—Anna, Josiah, Harriet, Henry and Jacob, of whom the first three were born in the Keystone state, the inference being that the parents settled in Van Wert county about 1839 or 1840. He first located in the thick woods in the western part of Tully township, where he cleared up a



Henry Gunsett

MRS. HENRY GUNSETT.

small farm, and then moved to the eastern part of Harrison township, where he bought 120 acres, which he mostly cleared up, assisted by his sons, and made into a good home. He lost his first wife, and for a second, married Magdelina Stamm, who bore two children—John and Magdelina—the latter of whom died at the age of eight years. Mr. Gunsett lived to be over sixty years old and died on his farm, a member of the Lutheran church and an honored citizen.

Henry Gunsett, the immediate subject of this biography, was educated in the log schoolhouse of his early day and was trained to the toil of farm life, and also learned the trade of a carpenter. July 11, 1863, he enlisted, at Van Wert, in company K, Eighty-eighth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three years, or during the war, under Capt. Walter T. Davis, but served two years only, being honorably discharged on account of the closing of hostilities. His services were rendered chiefly at Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio, guarding prisoners, and being held in readiness, with the troops, to suppress any attempt at disturbance on account of draft, or any that might be made by the Knights of the Golden Circle. During his term Mr. Gunsett was sick with typhoid fever for three months, from September, 1863, and from January, 1864, was laid up with small-pox until May following, and he still feels these attacks. On his return to Van Wert county he bought forty acres of the home farm, and on January 15, 1867, married Catherine, daughter of Jacob and Fanny (Anthony) Zimmerman, an old pioneer family of the county. In 1877 Mr. Gunsett sold his original farm, and in 1881 bought his present pleasant home of eight and a half acres. He and wife are devout members of the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Gunsett is a republican. He has been a member of the board of education three years and has filled several vacancies in the town council of Convoy, and has always been a hard-working and respected citizen.

Jacob Zimmerman, father of Mrs. Gunsett, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, December 15, 1809, of German parents. His first wife, Christina Schnolenberger, was born in Germany, December 31, 1809, and was married to Mr. Zimmerman in Columbiana county, Ohio, May 9, 1837, and to their union were born five children, of whom four died in infancy, the survivor, E. W., being now a farmer of Van Wert county. After the death of his first wife Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Fannie E. Anthony, who was born July 9, 1848, and bore her husband three children—Catherine, Lydia A. (who died at thirty-eight years of age, a married woman), and David (who died at the age of twelve). Mr. Zimmerman settled in Van Wert county about 1839, when there was about one house in the city of that name, and the county was one unbroken forest—the house mentioned belonging to the Buckingham family. Mr. Zimmerman entered eighty acres in the dense woods, and with many hardships succeeded in clearing up a farm. He endured more than the usual hard lot of pioneers, as his first wife was an invalid and he himself in very poor pecuniary circumstances. He was obliged to work out at day's work in order to gain means on which to live while clearing up his land, and to leave his sick wife at home with no companion save a little son, E. W., at her bedside. After his day's work for Gordon Gilliland, a well-known pioneer, he would repeat his walk of eight miles to his home; harrowed with the thought that his wife might have perished during his absence with no attendant, save this little four-year old son. He suffered, also, the added hardship of a scanty supper of food, and was accustomed to sift the coarse home-made flour and to use the finer part for making gruel for his sick wife, while he converted the bran into bread for himself and child. Finally, Mrs. Zimmerman passed away, as many another pioneer wife and mother in the county had done, through the privation and hardship of frontier life. Soon after his deprivation, Mr. Zimmerman married, as indicated, Miss Anthony, in whom he found a noble and energetic helpmate. She was a native of Pennsylvania and of Scotch-Irish descent, was a woman of good management, as well as great force of character, and capable of the hard work needed to make the pioneer home a success, which she aided in doing beyond a doubt, as, when Mr. Zimmerman died, he owed no man a dollar and owned a good farm of 120 acres, improved with substantial buildings. He was a straightforward and industrious man of the strictest integrity, of whom it was always said that his "word was as good as his bond, any day." The lamented death of Mr. Zimmerman occurred, at the age of sixty-eight years, on January 10, 1877, revered and honored by a host of friends.

Mr. Zimmerman sprang from Holland-Dutch stock. His father, John Zimmerman, married Catherine Callahan, and in Columbiana county, Ohio, of which he was a pioneer, reared a family of twelve children, named as follows; Jacob, Henry, Mary, John, Lewis and Elizabeth (twins), Christian, David, Thomas, Catherine (died at the age of twenty-one), Frederick and Conrad—all of whom reached maturity without a doctor ever having been called in to render his professional services. The father of John Zimmerman and the grandfather af Mrs. Gunsett, on first coming from Holland, located in Canada, but later settled in Columbiana county, Ohio, with eleven other families, in the early history of the state, and in their conflicts with the hostile Indians ten men from the number of incomers met with death.

JOHN A. JOHNSON, an enterprising and well-to-do farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 15, 1851, a son of William and Ellen (Burcaw) Johnson, both natives of the Buckeye state. On March 8, 1856, William Johnson came from Butler to Van Wert county, and settled in Ridge township, where he purchased 160 acres of farm land. He brought with him his family, which was then comprised of his wife and six children named as follows: Joseph, now a farmer of Van Wert county; Martha, now married to Peter Kessler, of Illinois; Wesley, a farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio; John A., the subject of this sketch; Amos, farmer, now in Van Wert county, and William, farming in Ridge township. Another son, Frank, was born after the arrival of the parents in Van Wert county, and now owns a part of the original homestead. After improving his 160 acres, and, indeed, during that process, William Johnson added adjoining acres, and other lands, until he became the owner of nearly 500 acres, which he subsequently divided among his children. In politics Mr. Johnson was an ardent republican, and at one time held the office of infirmary director. He was popular in the community, was public spirited and enterprising, and died in 1882, honored and respected by all who knew him; his widow survived until September, 1894.

John A. Johnson, being but five years of age when brought to Van Wert county, received his education in the common schools of Ridge township and was reared to manhood on the home farm, becoming a thorough agriculturist. August 10, 1876, he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Clara Weaver, daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Price) Weaver—the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Butler county, Ohio. Samuel Weaver was brought to Ohio when a lad of eight years, and subsequently became one of the most prosperous farmers of Butler county. He reared a family of nine children, who were born in the following order: John E., of Butler county, Ohio; George, a farmer of Clinton county, Ind.; William A., now on the old homestead in Butler county, Ohio; Sarah, deceased wife of William H. Stout; Silas, of Butler county; Laura, who died when but two years of age; Mary (twin of Martha, whose name follows), wife of William Johnson, Jr., whose biography appears first in order after this sketch; Martha, (twin sister of Mary as above), wife of William Bell, of Clinton county, Ind., and Clara, wife of John A. Johnson, our subject, as has been previously stated. To the happy marriage of John A. and Clara Johnson have been born the following children; Lewis Ambrose, William Samuel, Frederick L., Ora Homer, Blanche Viola, Daisy Edith, (who died in early childhood), Clara Etta and Goldie Gladys. Mr. Johnson is one of the most intelligent, and consequently one of the most thriving agriculturist of Ridge township, and his farm of 217 acres, adjoining the county farm, and his tasty and elegant dwelling—his substantial barns and other out-buildings and orchard, and well tilled fields—are a sight to gladden the eye of every passer-by. He is in politics a republican, but has always ignored any offer of public office. He is large hearted and public spirited, and may always be relied upon when any project designed for the public welfare needs a helping hand.

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J. K. P. JOHNSON, a skilled a prosperous farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Butler county, Ohio, November, 19, 1844, and is the youngest son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Mustard) Johnson, of whom a detailed sketch is given in the biography of Joseph Johnson, also of Ridge township, and which precedes this sketch. Mr. Johnson, our subject was disciplined in the severe school of agriculture as well as in the common schools of his native county, where, in 1869, he was united in wedlock with Miss Emma Yakel, daughter of Michael and Susan (Troutman) Yakel, of whom the father was a Pennsylvanian by birth and the mother a native of North Carolina, both of whom are now deceased. They had born to them a family of seven children, as follows: A son that died in infancy; David, who died in middle life; Mary, the widow of William Bell; Elizabeth, wife of James Beckett, of Butler county, Ohio; Julia, married to Robert Stevenson, of the same county; Katie, deceased wife of Seth Shierd, and Emma, now Mrs. J. K. P. Johnson. The parents of these children are both deceased. In the year 1870, shortly after his marriage, Mr. Johnson came from Butler county to Van Wert county and settled on that part of the estate of Mr. Yakel that had been inherited by his daughter Emma (now Mrs. Johnson), where he has since made his home. To the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Yakel have been born eight children in the following order: Harry, who died in infancy; Charles, Susie, Willard, Nellie, Herman, Alonzo and Rush. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are Lutherans, to which denomination the parents of Mrs. Johnson also belonged, and in politics Mr. Johnson is a democrat.

As stated, Mr. Johnson is a skilled agriculturist, and the products of his farm equal those produced on any farm in the township. He is open-hearted and generous in his support in all measures of merit that tend to the public good, and is a warm friend of public education —the bulwark of American liberty. As an agriculturist he ranks among the foremost of the township of Ridge, and in his social relations is respected by all who know him.

THE GILLILAND FAMILY.—The Gilliland family is of Scotch-Irish descent, and their home was in county Down, in the north of Ireland. There were eleven in the family, seven sons and four daughters. Their names were as follows: John, Thomas, Hugh, Adam, Andrew, Robert, James, Jane, Mary, Sarah and Catharine. Three of the elder brothers came to the United States first, all the rest apparently intending to follow, and were on board the vessel when it was getting ready to sail; but when the signal was given to take in the gang-plank, Catharine ran ashore, and refused to accompany her brothers and sisters. Soon afterward, to the great sorrow and indignation of the rest of the family, who were all Presbyterians, and whose ancestors, on both sides (the Gillilands and the Gordons), were also Presbyterians, she married a Catholic, and her name was never again mentioned in the family.

At an early age, John Gilliland, the father of the Van Wert branch of the family, in company with one of his brothers, went into northwestern Pennsylvania, and there took up what was known as a "tomahawk right;" that is, they blazed the trees around a piece of land, and this gave them a title to it. On their return they were pursued for thirty miles by Indians. Upon reaching the top of one hill and looking back, they could see the Indians coming over the next hill behind them, and the pursuit was only abandoned when they were in sight of Fort DuQuesne, now Pittsburg. John Gilliland, in his flight, killed a fine horse, and was so disgusted with the results of the trip that he never returned to claim his "right," but gave his interest to one of his brothers, who improved it; but his descendants are quite numerous in northwestern Pennsylvania and southwestern New York at the present day.

Two of the brothers went south, married and became slave-holders, much to the regret of the rest of the family, who were greatly opposed to the holding of human beings in bondage. One peculiarity of the family is this—that both males and females retain the family name; and wherever there are Gillilands found, they are Presbyterians, if in reach of a church of that denomination. Of more than fifty families, some in New York, some in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Washington, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, all trace their ancestry back to some one of the ten brothers and sisters whose emigration has been described in the beginning of this sketch.

John Gilliland, after his escape from the Indians, returned east and lived in Maryland. He served in the Revolutionary war, was at the battle of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis, being then but little over eighteen years of age. He married Jane Briggs, by whom he had a family of nine children, viz: James, Gordon, John, Thomas, Adam, Robert, Hugh, Nancy (Mrs. Peter Wills), Sarah (Mrs. George Guy) and Jane (Mrs. Theopilus King). John Gilliland was born in 1763 and died in 1826, and his wife was born in 1775 and died in 1858.

James Gordon Gilliland, named after Lord Gordon, of Ireland, was born May 7, 1800, at Hagerstown, Md., where he lived until he was twenty-two years of age, when he learned the trade of millwright. After his father's death he removed his mother's family to Adams county, Pa. There he worked at his trade, and afterward learned that of miller, which he followed until he moved to Ohio. In 1828 he married Margaret Lawson, who is still living (1896) in Van Wert county, at the age of eighty-seven years. To them were born nine children, viz: Elmira Frances (Mrs. W. H. McCoy), Ann Eliza (Mrs. James Montgomery), Thaddeus Stevens, Harriet (Mrs. J. J. McMillen), Susan Mary (Mrs. G. G. Parrott, of Mercer county), Josephine (Mrs. D. S. Patterson, of Crestline, Ohio), Oscar Lawson (died in 1866, aged twenty), Phebe Ophelia (Mrs. J. M. Ocheltree, of Homer, Ill.), and Amanda (wife of D. P. Dunathan).

In 1833 James Gordon Gilliland, in company with a man named Wise, with whom he had worked at the millwright trade, came west to look up a location for homes for themselves, walking from Gettysburg, Pa., to Fort Wayne, Ind., and back again, averaging over thirty miles per day for the entire trip, and one day walking forty-five miles. They thought for a time they would locate at Findlay, Ohio, but they found that the settlers' great dread, milk sickness, was there, so they pushed on to Fort Wayne. There they selected a location, and returned home to make arrangements for the removal of their families. Mr. Wise concluded to remain east, and Mr. Gilliland was two years in making his arrangements. All his goods and his family he brought with him as far as Bucyrus, Ohio, in a one-horse wagon. There he traded his horse for a yoke of oxen, but soon found that he had made a poor bargain, as one of them had the trembles (milk sickness). He therefore left his family at Bucyrus and started on to Fort Wayne, but on account of high water in the streams was unable to reach Fort Wayne, and he concluded to enter land in Ridge township, and returned to Bucyrus for his family. The land he selected was the east half of section No. 9. It was covered with black walnut, white ash and hard maple, and as the Indians burned the woods over every year, there was no underbrush, and on the whole it was calculated to captivate a home-seeker. He also entered 160 acres east of the infirmary, now owned by William Johnson. Of this he gave eighty acres to Robert and Hugh, his brothers, for keeping their mother and sisters, and sold the other eighty acres to Adam Gilliland on time. The next spring they sold the 160 acres for $1,000, and bought the half-section now known as the Adam and Hugh Gilliland farms.

After reaching his new home, on the last day of July, 1835, he still found trials and hardships to encounter. His stock of provisions running short, he went to Allen county and bought roasting ears, took them home and grated them on a grater made out of a tin bucket. Later in the season he went to Piqua to mill, that being the nearest point, and bought corn at a dollar a bushel, being a week in making the round trip with his ox-team. On one occasion he went on horseback to Findlay to buy some crocks and dishes. On his return he lost his way in the woods; lay down to rest and sleep until the moon should rise, and was awakened by some animal smelling of his face. Springing to his feet, a wolf ran away, and set up a howl that made his hair stand on end. When the moon rose he found his way home. After this a mill was built at Fort Wayne. He and his brothers then cut a road through to that place, and for several years all the milling was done there, only four days being required to make the round trip, if the milling were properly done; but some times, on account of the great number of persons collecting at the mill at the same time, a man had to wait two weeks. On an occasion of this kind at Fort Wayne, when the ground around the mill for acres was covered with teams waiting for their turn, Mr. Gilliland, by going down town and buying a gallon of brandy, which he quietly hid in the bran, informing the miller of the fact, succeeded in getting his own grist ground during the night, notwithstanding the pretended opposition of the miller, and was on his way home by daylight next morning.

Mr. Gilliland was afterward elected treasurer of the county, and when he made his settlement with the state, traveled to Columbus and back on horseback. Money being then very scarce, he adopted a system of currency of his own, viz.: taking all kinds of furs at their market value in place of money. Sometimes three-fourths of the week's receipts for taxes were in furs. The money that was collected for taxes he carried about his person, or secreted it where no one but himself knew the place.

Not long after coming to the county, Mr. Gilliland, Smith Hill and John Marks, together with their wives, organized a church, and had services each Sunday, the meeting being held in their respective houses. On one occasion Mr. Gilliland and his wife, having started to Hill's to attend class, it occurred to him that he had better return and conceal what money he had on hand—several hundred dollars in gold. The money was secreted by being placed under the puncheon floor of his house. Upon returning from class meeting he discovered that the chest, in which he had been in the habit of keeping the money, had been broken open and emptied of its contents, but of course the money had not been found. Upon looking round he saw the imprint of a peculiarly shaped hand-made shoe, and not long afterward found out who wore the shoe, in this way discovering the would-be robber; but he never informed the public who the thief was, he and his brothers being the only ones that knew. However, he never had anything to do with the man who wore the peculiarly shaped shoe, though neighbors for twenty years.

Notwithstanding that the county was democratic and he was a whig, he was elected several terms county commissioner, without opposition. Oliver Stacey, one of the early settlers, having some business to transact with the commissioners, on one occasion, when he came out of the court house, remarked: "Well, we've got 100 commissioners in our county!" On being asked to explain, he said that he had "found Gordon Gilliland doing all the business, and the other two sitting round doing nothing, and that if one and two naughts did not make 100, he could not count!"

Mr. Gilliland was very fond of hunting, but would never take his fall hunt until the last load of corn was in the crib. He always brought home with him, from a hunting trip, a goodly stock of honey and venison. One day, when appraising land, he shot four wolves, and at another time he killed a bear within 100 yards of his house. He had many warm friends among the Wyandot Indians, and they seldom returned to Van Wert county without making him a visit. He was also equally popular among his white neighbors, and it may be truthfully said that few men pass through life with as many warm friends, and as few enemies, as he. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and a most earnest worker for the cause of religion. His death occurred October 2, 1862, when he was sixty-two years of age.

* * *

THADDEUS STEVENS GILLILAND, a highly respected citizen of Van Wert, Ohio, a son of James Gordon and Margaret Gilliland, was born October 27, 1834, in Adams county, Pa., and came to Ohio with his parents in 1835; they settled in Ridge township, Van Wert county, where his boyhood days were spent on the farm. He attended the district school three months every two years—part of the time walking three miles night and morning during the winter. In 1853 he entered Farmers college at College Hill, near Cincinnati. The college was conducted by the Carys—Freeman and Samuel F. During that year Freeman Cary resigned the presidency of the college proper to accept the presidency of the farm department, and Isaac J. Allen was elected president. After leaving college he taught school two winters in Van Wert and Allen counties, and spent two years in the dry-goods trade in Elida, and in 1857 returned to Van Wert county and engaged in clearing up a farm in Ridge township. November 12, 1857, he was married to Ruhannah Baker, daughter of Jacob S. Baker, of Allen county. During 1858, 1859, 1860, he taught school in Van Wert town and left the school-room to enter the army on the first call of the president for volunteers in April, 1861, enlisting for three months. He was chosen orderly sergeant of company E, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served under Gen. McClellan in West Virginia until the expiration of the term of enlistment. He was engaged in the battles of Philippi, Laurel Hill and Carrick's Ford, and at the latter battle he was in command of the company. After being mustered out of service he returned home, and with W. C. Scott recruited company H, of the Fifteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, of which company he was made captain and served under Gen. Buell in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was in command of his company in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, in the second day's fight, and was in the last charge that drove the enemy off the field, charging past the old Shiloh church.

At the close of the war he engaged in the grain and produce trade in Van Wert, in which he has been engaged ever since. He has paid out more money to the farmers and given employment to more people than any man in the county. His business for several years amounted to over $300,000 a year, and his pay-roll frequently reached over $150 a week. He always made it a rule to pay his hands every Saturday. He united with the Presbyterian church in Van Wert in 1854, and was chosen an elder in 1863; was made a Mason in 1855, in Lima lodge, No. 205, F. & A. M. He has seen the red men driven from their hunting grounds in the county; the bear, wolves and deer disappear, and fine farms come into existence where once was an almost impenetrable forest. He well recollects when it was forty miles north without a house, and when their nearest neighbors were fifteen miles away; when the nearest mill was at Piqua, and they had to go to Sandusky city for salt; when coonskins passed as currency; saw the first canal boat, the first stage-coach, and the first railroad train that came into the county; can recollect when a school-teacher could get a certificate if he could read, write, and had been through the first four rules in arithmetic and could bound the state of Ohio; recollects when Morse invented the telegraph and how the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper made fun of the idea that men could talk to each other over a wire forty miles long. He was captain of company H, Fifteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, during the Rebellion, and a colonel of the Ohio militia, and served two terms as mayor of Van Wert.

Ruhannah (Baker) Gilliland, wife of T. S. Gilliland, is the daughter of Jacob S. and Mary Baker and was born in Allen county, Ohio, July 27, 1839. Her parents came to Allen county from Fairfield county, Ohio, about 1835 or 1836, and were formerly from Pennsylvania. Her girlhood was spent on the farm and teaching school until her marriage, in 1857, when she moved with her husband to Van Wert county.

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JOHN JOHANTGEN has been a successful farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, since 1872, and a resident of the Buckeye state since 1837. He was born in Prussia, in 1834, a son of Francis and Mary Jane (Dietz) Johantgen, who came to America with their three sons—Nicholas, Peter and John—in the year last named, and for two years, the father followed his trade of saddler in Dayton, Ohio, whence he moved to Shanesville, where he lived two years, and then returned to Dayton and followed his trade five years longer. He now bought a farm ten miles north of Dayton, on which he lived eight years, and then returned to Dayton, where he died January 2, 1874, having lost his wife in the same week in 1873. After arriving in America these parents had born to them one son, Francis, who now resides in California. Nicholas the eldest brother, was a blacksmith and died January 30, 1895, and Peter, the second in the family, is a shoemaker and makes his home in Dayton.

John Johantgen, the subject of this sketch, early learned blacksmithing, which trade he followed a few years only, and then turned his attention to brickmaking and contracting. In 1864 he first married, in Dayton, Miss Mary Jane Swaningle, and in 1872 came to Van Wert county and purchased his present farm, which then was comprised of eighty acres, but to which he has since added twenty acres. To John and Mary Jane Johantgen were born six sons and three daughters; viz: Edward John, who grew to manhood and died in 1888; Carrie Augusta, wife of George Duprey; Walter Charles, in the stave business at Mill Shoals, White county, Ill.; Horace, at home; Flora Alvy, wife of Homer Gilliland; Hayes Wheeler; Nannie; Francis and Robert Grant. The mother of this family was called to rest October 28, 1888, and on the 16th of March, 1893, Mr. Johantgen took for his second wife Malinda, widow of James H. Bennington and daughter of William and Lydia (Harp) Hooks.

William Hooks was a native of Ohio, always followed farming, and died December 19, 1881, on his seventy-first birthday; his widow is now in her eighty-third year. Besides Mrs. Johantgen, Mr. and Mrs. Hooks were the parents of four sons and one daughter, viz: Reuben, a resident of Liberty township, Van Wert county; Inman, who lives near Ohio City; Mary Ann, wife of Philip Miller, of Liberty township; Abraham, residing near Rockford, Mercer county, Ohio, and Frank, who died in February, 1894. Mrs. Johantgen is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; in politics, Mr. Johantgen is a republican and has filled the office of township trustee two terms. Mr. Johantgen has been very successful as a farmer, is also interested in the stave business in Mill Shoals, Ill., and has won the respect of the entire community. Within the past year he has drilled for oil on his farm and has struck a well that is producing in paying quantities, thus proving that his farm is in the Ohio oil belt.

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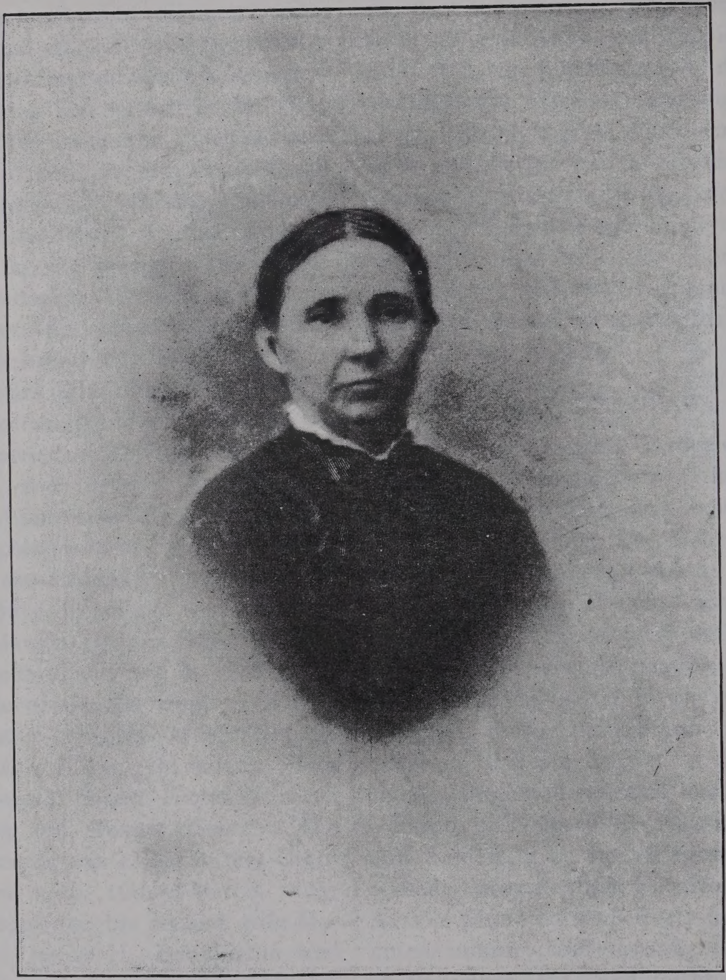
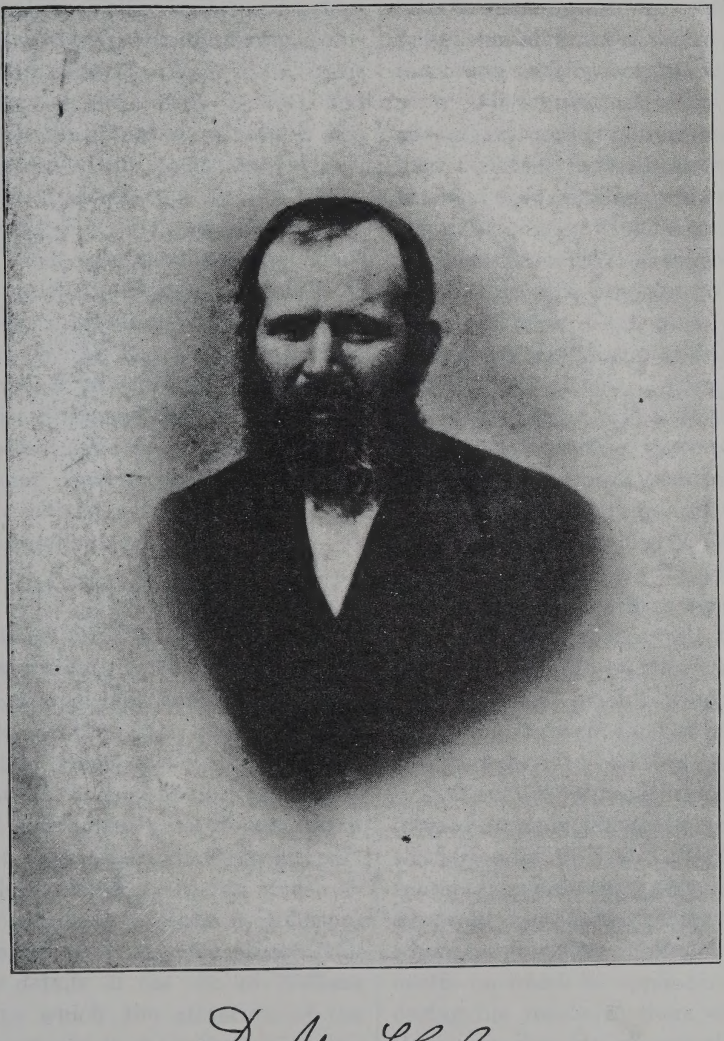
DAVID J. HALE, dealer in agricultural implements in the city of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., February 28, 1838. At the age of eighteen years he came to Ohio and bought a farm of eighty acres in Wyandot county, on which he lived until April, 1881, pursuing the peaceful vocation of the agriculturist. He married in Wyandot county, February 2, 1858, Miss Sarah A. Snyder, a daughter of Jesse Snyder, a pioneer of the county, the union resulting in the birth of four children, viz: Mary E., deceased; Jesse S.; and Cinderella G. and Stephen L., both deceased. May 2, 1864, he enlisted in company A, One Hundred and Forty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was assigned to guard duty at Baltimore, Md., and faithfully served until the expiration of his period of enlistment. On leaving his farm in Wyandot county he located in Monterey township, Putnam county, purchasing a farm on the line dividing Putnam and Van Wert counties, and there resided until 1891, when he came to the city of Van



MRS. DAVID J. HALE.



D. J. Hale

Wert and here became local agent for The Van Wert Hedge Fence company, and also engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, handling the Plano binder, the Jones chain mower, the Birch hand plow, the Brown wagon, the Hocking Valley loader and tedder and the Brown wagon Manufacturing company's products in general. Mr. Hale owns a beautiful home at the corner of Wall and George streets in the Third ward, and is also owner of 240 acres on the county line of Putnam, as mentioned above.

In politics Mr. Hale is a republican, and in November, 1894, was appointed city councilman, to fill out the unexpired term of O. A. Balyeat. He is a member of William T. Scott post, No. 100, G. A. R., at Van Wert, a member of the A. P. A., and is a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hale stands high socially, and is respected for his quiet, unassuming deportment, and his general usefulness as a citizen who understands his duties and never fails to perform them.

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WILLIAM JOHNSON, Jr., one of the most thriving and skillful farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is the sixth child born to William, Sr., and Ellen (Burcaw) Johnson, was born in Butler county, Ohio, October 1, 1854, and was consequently but a mere infant when brought to Van Wert county by his parents, who settled in Ridge township March 8, 1856. In the biography of John A. Johnson, which immediately precedes this sketch, will be found fuller details of the life of William Johnson, Sr., to which the attention of the reader is respectively invited, these sketches being arranged according to seniority. In this brief memoir are given only the salient events in the life of William Johnson, Jr., which may be summed up as follows:

William Johnson, Jr., was reared on the home farm and early inured to the toughening ordeal of that laborious but health-giving vocation, and thoroughly instructed in all the minutiæ and arcana of agriculture, so that he later became one of the most skillful and successful husbandmen of Ridge township and of the county—being both practical and intelligent. He enjoyed, in youth, the usual school advantages, and being apt and quick to learn, soon absorbed all the knowledge which his teachers were competent to impart—the school being, of course, what is usually denominated a "country school." He devoted his working hours as an able assistant to his father until 1877, when, on September 22, of that year, he married Miss Mary Weaver, a daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Price) Weaver, then highly respected and influential residents of Butler county, Ohio, but now deceased. To the congenial union of William and Mary Johnson have been born the following children, in the order here named: Allie May, Effie, Flora, Sadie, Lendel, William Franklin and Martin. It may be here mentioned that the name of Lendell was selected from a half-hundred suggested by the students of Middlepoint Normal school, which Mr. Johnson's elder children were then attending, and thus it was that the fifth child was so christened.

When Mr. Johnson began housekeeping he located on an eighty-acre tract a short distance west from his present beautiful home, in the southeast quarter of section No. 12, Ridge township, but resided there three months only, where he moved to a 100-acre farm two miles north, on which he applied his agricultural skill during his residence there of nine years; he then moved to his present site, which he has improved with an elegant dwelling and first-class barns and other substantial out-buildings, and so tilled the land that the farm easily compares with, if it does not out-rival, the best in the county. His possesions now comprise 244 acres of very fine land—not all in one body, but all within easy access of his homestead. Mr. Johnson has handled Jersey stock to some extent, and also some blooded horses, from which he has derived considerable revenue, but husbandry is his chief employment. He is a "broad-gauge" and progressive citizen in all respects, and is giving his children the best school advantages—a fact in itself indicative of a high order of interest on the part of the parent. His daughter, Allie May, became proficient in music under the tutorship of Prof. Owen. This gentleman, it will be remembered, was awarded the first prize—a medal—at the Columbian exposition, or "World's" fair, for his class in vocal music, it being the best trained of any that contested for superiority on that historical occasion. Mr. Johnson is a Knight of Pythias, and is a charter member of Normal lodge, No. 680, at the organization of which there were sixty members. In politics Mr. Johnson is a republican, but has never been an office seeker. He is content to act the part of a goon citizen, and, indeed, no person is more readily recognized as such than William Johnson, Jr.

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DAN S. JOHNSON, superintendent of Woodlawn cemetery, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born in Orleans county, N. Y., December 13 1836. He is a son of Amos C. Johnson, who was born in Vermont in 1801, was reared a farmer, and was a farmer all his life. He married Miss Elizabeth Hix, of New York, and in 1841 left Orleans county, N. Y., and removed to Williams county, Ohio, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred in 1844. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Free Will Baptist church. He was in every way a good man, was very liberal with his means, and donated much to public enterprises, but, through misfortunes of different kinds, he lost a great deal of money, and at his death left his family in rather poor circumstances. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, as follows: Jane B., Stephen V., William C., Dan S., Harriet M., Matilda M., Carlos B., Sarah M. and Amos C. Sarah died in 1842; the rest are living and are all married. The mother of these children died in 1873, aged sixty-three years.

Dan S. Johnson remained at home with his mother eleven years, and then worked for different individuals until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in company G, Forty-fourth Indiana volunteer infantry, September 2, 1861. He was in the battle of Shiloh, and that of Stone river, and in that of Chichamauga, and in the latter battle being wounded twice—first by a piece of shell and second by a musket ball, which struck him in the face. This was on September 19, 1863. He served in the war four years and twelve days. Mr. Johnson was raised from ranks in a series of promotions and was mustered out as captain. Four of his brothers also served in the war for the Union, and all came out safely, and are now alive and well.

After being discharged from the army Mr. Johnson went to Steuben county, Ind., where his mother was then living. Afterward we went to Kansas, in which state he bought a farm, and, returning to Steuben county, was married to Miss Hena Hubbell. He then returned to his Kansas farm and there remained two and a half years, following farming on his land. Selling this farm he returned to Indiana, where he lived until June 3, 1873, when he came to Ohio, locating in Van Wert county, where he has since remained. In politics Mr. Johnson is a strong republican, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcocal church. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, William C. Scott post, No. 100; and of Ben Hur Gasper Court No. 10, K. of P. He is receiving a moderate pension from the government, which he appreciates, yet it is poor pay for the sacrifice and hardships endured from a monetary standpoint; yet Mr. Johnson is one of the many that are proud of the title of a soldier, feeling that he did nothing but his duty in defending the flag. In 1878 Mr. Johnson was appointed street commissioner and filled that office five years, and in 1891 was elected to the same position for two years, but at the end of one year he resigned to accept the position of superintendent of Woodland cemetery at Van Wert, a position which he still retains.

By his marriage to Miss Hubbell he is the father of the following children: Caroline L., born in Kansas; Mary V., born in Indiana; Earl R., who graduated with the class of 1896 from the Van Wert high school; Hugh C., who is a member of the Epworth league, and Florence M., all three born in Van Wert county, Ohio. Florence M. died in Monroeville, Ind., in 1886; Caroline L. is the wife of Philip Krick, formerly of Monroeville, Ind., Miss Hena Hubbell, wife of the subject of this sketch, was born in Knox county, Ohio, November 24, 1847. She is a daughter of George B. Hubbell, who was born August 21, 1819, also in Knox county. He was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools, and afterward studied medicine with an uncle in Cincinnati. After becoming thoroughly qualified to practice medicine he established himself in Knox county, and practiced there for some time, and removed thence to Delaware county, and later to Steuben county, Ind., and still later returned to Knox county, Ohio, and all through his professional career he was unusually successful. He was married to Miss Nancy Fox, of New Jersey, by whom he was the father of the following children: Burton, Charles, Hena, Ordemas, and Lodema. Ordemas died in 1850. George B. Hubbell was a republican, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a very liberal man in every way, freely giving of his means to the support of his church and to all worthy enterprises. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are among the best people of Van Wert county, honest and upright, true to all their duties in the various relations in life, and are highly respected by all who know them. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Johnson owns a residence property on South Walnut street. Mrs. Johnson and daughter Mary are members of the Relief corps, No. 18, Van Wert, Ohio.

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JBROUGH JOHNSON, son of Davis and Susan A. Johnson, was born August 17, 1863, in Van Wert county (see sketch of Davis Johnson). He was educated in the schools of Van Wert, reared a farmer, and on the 17th day of August, 1886, was united in marriage to Laura F. Ferguson, daughter of James K. and Henrietta Ferguson. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Johnson built his present home in Van Wert, where he has since resided. He is engaged in farming and stock-raising, in both of which his success has been most encouraging. He is a public-spirited man, quiet, but progressive, one of the prominent citizens of Van Wert, and his home, on North Washington street, is the abode of plenty and true-hearted hospitality. While a republican in politics, he has never been an aspirant for official position; contributes to his party's success, state and national, but in local elections votes for the man best fitted for the office, irrespective of party affilitiation.

The father of Mrs. Johnson, James K. Ferguson, was born in Richland county, Ohio, about the year 1822, and was married, in 1846, to Henrietta Stout, and reared a family consisting of the following children: William, painter of Van Wert; Mary, wife of George Torrey, of Union township; Laura; John, who resides in Van Wert; Celina, teacher in the public schools of Van Wert; Charley, a printer, and Maud, teacher of music—the last two living in the city of Van Wert. When a small boy, James K. Ferguson accompanied his parents to Kenton, Ohio, where he remained until 1851, at which time he came to the county of Van Wert, and engaged in cabinet-making, and later, for a number of years; followed the painter's trade in the city and throughout the county. Originally, he was an old line whig in politics, later became a republican, and is still living, being at this time, perhaps, the oldest member of the Masonic fraternity in the city of Van Wert. Mrs. Ferguson was born about 1825, in Maryland, and was the daughter of a hero of the war of 1812, whose birth occurred about the year 1792, in Berks county, Pa. Grandfather Stout served as sheriff at Hagerstown, Md., prior to the late war, and died about eighteen years ago at the age of eighty-four.

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BENJAMIN JOHNSON, a highly respectable and prosperous farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Pennsylvania and was born June 1, 1839. His father, Elias Johnson, was born in Brooke county, Va., was reared a farmer, and was married in his native county to Miss Jemima Dimmit, daughter of Jacob Dimmit. To this couple were born the following children: Benjamin, Wilson, Elizabeth, Jacob, Mary C., Marietta and Annetta. The parents of this family settled in Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1850, and here the father died June 11, 1861, his wife having departed in September, 1859, greatly venerated by their neighbors as pioneers and as members of the United Brethren church.

Benjamin Johnson was but ten years of age when his parents settled on a part of his present farm in Willshire township; since then he has become one of the prominent agriculturists of the county and has assisted in converting the township from a wilderness into a garden. His marriage took place June 24, 1860, to Delilah Morehead, daughter of Vinton and Phebe (Heller) Morehead, and to this congenial union have been born the following children: Wilson W., Rosa, Melvin A., Annie, Callinda A. and Benjamin F. (deceased) and an infant, also deceased. Of the above, Wilson W. was married December 21, 1887, to Miss Nellie Mason, daughter of Gustavus and Mary (Trunky) Mason—the former a farmer of Defiance county, Ohio. The home farm of Mr. Johnson contains 180 acres, is well ditched and well stocked, and no better-kept farm of its size exists in the county. In politics Mr. Johnson is a republican, and in religion is a pillar in the radical branch of the United Brethren in Christ. He has seen a mighty change made in Van Wert county, since, when a child of ten years, he sat on the puncheon slabs that formed the seats of the old-fashioned log school-house. Mr. Johnson is one of the hard-working, thorough-going, upright men, and is most favorably known throughout the county of Van Wert.

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ORLAND W. JOHNSTONE, the accommodating passenger and freight agent of the C., J. & M. R. R. company at Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Marion, Ohio, September 23, 1859, a son of John C. and Louisa (Baker) Johnstone, of whom the former was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 25, 1830, and the latter in Marion, Ohio, May 21, 1836; they were married in Marion in 1856, when they located in Van Wert, where John C. practiced law until 1859; thence they removed to Marion, where Mr. Johnstone has since continued the practice of his profession, now ranking among the best attorneys of the state. They are parents of three children, to-wit: Genevra, recognized as one of the most accomplished vocalists in America, and wife of R. W. Bishop, M. D., of Chicago, Ill.; Orland W., subject of this sketch, and Homer C., secretary of the Ohio Coal company, at Saint Paul, Minn. The father is a member of the I. O. O. F. and is a K. of P.; in religion he is a Methodist, while his wife is a devout Baptist. He has acquired considerable property in Marion, and also holds a large interest in an Arizona ranch, located on the irrigating canals and stocked with horses and mules and also devoted to the growing of fruit.

Orland W. Johnstone was reared to manhood in his native city and there received his preliminary education; in 1871 and 1872 he attended the Lincoln (Neb.) Military school, and in 1873-74-75 was a student in Oberlin college, Ohio; in 1876 he attended the Hillsdale college, and for the three following years was employed in school-teaching in Wyandot and Marion counties, Ohio; he then eagaged with the Hocking Valley Railroad company, at Toledo, Ohio, as extra agent along its line, and filled the position for ten years; thence he went to Portland, Ore., where he acted as train dispatcher for the Portland & Willamette Valley Railroad company for eight months, and then, in September, 1889, came to Van Wert and entered upon the performance of the duties of passenger and freight agent for the C., J. & M. R. R. company, which position he has since filled to the satisfaction of the company and the general public. The marriage of Mr. Johnstone took place at Morral, Marion county, Ohio, June 12, 1882, to Miss Emma L. Fowler, who was born at Little Sandusky, Ohio, November 27, 1863, a daughter of S. P. and Martha A. (Coon) Fowler, and this happy union has been blessed by the birth of two children—Marguerite and Genevra. Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone are members of the Universalist church, and fraternally Mr. Johnstone is a knight templar Mason; in politics he is a strong and prominent republican. He is also one of the organizers of the Van Wert Hedge Fence company, and has an enviable reputation as a business man in general. Both he and wife enjoy a large and pleasant social acquaintance.

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JOHN L. JONES, now a thriving farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in northern Wales, May 20, 1830, and is a son of Lewis and Eliza (Lewis) Jones. Lewis Jones, the father, died when our subject was but two years old, leaving four children, viz: Evan L.; William, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Lizzie, and John L. Mrs. Jones remained a widow and died in Wales without further issue.

John L. Jones was reared to farm work, receiving but a limited education, and that was obtained in the Sunday-school of his native parish. In 1855 he came to America and found employment in a boiler shop in Cincinnati, Ohio, until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted, in May, 1864, in company A, One hundred and Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, for 100 days, and served on guard duty in Maryland, at Point Lookout, and performed his duty promptly and cheerfully, but was greatly exposed and endured considerable suffering. He received an honorable discharge in July, 1864, at Cincinnati, but was much debilitated by chronic diarrhœa. He returned to work in the boiler shop, and May 2, 1866, married Margaret E. Evans, who was born March 11, 1838, in southern Wales, a daughter of Evan J. and Mary (James) Evans, this union resulting in the birth of five children, viz: Mary Jane, Elizabeth, Anna, Evan (who died at one year of age), William Henry and Margaret Esther.

To Evan J. Evans and his wife, the parents of Mrs. John L. Jones, were born nine children, named as follows: Elizabeth, Mary, John, Evan, Edward, Ann, Jane, Murgaret and James—all born in Wales, Mr. Evans was a carpenter by trade, but became a farmer by buying forty acres of land in the wild woods of Jackson county, Ohio, which by dint of industry he converted into a fertile farm, on which he lived in peace and comfort the latter years of his life, and died at the age of seventy-two years, a member, and also a Sunday-school teacher, of the Methodist church, of which his wife was also a devotee. He was a remarkably industrious man and held the respect of his fellow-citizens, who elected him to several local offices, such as supervisor and school director, and gave many other demonstrations of the esteem in which they held him.

Mr. Jones, after marriage, continued to work at boiler-making in Cincinnati for about five years, and then removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he followed the same business a year or more, and then, in 1873, came to Van Wert county, and bought eighty acres of land in the woods of Washington township, where he cleared up a space for a log cabin, and under the advice and assistance of his kindly neighbors soon made an excellent farm, and now has a tasteful and substantial residence and a home that compares favorably with any in the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Calvinistic Methodist church, and in politics is a republican. They have reared a family of respected children, and they themselves are greatly respected for their industry, kindly actions as neighbors, and consistent walk through life as sincere Christians.

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EDWARD T. JONES, of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Jackson county, Ohio, was born in June, 1843, and is a son of Thomas T. and Mary (Edwards) Jones, both natives of Wales. Thomas T. Jones, the father, lived to be eighty-four years of age and was then killed by a runaway horse; his wife died at the age of ninety years; they were the parents of the following children: Ann, deceased wife of Thymas Allan; Thomas, who grew to manhood but is now dead; David T., who died at the age of fifty years; Ebenezer, who lives in Jackson county, Ohio; Margaret, wife of Owen Morris, of York township. All the above children were born in Wales; the following are natives of Jackson county, Ohio: Elizabeth, wife of Evan Williams, also deceased; Edward T., our subject; Elizabeth, who died in girlhood, and for whom the first grave was made for any of the Welsh people of Jackson county, Ohio; she was buried in the wood where afterward was erected the Calvinistic church; John, the next born, grew to manhood and died in Jackson county, and Mary, the youngest child, resides in Columbus, Ohio.

October 25, 1866, Edward T: Jones was united in marriage with Jane Owens, a native of Van Wert county and a daughter of David and Sarah (Griffith) Owens, both of whom were born in Wales, came to Ohio in 1837, and in 1848 settled in Venedocia, Wan Wert county, on land now occupied by William J. Bebb. Mrs. Jones' father brought with him from Wales his wife and one son, David, who enlisted in the late Civil war and died while in the service with typhoid fever; Mary became the wife of John M. Jones and died in 1877. The children born in America were Thomas M., who died in infancy; Sarah, who died about the age of twenty years; Elizabeth, who died in girlhood; Jane, wife of our subject; Hannah, who died in babyhood; John C., died after reaching manhood in Kenton, Nebr., and Richard E., commonly known as "Dick."

The beautiful farm of 160 acres, now owned by our subject, was a gift from his father; it was however, at that time an entire wilderness and has since been cleared up by Mr. Jones. Here he and his wife have flourished and raised a family of eleven children, viz: Sarah Ann, wife of D. R. Owens; Thomas T., married Miss Anna J. Owens; and David Owen; May Elizabeth, who died in early childhood; Mary; John Newton and Margaret J., twins; Ebenezer and a twin sister, the later deceased; Everett; Edward Oliver, deceased in infancy. The family worship at the Calvinistic church and in politics Mr. Jones is a republican. His farm is one of the best improved in the township and he also owns a fine farm of 166 acres in Washington township, and no family of York township is more highly respected than that of Edward T. Jones.

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EVAN L. JONES, one of the old settlers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a Welshman by birth and is a son of Lewis Jones, who was a son of Lewis, a butcher of Wales, who died at the extreme age of eighty-four years. Lewis Jones, the father of our subject, was a weaver by trade, also a miller, and married Elizabeth Lewis, to which union were born three children—John L., William and Evan L., our subject; the father died when his son, our subject, was but a little boy.

Evan L. Jones was born in the village of Radeh Melton, Montgomeryshire, Wales, August 3, 1832, and learned to read his mother tongue in his native land, and to write in Cincinnati, Ohio, after his days's work was done. He had been reared on a farm in Wales to the age of fourteen years, and then, the last of May, 1846, in company with his younger brother, William, the about ten years old, came to America, with a colony of twenty-five of their young countrymen. They sailed from Liverpool, England, in the good ship Elizabeth Barclay, and after a voyage of thirty-three days, landed in New York July 1. Coming to Ohio, Mr. Jones found work in the rolling-mills at Cincinnati, there being many Welshman in the iron business in that city, and finally became an adept puddler—a calling he followed for twenty-five years. In May, 1861, in Cincinnati, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Miss Jane Bruce, also a native of Wales, who came to America with her grandparents, who were pioneers of Venedocia, Ohio. Mrs. Jones survived her wedding day about one year, when she died in Cincinnati, leaving no children, and for many years Mr. Jones mourned her loss.

Preparatory to and during the early part of the Civil war, Mr. Jones was employed in rolling iron plates for the United States gunboats, and in 1863 made a trip to California, sailing from New York to Panama and thence to San Fransisco, whence he went to the Sierra Nevada mountains, and for twelve years was engaged in gold mining, at which he met with acundant success. At the end of the period mentioned he returned east, and in 1880 came to Van Wert county, Ohio, here he purchased a tract of 160 acres of woodland in Washington township, and by dint of hard labor of which he is capable, has cleared up his land and made a farm and home equal to any in the township.

The second marriage of Mr. Jones was solemnized, in 1886, with Mrs. Ann Davis, widow of Edward B. Davis, a pioneer of Van

Wert county, and this happy union was blessed by the birth of four children—Daniel, Margaret, Maria and Annie. He and wife are consistent members of the Methodist church, and in politics he is a republican. He is made of the metal of which the citizens of a republic should be constituted, with thews and sinews to match. He has had a varied experience, and it may be said has endured some suffering. At one time, while crossing a valley in the Sierra-Nevadas, at Fremont pass, he and two companions, having met with no water for many days, came near dying from thirst; their tongues were swollen almost to an extent sufficient to produce suffocation and blackened through want of circulation, and when water was at last obtained, its use in itself produced an almost unendurable, although temporary, agony. But Mr. Jones survived it all, and has lived to see the day when he has become a substantial citizen, in the enjoyment of the fruits of his early industry and frugality, and surrounded by a host of friends who delight to do him honor.

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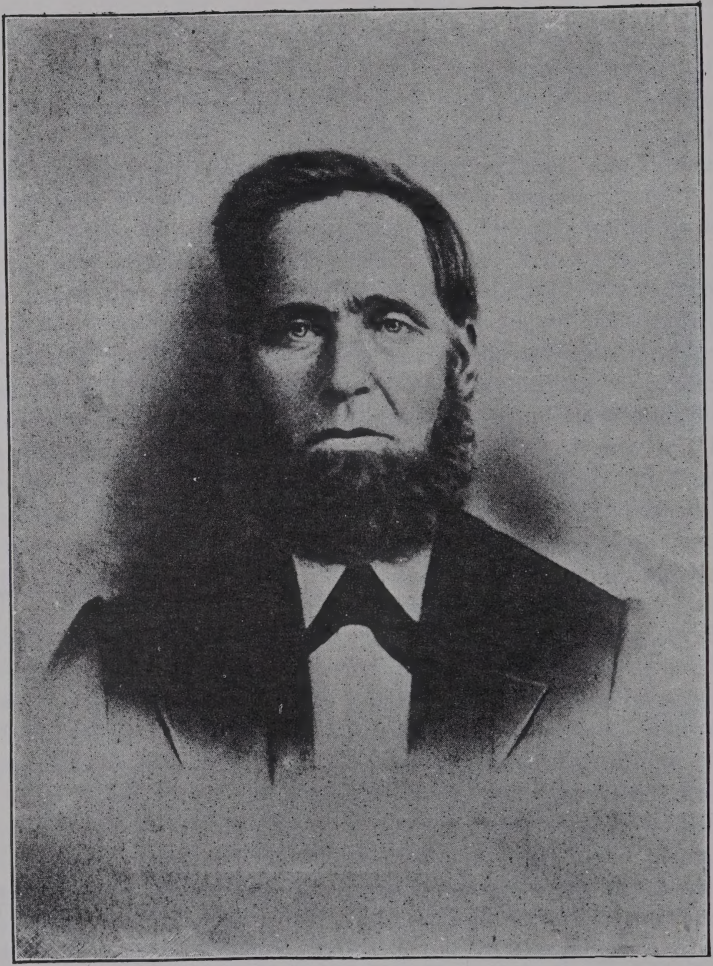
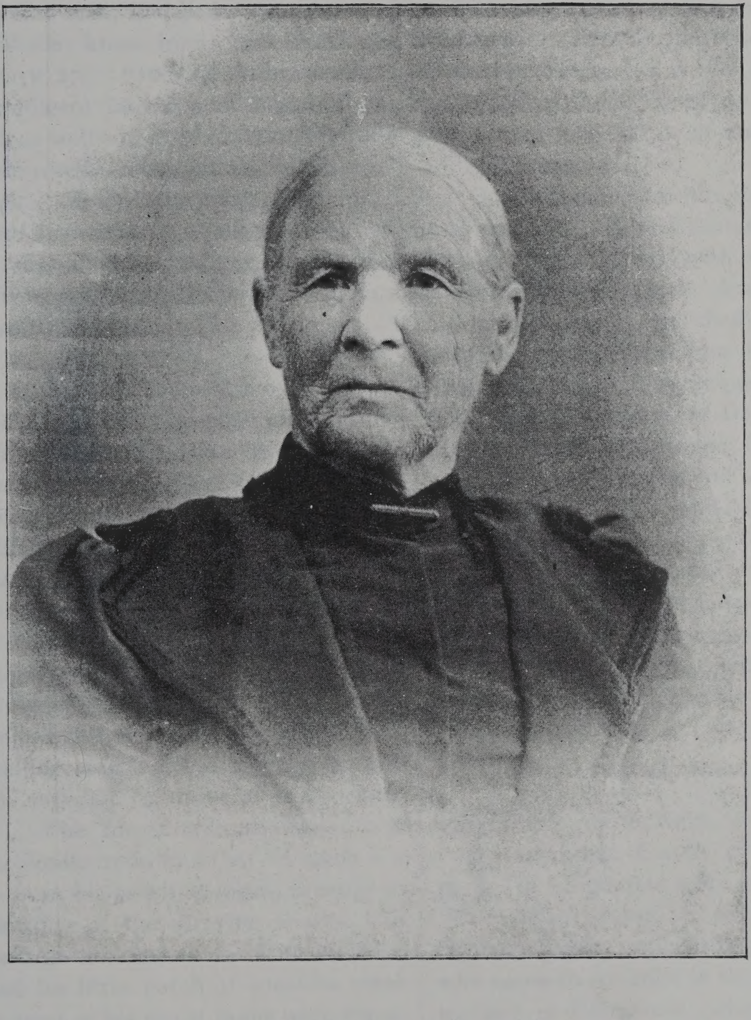
ELIZABETH HATTERY, widow of Josiah Hattery, late of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 27, 1822, a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Montgomery) Ritter. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1787, of Dutch parentage. He was educated in his native state and in early life learned the trade of a millwright, and subsequently owned and operated a mill. About the year 1812 he married Anna Montgomery, daughter of James and Anna (Brady) Montgomery. To their union were born the following children; Martha, deceased wife of Hezekiah Bennett; Elizabeth, of this mention; John, deceased; Sarah, widow of James Hoghe; Joseph, deceased. The mother of these children died in 1854 and the father in about 1884.

Elizabeth Hattery, subject of this memoir, was reared on a farm, and received a limited education in the common schools of her early days, and in 1841 was united in marriage to Josiah Hattery; to them were born the following children; Martha, wife of Jacob Mohr of Hoaglin township; Joseph S., of Waterloo, Iowa; Mary, now at home with her mother; Dr. John E., of Celina; Esther E., widow of John Montgomery; Thomas, of Dubuque, Iowa.

Josiah Hattery, the husband and father, was born in Virginia, in 1821, the son of Andrew and Rachael (Smith) Hattery, of old Virginia stock. When a boy Mr. Hattery came with his parents to Carroll county, Ohio, in wagons, by an overland route, and here was educated in the common school, and in early manhood learned the trade of cabinet-making. For three years following his marriage he lived in Carroll county, where he followed his trade. In 1844, he moved to Van Wert, then a small village, and soon established himself as the first cabinet-maker of the town, and there carried on the business for a number of years, until failing health compelled him to abandon his trade and adopt farming as the means of a livelihood. About 1854, he purchased the farm on which his family now resides, then a strip of wild woodland. This he proceeded to clear and improve, and from that time until his death he was associated with the agricultural interests of the county, in addition to which he was a contractor and builder, and many of the better buildings of his home community are monuments of his handwork. Mr. Hattery was one of the progressive and enterprising men of his day, a thorough agriculturist, and one in whom the confidence of the people was never betrayed. Politically he espoused the cause of the republican party and was a stanch supporter of the principles he advocated. He took an active interest in the welfare of the community in which he lived, and no enter-



Josiah Hattery



Elizabeth Hattery

prise that was for the good of the community or county at large passed by him without his endorsement and support. He was a skilled workman and was quite successful in all his pursuits in life, upright and honorable in all his dealings with men, and had the respect and esteem of all who knew him. His death occurred January 27, 1880, and in his death, a kind and indulgent father and husband was taken away, as well as a good citizen. He and his wife were worthy members of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Hattery still resides upon the old home farm with her daughters, having passed the alloted period of three score and ten, and with complacency looks back upon a long and useful life.

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JOHN J. JONES, a substantial farmer of York township, Van Wert county, was born in Jackson county, Ohio, September 16, 1853, a son of John H. and Mary (Edwards) Jones. In company with his brother, D. J. Jones, he came to Van Wert county, in 1876, and purchased a tract of land, in which his brothers and sisters were equally interested, the tract comprising 160 acres, entirely without improvements. July 4, 1879, he felled the first tree to clear a space for his dwelling, and erected thereon a residence much superior to those of the locality and times. The forest was so dense and crowded so closely upon him that he made it a business to burn his brush at night, in order to keep better trace of the straying sparks. In three years from the date of his settlement he had widened his little patch of sunshine until sixty-three acres of his forest home were transformed into fertile fields, yielding him the reward that honest toil assures to the diligent. Not only is his farm now improved with commodious and modern buildings and wind-engine, but Mr. Jones has laid therein more than 9,000 rods of tile; his farm will now compare most favorably with any of its size in the township and leave a rich reward for the labor bestowed upon it; not only is Mr. Jones a thoroughly practical farmer, but is also a wide-awake and competent business man. He has the agencies for the Star wind-pump, the Nicholos thresher, and the Mast Wild Fence company, with his office on South Washington street, Van Wert, at the hardware store of Mr. Kime.

October 23, 1879, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Mary Elizabeth Pritchard, and this union was blessed with the following children: Mary Elizabeth, Annie Jane, Johnny, Edna, and Unice, who died in infancy. The mother of these children died October 10, 1889, and Mr. Jones subsequently married Mary Ann Davis, a daughter of David and Elizabeth Davis. One child, David Oswald, has come to bless this union, shedding a new light in the household, Mr. and Mrs. Jones are earnest christian people, and so deport themselves as to gain the honor and respect of all their neighbors. Mr. Jones has served as trustee of the township of York, has always been industrious and enterprising, and few men of the township stand as high as he, either as a farmer or business man.

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JOHN M. JONES, a resident of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, born October 10, 1849, a son of Hugh F. and Mary (Morris) Jones, both natives of Wales, and who came to America in their single days, and wedded in Cincinnati, where his father was employed as head sawyer. Hugh F. Jones was born in 1819 and reached Cincinnati in 1846; then in 1850 he came to Van Wert county, bearing a son, John M., on his back from Spencerville, Ohio. He had, however, previously entered eighty acres of land near Jonestown, York township, where he settled in the thicket, and at once set about clearing away the forest. He afterward added to this tract 142 acres, and later purchased 160 acres, 120 of which are now owned by John M., our subject. The children born to Hugh F. and Mary Jones were named as follows: John M.; Elizabeth; Margaret, wife of T. M. Jones, of Missouri; David, also of Missouri; Jane, deceased wife of David E. Lewis; Sarah, wife of Evan A. Davis, of Marion, Ind.; Edward R., of York township, and Mary C., residing on the old homestead. Hugh F. Jones, the father of John M., died April 10, 1890, aged seventy years, eight months and seven days. His companion had been called to her last resting place February 2, 1870.

John M. Jones, our subject, labored faithfully on his father's farm until attaining his majority; he had good educational advantages, and quit the school to begin teaching, which profession he followed for fifteen winters; after quitting the public schools, however, he attended the normal school at Delphos, and later at Van Wert. February 24, 1884, he was united in wedlock with Miss Maria Williams, a native of Portage county, Ohio, but a resident, at the time of her marriage, of Macon county, Mo. She was an accomplished lady and a teacher in the high schools of New Cambria, Mo.; her parents were Moses and Mary (Evans) Williams, both deceased. In the spring of the same year Mr. Jones began the cultivation of his present farm. The children born to John M. Jones and wife were named as follows: Ada Mary, Hattie Jane, and Hugh Moses.

In politics Mr. Jones is a stanch member of the republican party, has served as township assessor two terms, and in April, 1896, was elected township clerk—his father having been treasurer for more than a quarter of a century, twenty-three years of this time having been passed in office continuously. His father died honored and respected by all who knew him, he and wife having been for many years consistent members of the Welsh Presbyterian church. Hugh F. Jones also served as trustee and assessor of his township, as well as land appraiser for two terms. John M. Jones is a highly honored citizen of the township, is industrious, pious, and is a most excellent citizen in all respects.

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J. D. JONES.—Among the well known citizens of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, entitled to specific mention, is J. D. Jones, who was born of Welsh parentage in Jackson county, Ohio, on the 8th of August, 1859. His parents, David S. and Ann (Morgan) Jones, came to America in 1857, and located in Jackson county, Ohio, where for a number of years the father was employed in the Jefferson furnace. They had a family of children, whose names are here given: J. D., subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of D. H. Edwards; and Rachel, wife of John Pritchard, of Chicago. About the year 1860 David Jones brought his family to Van Wert county, and located on the farm in Jennings township where his son, J. D., now resides. As is well known, the southern part of the county at that time was not very highly improved, and Mr. Jones found his land almost as nature had made it. He erected a small cabin, which in time was replaced by a more comfortable and pretentious structure, but the first modest dwelling served Mr. Jones as a home until his death, which was caused by the explosion of a mill. His widow subsequently became the wife of Morgan H. Morgan, and died September 24, 1883.

J. D. Jones, like the majority of men who came to Van Wert when the country was new, passed the early years of his uneventful life amid the rugged duties of the farm, and he early selected agriculture for his life work. He was married, in 1881, to Margaret Evans, daughter of Zachariah and Jane (Jones) Evans. The parents of Mrs. Jones were born in north Wales; they came to the United States a number of years ago, locating on what is known as Paddy's Run, Butler county, Ohio, and in 1845 moved to the county of Allen, locating near the town of Gomer, where the father died in 1886, his widow following him to the grave two years later. Zachariah and Jane Evans were the parents of five children—May, Anna, Margaret, Thomas and Richard—the last named dying in childhood. Mr. Jones owns a splendid farm with fine improvements, including good barns and a commodious dwelling, supplied with many modern conveniences. He is, in every respect, a self-made man, and has forged his way to the front by overcoming obstacles that would have discouraged men with less will and determination. His reputation in the community is a most excellent one, and he numbers his friends by the score, and although still a young man has won for himself a conspicuous place among the substantial citizens of the township in which he resides. He is a member of the Calvinistic Methodist church, to which his wife also belongs, and is active in all church work. He has decided opinions relative to the liquor traffic, and believes that prohibition is the only sure remedy for this gigantic evil; accordingly, he supports with his ballot the prohibition party.

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**HENRY KANNEL**, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, is a son of Joseph and Peggy (Welsh) Kannel, and was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1848. Joseph, the father, was born in Adams county, Pa., in 1815, and was a son of Jacob, who was born in Germany about the year 1770, and when a young man settled in the Keystone state. About 1832 Jacob came to Ohio, located in Stark county, where he passed four years, and then removed to Richland county, where he died in 1845. Joseph Kannel, the youngest son of Jacob by a marriage to a lady who bore the maiden name of Hoover, came to Stark county with his parents, and learned the trade of carpenter and builder. In 1853 he moved to a farm he had long previously purchased in Crawford county, and there died February 2, 1890. Miss Peggy Welsh, whom Joseph Kannel married December 6, 1839, in Richland county, bore to her husband seven children, viz: Mary and James, who died in childhood; Margaret; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Sarah J.; a deceased infant, and John, who still lives on the homestead in Crawford county. The mother of these children was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 14, 1817, and is still living on the farm in Crawford county, a member of the United Brethren church, of which her husband had also been a member.

Henry Kannel, the subject of this sketch, was educated in Crawford county, Ohio, first attending the little log-cabin school of his neighborhood, and later attending a seminary at Lexington, Richland county, and for two terms an institution of learning in Ashland county. In his early youth he had learned the carpenter's trade, but preferred teaching for a livelihood, and in 1869 entered upon his vocation in Crawford county. For eleven terms he followed the profession, and of these eleven terms three were taught in Seneca county. The marriage of Mr. Kannel took place December 25, 1877, to Miss Lucy A. Briegel, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Briegel, and to this union one daughter has been born and named Alvira C. Mrs. Lucy A. Kannel is a native of Crawford county, Ohio, and was born in 1853. Her father was born in Baden, Germany, about 1812, and when twenty-one years old came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he married Elizabeth Shaffer, who bore eleven children to the union. After his marriage Mr. Kannel lived in Bloomville, Seneca county, about eleven years, following his trade, that of a carpenter. In 1886 he purchased the farm on which he still lives, in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, where he has since been engaged most successfully in agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Kannel are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and by their daily walk through life give full evidence of their sincere belief in its teachings. In politics Mr. Kannel is a republican, and, though no office seeker, never fails to show his loyalty to his party through the exercise of his franchise.

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CALEB JOSEPH, a veteran of the Civil war, who lost a leg in the service of his country, and is now a resident of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Lawrence county, Pa., is a son of William and Lydia (Brown) Joseph, and was born April 6, 1842. The maternal grandfather of our subject, William Tindall, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and the Joseph family were of very old Pennsylvania stock. William Joseph was a miner by occupation, and was the father of seven children, viz: Marinda, John, Caleb, Joshua C., Mary, William and Eleanor. The father, William, when about forty years of age, was killed in a stone quarry, in 1851, by the premature or accidental discharge of a blast. Three of his sons served in the Civil war, viz: John, who was in the One Hundredth Pennsylvania infantry a short time; Caleb, whose services will be related below, and Joshua C., who served over four years, and who, during his term, was shot through the lung at Chickamauga, and after his recovery was placed in the invalid corps, where he had a leg broken; he eventually died at Convoy, this county, of the combined effects of his injuries.

Caleb Joseph, our subject, received the usual common-school education, and was between nineteen and twenty years of age when he enlisted, August 27, 1861, at New Wilmington, Lawrence county, Penn., in company B, One Hundredth Pennsylvania infantry, under Capt. M. E. Dawson, to serve three years or during the war, but on account of wounds received, was honorably discharged December 13, 1862, at Hilton Head, S. C. He fought at Hilton Head and James Island, and at the latter place was struck by a piece of shell in the left leg, the lower part of which was left hanging by the tendons; he was at once taken to the field hospital, where the limb was amputated, and was then sent to the general hospital at Hilton Head to be nursed and cared for, and was there under treatment over two months. After his return home to Pennsylvania he learned shoemaking, and married, September 26, 1864, Rachael Stevens, daughter of Moses and Levina (Howe) Stevens. Mr. Joseph, after marriage, resided at New Castle, Lawrence county, Pa., until about 1870, when he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and purchased forty acres of land, on which he made his home for thirteen years and then sold, being unable to attend to it on account of his army disabilities, and for a number of years thereafter passed much of his time in travel and in the recreation of hunting and fishing. He has three times visited Puget sound for the purpose of hunting deer, elk and moose, and engaging in salmon fishing, Mrs. Joseph being his companion. They have passed seven years on the Pacific coast and have visited British

Columbia, Manitoba and Canada, and they own a nice estate on Puget sound. To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph no children have been born, but they have adopted a daughter, whom they have reared from eleven months of age, and who is named Florence Jones. She has been well educated and is now the wife of William W. Walls, a farmer of McMurray, Puget sound, and is the mother of one child.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph are members of the Methodist church, in which he has been a Sunday-school superintendent many years; in politics he is a republican and has twice been a member of the republican county conventions at Puget sound, affiliating with the party of the same name at that point; he is a member of Capper post, G. A. R., at Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, and was a strong man when he entered the army, but has been a constant sufferer since the loss of his leg; nevertheless, he possesses a genial temper and pleasant manners and a character pure and unsullied.

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BENJAMIN KELTNER, a respectable farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of this state, and was born in Darke county, February 1, 1842, where his earlier days were passed upon the home farm. His father, Michael Keltner, was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., of German descent, August 23, 1805, and is now living with his son in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio.

Michael Keltner, when a boy, was brought to Ohio by his parents, who settled in Warren county, where the boy became a man and first married Miss Susan Wertz, of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, to which union were born five children—William, Ira, Martin, David and Sarah. After his marriage, Mr. Keltner farmed in Warren county until 1838, when he moved to Darke county and cleared up eighty acres from the woods on his own account, beside doing a large amount of work for other parties. There his wife died, and there his second marriage took place to Sarah Wolfe, who was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. This union resulted in the birth of ten children, who were named Benjamin (our subject), Louis, Nathaniel, Robert, Eli, Edward, Harriet, Catherine, Ellen and Jennie. In 1862 Mr. Keltner came to Van Wert county and is now retired from active life, making his home, at the extreme age of ninety-two years, with his son, Louis. In religion he is of the Evangelical faith, although originally a German Baptist. In politics he was first a democrat, but after three of his sons had volunteered in defense of the Union he became a republican. Of these three sons, Louis served about ten months in the Forty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, and Nathaniel, for a year, in the Forty-sixth Ohio. The military record of the eldest, Benjamin, will be detailed in a coming paragraph.

Benjamin Keltner, with whose life this sketch is most concerned, after leaving his father's farm, was for a year or so a clerk in a grocery store, and afterward began his business life as a cattle dealer, which he carried on quite extensively on his own account. He was still a young man when he came to Van Wert county, in October, 1859, and in 1860 bought forty acres across the line in Paulding county, to which he subsequently added by purchase another tract of 160 acres. Making sale of this property, he bought eighty acres in Jackson township, Van Wert county, cleared this tract up and made another good farm.

The enlistment of Mr. Keltner took place in Darke county, Ohio, September 19, 1861, in company F, Fortieth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, and in October, 1864, he was honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., as corporal. He served in Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, chiefly on guard duty, but took part in many skirmishes, including those at Clarksville, Fort Donelson, Cumberland Shore, Clifty Creek, Fort Burnside and Fishing Creek, Ky. His only indisposition was an attack of measles, which confined him to hospital for three months. After the war he came to Van Wert county, and March 26, 1868, married Mrs. Julia Hamilton, who was born January 1, 1841, was a widow, and a daughter of Phillip and Margaret Caton. Mr. Caton was a native of Ireland, was a farmer, and was married in Liverpool, England. About 1830 he came to America and settled near Columbus, Ohio, but in his latter days came to Van Wert county and resided with his children, who were four in number and named Margaret, Richard, Mary and Julia. He lived to the extreme age of eighty-nine years and died in the faith of the Catholic church at the residence of our subject. After his marriage, Mr. Keltner settled on his present farm in Washington township, and here have been born to him seven children, viz: Rosie, James, John, Florence, Louise, Josie, and Homer. Mr. and Mrs. Keltner are pious members of the Methodist church, in which he was a class leader, in the younger days. In politics Mr. Keltner is a republican. He is a substantial farmer, owning 137 acres, and has been very extensively engaged in stock raising and dealing, and is widely known as an upright and industrious man, and a highly respected citizen.

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HATHAWAY KEMPER, prominent as an attorney at law, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Dayton, of the same state, October 11, 1852, and is a son of Rev. James S. and Frances L. (Gasper) Kemper, the former of whom is a well-known Presbyterian divine, but now retired from active life, in his eighty-second year, with his residence at Dayton. Hathaway Kemper was reared and educated in Dayton until 1870, when he entered the sophomore class of Lafayette college of Easton, Pa., from which institute he graduated in 1873, and then commenced the study of law under Conover & Craighead, attorneys of note in the same city, and with this firm he pursued his studies until admitted to the bar in January, 1876; he began the practice in Van Wert, April 21, 1876, and for eighteen months held a partnership with W. H. Cunningham; he then practiced alone until 1881, and then for a year in conjunction with F. P. Edson, since which time he has been alone in the profession, making an enviable reputation.

The marriage of Mr. Kemper was solemnized, at Van Wert, December 23, 1885, with Miss Minnie J. Scott, born October 9, 1861, a daughter of W. L. and Mary E. Scott, and to this felicitous union have been born three children, named James S., W. L. and H. G. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper are consistent in their membership of the Presbyterian church, and in politics Mr. Kemper is a republican. He is president of the Van Wert Building & Savings company, and as a lawyer and citizen is deservedly held in high esteem.

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THOMAS C. KENSLER, a well known and experienced farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Delaware county and was born March 29, 1828, a son of John and Sally (Longwell) Kensler. John, the father, was born in Pennsylvania, and was a boy when he was brought to Delaware county, Ohio; Sally (Longwell) Kensler was a native of Delaware county, and by her marriage with Mr. Kensler became the mother of eight children, viz: Elizabeth, wife of Henry Valentine, of Indiana; Thomas C., our subject; Catherine, wife of le, giving therefor $1,300, and he removed to this property in the following December, his aunt, Gertrude Kramer, keeping house for him. In 1886 he began to buy grain on commission for an outside firm, storing the same in sacks until he had accumulated a car load. In 1891 he formed a partnership with his brother, John M. Kramer, whose biographical sketch also appears in this volume, the firm conducting a machine shop. Then this firm erected a warehouse, and also started a small lumber business. The subject of this sketch was the first man that started business of any kind at Maria Stein, his trade gradually increasing, and in 1895, he alone bought more than 55,000 bushels of grain; beside this he carried on his lumber and hardware business. Mr. Kramer deals fairly and honestly with all men, as also does his brother. They believe in giving each man his due, the junior member having always had charge of the scales, which run up to 100 car loads per year. Hardware and groceries do not at present receive as much attention as formerly from this firm, grain and lumber being the principal products handled at the present time.

Henry Kramer was married May 8, 1889, to Miss Senora Walck, and to this marriage have been born three children, viz: Joseph, born March 18, 1890; Beda, born July 8, 1892, and Mary, born February 24, 1895. Joseph and Mary are both dead, leaving only Beda to comfort the parents. Mr. Kramer is a strong democrat in politics, and a faithful member of Saint John's Roman Catholic church. Senora Walck, wife of the subject, was born June 11, 1868. She is a daughter of Andrew Walck, who was born September 22, 1837, in Stark county, Ohio. When yet young Andrew Walck went to Iowa, where he was engaged as a general laborer, but returned to Ohio, locating at Middlepoint. In 1864 he enlisted in the army and was discharged in 1865, being in the service just ten months, and now receives a pension of $12 per month. Politically he is a strong democrat and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was married to Louisa Staples, and to their marriage there have been born the following children: Katie, Francis, Senora, wife of the subject, and William. Katie is the only one that has died. The mother of these children was a member of the Catholic church, and died April 18, 1872. Senora Walck, wife of the subject, lived with her parents until she was married, is a member of the Catholic church, and is a most excellent woman in every respect.

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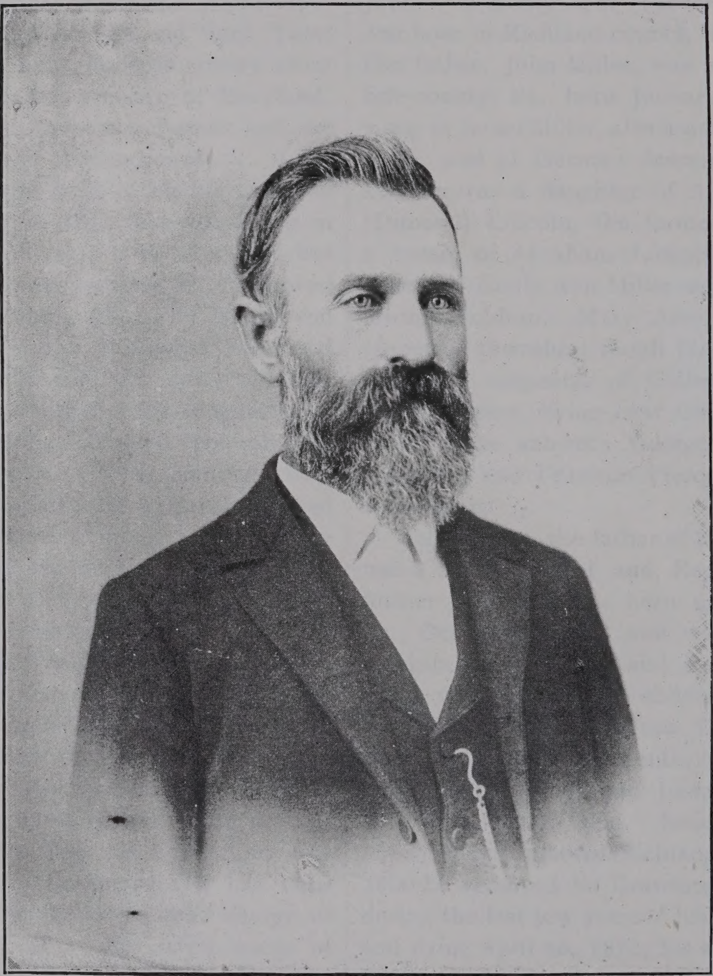
GEORGE W. KUHL, a prominent and successful farmer of Dublin township, Mercer county, and a son of Peter and Ann (Harper) Kuhl, was born in Ross county, Ohio, May 4, 1828. Peter Kuhl was born in Rockingham county, Va., in 1790, and was a son of John and Catherine (Eyler) Kuhl.

John Kuhl was also a native of Virginia, and, as the name implies, of German ancestry. To him and his wife there were born three children, as follows: Peter, father of the subject of this sketch; John, of Fayette county, and Catherine, widow of Benjamin Bloomer. In 1812 John Kuhl removed from Virginia to Ross county, Ohio, where he entered land and spent the remainder of his life. Peter, his son, was reared and educated in Ross county, and there engaged in teaching school. Ann Harper became his wife in 1827, and to this couple there were born the following children: George W., the subject of this sketch; Nancy J., deceased wife of a Mr. Rogers, who still lives at Greenfield, Ohio; Mary A., wife of Timothy Hixon, a carpenter of Greenfield; James R., a farmer of Ross county; Alexander, who served during the war in the Fifty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and is now living near Linden; Lucy, wife of H. Davis, of Ross county; Jackson H., deceased; Melinda, deceased wife of Allen McCoy, also deceased; and Elizabeth Adeline, deceased. Ann Harper was a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Tate) Harper, and was born in Ross county about 1795. Her father was a native of Maryland, of Scotch descent, and was a farmer and one of the early pioneers of Ross county.

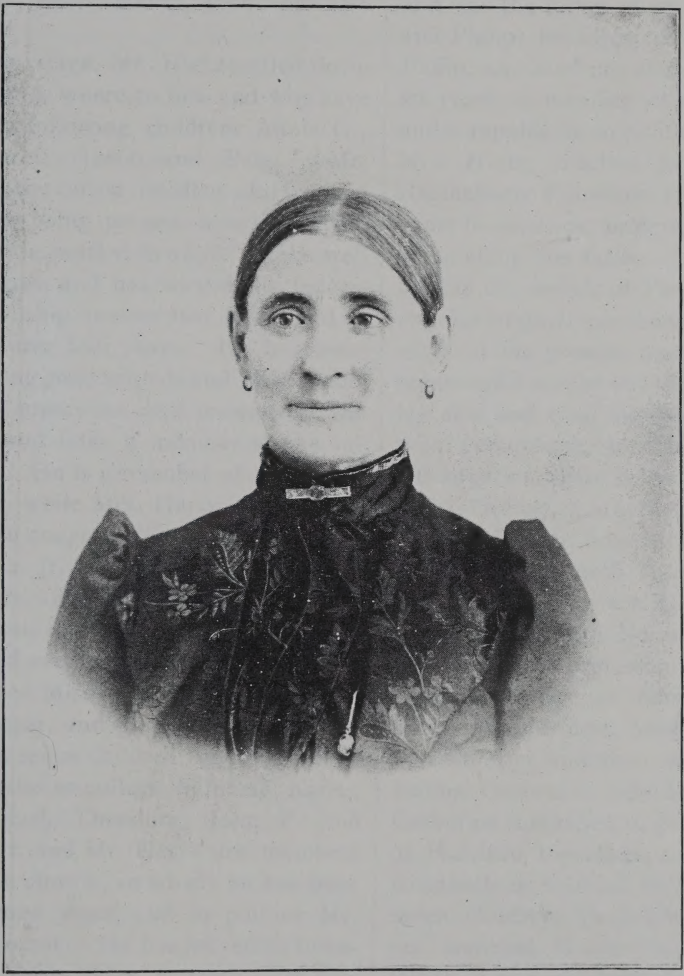
Peter Kuhl spent most of his life upon the home farm, dying in 1875, his wife dying in 1881. He was for years a Presbyterian, but when the church which he attended was moved away from his neighborhood, he transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was also a member. He was unusually earnest in his religious convictions, and a regular attendant upon religious worship. He was one of the pioneer school teachers, and as a democrat held the office of township trustee for a number of years. He always carried on his farming operations, no matter what else he might be doing, and was a very successful financier.

George W. Kuhl was educated in the Ross county common schools, and afterward attended Greenfield academy, with the view of preparing himself for the teachers' profession. He taught most of his time in Ross county—five years in his home district. He was unusually successful, and his reputation was widely extended. Frequently he had calls from twenty miles away to take charge of schools attended by unruly boys, many of whom, in the olden time, cared more for mischief than they did for mathematics. Beside the teaching he did in Ross county he taught four terms in Auglaize, being equally successful away from home as in his home county. In August, 1872, Mr. Kuhl was married to Mary Pepple, a daughter of John Pepple, she having been born in Ross county, and died in Mercer county in 1876. In 1877 he married Mary Tracey, who was born in Madison county, and died January 12, 1887. On June 28, 1887, he married Henrietta Miller, a daughter of John and Emily Ann (Lincoln) Miller, who was born in Richland county, March 28, 1848. Her father, John Miller, was a native of Carlisle county, Pa., born January 17, 1815, and a son of Israel Miller, also a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Emily Ann Lincoln was a daughter of Alfred and Phebe (Dimond) Lincoln, the former of whom was a cousin of Abraham Lincoln's father. To John and Emily Ann Miller were born the following children: Mary Ann; Hellwarth, of Hopewell township; Sarah Jane, wife of John Smith, a carpenter of Celina; Joseph and John, farmers, living near Celina; Henrietta, wife of the subject; George, of Hopewell township, and Franklin Pierce, living on the home farm.

John Miller, the father of Henrietta Miller, was a son of Israel and Regina Miller, the former of whom was born near Harrisburg, Pa., October 4, 1788, and was a farmer and blacksmith. To him and Regina, his wife, there were born four children, as follows: John; Mary, wife of Andrew Darcus, of Iowa; Annie, wife of George Smith, of Shelby, Richland county, Ohio, and Joseph, a farmer of Crawford county, Ohio. Israel Miller was one of the early settlers of Richland county, but in 1860 he removed to Crawford county, living during the last few years of his life in Osceola, and dying April 30, 1872, his wife having died the day before, and both being buried in the same grave. When Mrs. Kuhl was three years old her parents removed to Mercer county, settling in Hopewell township, where her father bought a farm upon which he lived until his death, which occurred September 15, 1891. In politics he was a democrat, was township



PETER HERTZ, JR.



MRS. PETER HERTZ, JR.

Holmes county, and in Van Wert county about 1839. Mr. Germann finally made a good farm of 160 acres, and died at the age of seventy years, a steward in the Lutheran church. His children were named: Annie, Elizabeth, Mary, Jacob, Charles, Peter, Henry, John; one also died unnamed.

After his marriage, Mr. Hertz settled down on his homestead, where to him and wife have been born the following children: Annie G., Mary, Margaret, Jacob and Peter. Mr. Hertz is now the oldest resident of Harrison township, there being no one now living who was here when he settled in 1838. He is well and widely known and has served his fellow-citizens as township trustee two terms and as township treasurer four years. He has been active in securing good schools and good roads, and has been supervisor and member of the school board, and later a member of the infirmary board. He is a member of the Evangelical church, while Mrs. Hertz is a member of the Lutheran congregation.

Peter Hertz, Jr., son of our subject, was born October 12, 1844, on the old Hertz homestead in Harrison township, was well educated for his time and was reared a farmer. May 1, 1873, he married Miss Mary E. Scaer, daughter of Philip Scaer, and there have been born to his marriage seven children, viz: Jacob, at Saint John's Lutheran college, Winfield, Kans.; Otto, Anna, Karl, Theodore, John P. and Arthur W. Mr. and Mr. Hertz are members of the Lutheran church, in which he has been a deacon for three years, and in politics Mr. Hertz is a democrat. He has served as township treasurer seven years, as town clerk four years, as supervisor seven years, and was elected treasurer for Van Wert county in 1892 and served two years. Mr. Hertz is the owner of a fine farm of 100 acres, and the entire family is favorably known throughout the whole township.

Philip Scaer, one of the most substantial farmers of Harrison township, Van Wert county, was born September 8, 1825, in Prussia, Germany, a son of Philip and Catherine (Trase) Scaer. The senior Philip was a farmer and was the father of two children—Catherine and Philip; he came to America with his son, Philip, and died in 1886, at the age of eighty-six years, a member of the Lutheran church and a republican in politics. Philip, father of Mrs. Hertz, married in Germany Christine Reidenbach February 28, 1847, and in 1852 came to America, bringing his family with him—including his father. He made choice of land in the woods of Van Wert county, Ohio, and his original purchase consisted of eighty acres of his present magnificent farm of 200 acres—all brought out through his own industry, skill and good management, and improved with convenient, substantial and handsome buildings, and here he has reared his five children—George, Catherine, Elizabeth, Charles and Jacob. Mr. Scaer is a devoted member of the Lutheran church, to which all his family also belong. His son Charles is a graduate from the Tri-State Normal college of Angola, Ind., and is a professor in the Saint John's Lutheran college at Winfield, Kans. George Scaer married, first, Anne Hoffman, who bore four children and then died; he next married Emma Germann, who has borne one child; Catherine is married to John Gunsett, a farmer of Harrison township, and has six children; Elizabeth is married to Peter Hertz and has seven children; Prof. Charles Scaer, of Kansas, married Hanna Morelock, and is the father of two children; Jacob married Lizzie Miller, who has borne three children. In politics our subject is a democrat and has served as school director of his township. He is widely known and stands deservedly high in the esteem of the citizens of the community in which he is a resident.

JOHN KESLER, a substantial farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the county and was born March 22, 1841, a son of Samuel and Louisa (Frazier) Kesler. Samuel Kesler was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, was reared a farmer, and early in 1841 settled in Ridge township, Van Wert county, where he entered 160 acres of land, which he subsequently increased to 310 acres. He and wife became parents of thirteen children.

John Kesler received a fair education in the common schools, was reared to manhood on the home farm, and December 3, 1865, married Hannah S., daughter Job and Lydia A. (Cavett) DeCamp, of French origin. Job DeCamp, however, was born in Licking county, Ohio, a son of John DeCamp, of Pennsylvania. Job DeCamp came to Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1840, and here entered 160 acres of woodland, which he succeeded in clearing and converting into a farm that equaled any in the township. His family comprised ten children, named as follows: John, Mary E., William H., Andrew E., Joseph W., James (deceased), Hannah S., Newton A., Arrilla, and Thomas P. The father of this family was called to his long home at the age of sixty-six years, dying an honored and respected citizen. After marriage, Mr. Kesler settled on a farm of eighty acres on the Defiance road, where he lived until he bought his present farm of 120 acres. To his marriage have been born two children—Joseph E. and Almeda. Joseph E. Kesler, the son, married Sarah J. Harris, of Union township, and has had born to him one child. John Kesler has been very successful as a farmer, and his dwelling and grounds give evidence of skillful cultivation and thrifty progress. He is highly respected in the community in which he lives, has afforded his children all the educational advantages within his power, and has proven himslf to be a first-class and progressive citizen, well deserving the high esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

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AARON KEVER, a substantial farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of Pennsylvania-German descent, mixed with an Irish extraction. Jacob Kever, father of Aaron, our subject, was born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio when a young man, settling in Tuscarawas county. He there married Anna Hoagland, daughter of Aaron and Elizabeth Hoagland, and became the father of eight children—Amy, James, William, Elizabeth, Aaron, Margaret, Susan and Matilda. In 1840 Jacob Kever came to Van Wert county and settled in Tully township, bought and cleared eighty acres of land, assisted in the latter task chiefly by his son, Aaron, and died at the age of about fifty-six years, after having been bed-ridden for about five years.

Aaron Kever, the subject proper of this sketch, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, February 13, 1828, resided for a time in Richland county, and when about twelve years of age was brought by his parents to Van Wert county. He is now the oldest resident in Tully township, and one of the most respected. In March, 1850, he married Miss Sarah A. Clem, and for two years afterward lived on the home farm with his mother. In 1852 he bought eighty acres of his present farm, and by the exercise of the most assiduous industry, aided by the lessons he had learned in agriculture in his earlier days, he has wrought out from the heavy timber a homestead that any farmer might be proud of, and has also increased his estate to 150 acres. In politics he is a democrat, and has held the office of township trustee four terms. His wife is a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Ridenhour) Clem, the former of whom was a prominent farmer of Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., and had born to him eight children, viz: Andrew, Sarah A., William, David, Malinda, Henry, Samuel and Adam. The father of this family, in his later days, became a Lutheran clergyman, and did good and faithful service in the vineyard of the Lord until his death, at the age of seventy-three years. To the marriage of Aaron Kever and Sarah A. Clem have been born eight children, in the following order: Samuel; Alexander, who died at twelve years of age; Henry; William; Ellen, who died at the age of two years; Susan, Matilda and Mary E.

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WILLIAM KIMMELL, the subject of this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania in January, 1820, and was a son of John Kimmell, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1792. John Kimmell was of German descent and was reared by his parents on a farm. Upon arriving at the proper age he was married to Miss Rachel Gregory, also a native of Pennsylvania, and in 1845 removed to Holmes county, Ohio, remaining there until 1850, when, with his family, he removed to Mercer county, where he resided until his death. He was a very liberal man, always ready to aid progressive enterprises and gave freely of his means to charitable purposes; but, notwithstanding all this, at the time of his death he left his family in comfortable circumstances. During the greater part of his life he was a consistent member of the Lutheran church, and politically he was a member of the democratic party. He and his wife were the parents of five children, viz: William, Elizabeth, Sarah, John and Rachel, the last named being the only one now living, and who is a widow, living in Paulding county, Ohio.

William Kimmell, like his father before him, was reared upon a farm and received as good an education as was then afforded by the district schools. For several years before attaining his majority he taught in different country schools, making more full and accurate the knowledge obtained therein as a student, and at the age of twenty-one he removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, in which state he followed the profession of teaching with gratifying success, being especially adapted to the work because of his bright and active intellectual character. Mr. Kimmell was married May 30, 1847, in Holmes county, to Miss Eliza Fry, a native of that county. During the same year he removed upon a farm in Mercer county, and, being an industrious man, met with unusual success in agriculture, as he had done in teaching school. Removing to Massillon in 1853, he there engaged in business as a dry-goods merchant, in which he was likewise very successful. After six years thus spent, on account of failing health he was compelled to retire from business and removed to Michigan, where he remained for eighteen months, when he removed to Van Wert, Ohio, and was there engaged in business as a dry-goods merchant for seven years, at the end of which period he engaged in the sale of machinery for the sake of the exercise in the open air. Not long afterward he was elected superintendent of the Van Wert county infirmary by a large majority. Filling this position with extraordinary credit to himself and satisfaction to the people of the county for one term of four years, they insisted upon his re-election to the place, notwithstanding his desire to retire, and he was again elected by a handsome majority, but afterward retired on account of ill-health. It has ever since been generally conceded that Mr. Kimmell was one of the best, if not the best, infirmary superintendents Van Wert county ever had.

In business he was always straightforward and honorable, and as a natural result of fair dealing was uniformly successful, and at his death, which occurred July 23, 1893, his family were left in comfortable circumstances. Politically he was an uncompromising democrat. Besides being a most enterprising man, he was unusually liberal and free to aid all charitable works. He and his wife were the parents of three children, viz: E. G., M. J. and J. F. E. G. was married in 1862 to Ellen Heath, and now lives with his widowed mother; Jennie was married to Mr. J. F. McGather and died in 1878 in Van Wert county, and Frank married Catherine Heath in 1877 and is a prosperous young farmer of Van Wert county.

Mrs. Eliza Fry, the widow of William Kimmell, was born October 24, 1829. Her father, Frederick Fry, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1811. A shoemaker by trade, he conducted a shoe store and met with great success. In 1821 he married Miss Catherine Holderbaum in Holmes county, and by her had the following named children: Eliza, Amanda, Maria, Josiah, John, Jacob, Michael, Julia, Joseph, Rachel, William and Lucinda, five of whom are deceased. Mrs. Kimmell is a highly respected lady, is a consistent member of and a faithful worker in the Presbyterian church, and has numerous friends. She now resides in her beautiful home in Van Wert, where she is passing the evening of her days in the consciousness of a life well spent in devotion to the welfare of her fellow-beings.

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HENRY H. KING, carpenter and liveryman of Willshire, Van Wert county, is a son of Jesse and Catherine (Sivey) King, and was born in Franklin county, Ohio, February 3, 1842.

Jesse King, father of Henry H., was born in Franklin county, in 1805, and was a son of Philip King, of German descent and a native of Pennsylvania. By occupation Philip King was a farmer and married Miss Leah Wright, by whom he had six children, of whom Jesse was the second-youngest child. Philip King emigrated to Fairfield county, Ohio, when Jesse was but a small boy, and there he spent the remainder of his life. During the war of 1812–15, he served as a soldier in defense of his country, and in politics he was an old-line whig. He having died, his widow removed to Van Wert county, where she died in 1850 at the home of her son. Jesse King was reared upon a farm in Fairfield county, and in 1830 married Catherine Sivey, daughter of John and Phœbe (Holler) Sivey. Jesse King and his wife were the parents of six children, viz: William, deceased; Solomon, a retired farmer and and owner of valuable coal mines in Kansas, —was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion and served in company A, Thirty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry for two years; John, deceased, served in the war as a member of the Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry; Philip, was a soldier in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, served three years and was killed at the battle of Nashville, in December, 1864; Henry H. is the subject of this sketch; Jesse is a prosperous farmer of Black Creek township, and Franklin, who died in infancy.

The mother of these children was born in Richmond, Va., in 1816, and while yet young removed with her parents to Franklin county, Ohio. Her father, John Sivey, was a native of Virginia, and of German ancestry. By trade he was a miller, and was one of the early settlers of Franklin county, remaining there until 1824, when he removed to Adams county, Ind., where he built a mill at what is now called Pleasant mills, and there passed the rest of his days. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812 in the same company as did the paternal grandfather of our subject. He and his wife were parents of four children, viz: William, Jonathan and Levi, all deceased, and Catherine, mother of the subject.

A few words more are due in this sketch to Jesse King and his wife. After their marriage they located in Franklin county, where Mr. King followed farming until 1844. They then removed to Mercer county, and there he entered 300 acres of land from the government, 160 acres of which are still owned by his son, Jesse. Upon this 300-acre tract Mr. King erected a log cabin, cleared his land and lived there until his death, which occurred in March, 1867. He was one of the prominent farmers and citizens of his day; filled the office of justice of the peace for eighteen years, was township trustee a number of times, and also held other and minor offices. In politics, toward the latter part of his life he became a republican, and he was an active member of the United Brethren church, holding at different times all its offices. His wife, equally as devoted a Christian as himself, was a member of the same church, and died in 1878.

Henry H. King, of whom it is now designed briefly to treat, was educated in the common schools, was reared on his father's farm, but learned the trade of carpenter, and has followed that trade all his life. In August, 1862, he enlisted for three years in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served in his regiment down to the battle of Stone River, where he was shot through the ankle and had to be sent to the hospital at Nashville, from which he was discharged in December, 1863. He participated also in the battle of Cumberland Gap, which took place previously to that at Stone River.

In October, 1863, Mr. King was married to Miss Margaret Slusser, daughter of Jacob Slusser; but she lived only seven months after her marriage, dying in her twenty-second year. On August 10, 1865, Mr. King married Miss Miranda Jolly, who was born June 6, 1844. To this marriage were born four children, viz: William H., born August 5, 1866, now deceased; James W., of Convoy; John W., of Willshire, and Charles F., September 26, 1873. The mother of these children died in 1877, and Mr. King married, for his third wife, Miss Anna L. Conklin, daughter of Theodore and Jane (Dawkins) Conklin. To this marriage there has been born one daughter, viz: Frances Marie, born March 18, 1880.

Miss Anna L. Conklin, the third wife of Mr. King, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., February 21, 1848. Her father was a native of New York, was a wagon-make by trade, and located in Fort Wayne in 1843. At Fort Wayne he worked at his trade and also founded an art studio. He was an able and industrious man and was well thought of by all that knew him. In politics he was a republican and served as justice of the peace one term. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, as also was his wife. He died April 1, 1880, in his sixty-eighth year. Her mother was born in Kent county, England, but came to the United States when thirteen years of age, and married here. Her children were three in number, viz: Frank, wife of George Martin, of Chicago; Kate, wife of Michael Bixler, of Hudson, Steuben county, Ind., and Anna L., wife of Mr. King, already mentioned. The mother of these three children died when Mrs. King was seven years of age.

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JAMES W. KISER, manufacturer of tile, living at Dull station, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Bureau county, Ill., October 22, 1848. His grandfather, George W. Kiser, was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and moved many years ago to eastern Ohio, where his death occurred. Lewis Kiser, son of George W. and father of the subject, was also a native of the Keystone state and a farmer by occupation. He married Elsie Spake, daughter of James Spake, and reared a family of five children, viz: Sarah J., Tabitha, James W., Mary M. and Byron. After their marriage, Lewis and Elsie Kiser moved from Ohio to Bureau county, Ill., where they lived for several years, thence emigrated to the state of Missouri. Still later, Lewis Kiser lived in Iowa and Nebraska, and followed agricultural pursuits for a livelihood. He served three years in the late war, participated in a number of bloody battles, and earned a reputation for bravery and gallantry of which any soldier might feel deservedly proud. Mr. Kiser and wife were members of the Christian church and highly respected people.

The immediate subject of this sketch, James W. Kiser, spent the first twenty-six years of his life with his father on the farm, and then began assisting in the manufacture of tile, to which business he has since devoted his attention. About the year 1878, he embarked in the business upon his own responsibility in Van Wert county, Ohio, and during the past fifteen years has operated the factory, which he now owns, at Dull station, it being one of the largest and most successful enterprises of the kind in the county, representing a capital of over $4,000. Mr. Kiser manufactures a superior grade of tiling, which finds a ready sale in Van Wert and adjoining counties, but he frequently ships to more remote markets. His success has been most encouraging, and he is classed with the well-to-do business men of the township of Liberty. Politically he is a democrat, but while taking an active interest in the success of his party, has never been an aspirant for office.

Mr. Kiser was married in Whitley county, Ind., to Miss Louisa Gleason, daughter of Stephen and Amanda Gleason, to which union two children, Ora M. and Hattie M., have been born, the former deceased. The parents of Mrs. Kiser were married in the state of New York, and were among the early pioneers of Van Wert county, Ohio, settling in Pleasant township, where Mr. Gleason was one of the leading farmers.

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JOHN KETZENBARGER, an enterprising young farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born November 28, 1851, a son of Sebastian and Rachael (Cramer) Ketzenbarger. Sebastian was born in Germany in 1823, and was but twelve years of age when brought to America by his parents, Michael and Eve (Staungy) Ketzenbarger, the former of whom died in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1858, and the latter in Wood county, Ohio, in 1874, at the age of eighty years. Sebastian was reared to farming, and about 1847 married Rachael Cramer, daughter of Philip and Christina (Harmon) Cramer, to which union were born nine children, viz.: Belle, John (our subject), Sarah (deceased), Andy, Rene, George, Ella (deceased), Oliver and Mrs. Mary Hammon. Philip Cramer was a native of Pennsylvania and in youth was brought to Ohio by his parents, who located in Fairfield county, where Philip grew to maturity and was married, the the six resulting children being named Adam (deceased), Daniel, Jacob (deceased), Rachael (Mrs. Ketzenbarger), Christina and Peggy (both deceased). Rachael, subject's mother, was born in Fairfield county about 1818, and died in Hancock county in 1893, a member of the United Brethren church.

John Ketzenbarger, our subject, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, was reared a farmer and educated in the common schools of his township. In 1872 he married Miss Mary

Fackler, daughter of Henry and Nancy (Bear) Fackler, whose biography is attached hereto. To this union have been born five children, viz.: Homer M., Hermi I., Florence E., Alice J. and Earnest J. Mrs. Ketzenbarger was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1853, and was married in Wood county, where her husband had located in 1866, and where he followed farming until 1890, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased his present home, which is one of the finest farms in Hoaglin township. In February, 1893, Mr. Kentzenbarger met with a serious accident on the Pittsburg railroad, near Columbus City, two coaches, in one of which he was a passenger, being precipitated down an embankment about twenty-five feet deep, killing one passenger outright and injuring some thirty others. In this disaster Mr. Ketzenbarger had a shoulder dislocated and sustained a number of other injuries, from which he has not yet fully recovered. In politics Mr. Ketzenbarger is a democrat, and holds the office of township treasurer; fraternally he is a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 251, I. O. O. F., and is recognized by the community at large as a straightforward, upright gentleman; as a farmer he is progressive and prosperous, taking an active interest in the welfare of his county and aiding in every public enterprise designed for its advancement.

Henry H. Fackler, a prominent farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., in 1823, to Abraham and Barbara (Hough) Fackler. Abraham Fackler was born in the same county in 1777, and was a son of Wentle Fackler, who was born in Germany, in 1746. At the age of seventeen years Wentle came to America, and was sold or apprenticed, on the streets of Philadelphia, for three years to reimburse the funds necessary to defray his passage expenses, but by the time his term had half expired he was released by his master and employed at regular laboring rates. Two years later he returned to his native country for his mother and two brothers, his father having been killed in battle. On his return to America he served three years in the Revolution under Washington, enduring the hardships of Valley Forge and encountering Burgoyne in the north and Cornwallis in the south. He then bought a tract of land from the government and hewed out a home. He married Anna Rank, and to this union were born ten children, of whom Abraham was the eldest son, and departed his life in 1823, a member of the Presbyterian church.

Abraham Fackler, father of Henry H., was reared on his father's farm, and also learned the trade of weaving. He took an active part in the war of 1812, and fought, among other places, in the battles of Buffalo, N. Y., and Baltimore, Md. In early life he was a Presbyterian, but later became a German Baptist, and married, March 30, 1801, Barbara Hough, daughter of Henry Hough, who was a Revolutionary officer, and to this marriage were born fourteen children, of whom two only are still living—Wentle and Henry H. The mother of these was born in 1781, of German parentage, was also a member of the German Baptist church, and died May 10, 1844—the father surviving until January 12, 1866, when he died in Richland county, Ohio.

Henry H. Fackler was reared a farmer, and became quite accomplished in both the German and English languages. In 1840 he came with his father from Pennsylvania, in wagons, to Richland county, Ohio, and here began farming for himself on an eighty-acre tract, which he drained and improved with good and substantial buildings, but in 1868 sold and bought land in Wood county, Ohio, where he lived nearly twenty-two years. In 1890 he sold this farm, increased to 200 acres, and bought his present home of 239 acres, in addition to which he has given homes to his children. On September 7, 1843, Henry H. Fackler married Nancy Bear, who was born in Dauphin county, Pa., in 1819, a daughter of Henry and Maria (Nisley) Bear, and this marriage has been blessed by the birth of the following children: Jacob, deceased; Solomon, farmer of Union township, Van Wert county; Emanuel, deceased; Mary, wife of John Ketzenbarger, of Hoaglin township; Leah, deceased; Sarah A., married to Addison Fry, of Union township (deceased); Alice, married to William Young, a farmer of Union township. In his politics Mr. Fackler is conservative, voting for a good man rather than for a party nominee.

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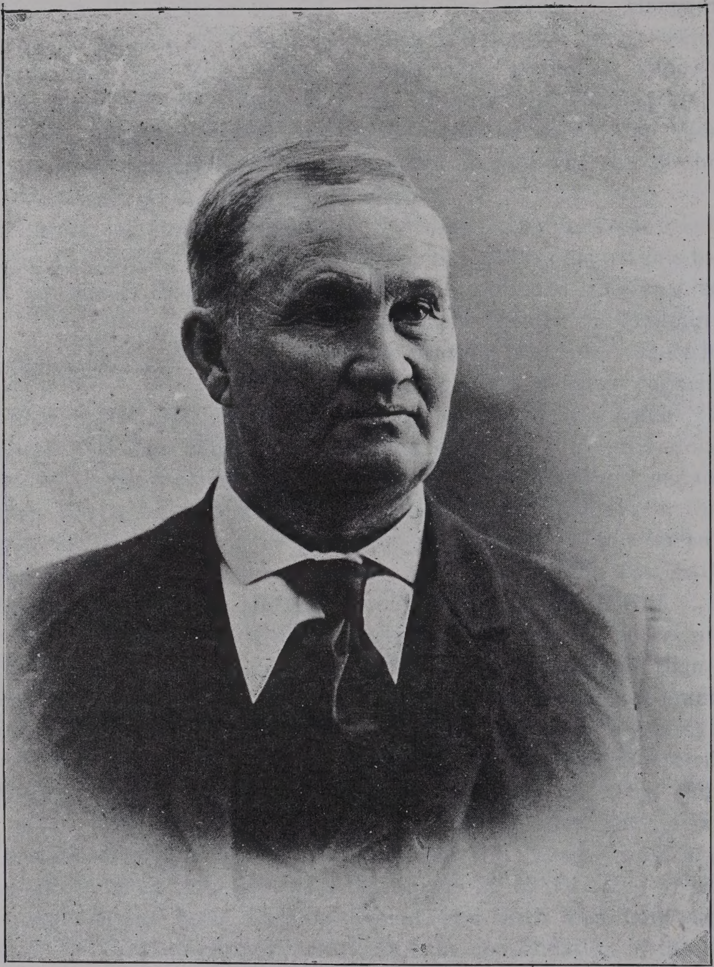
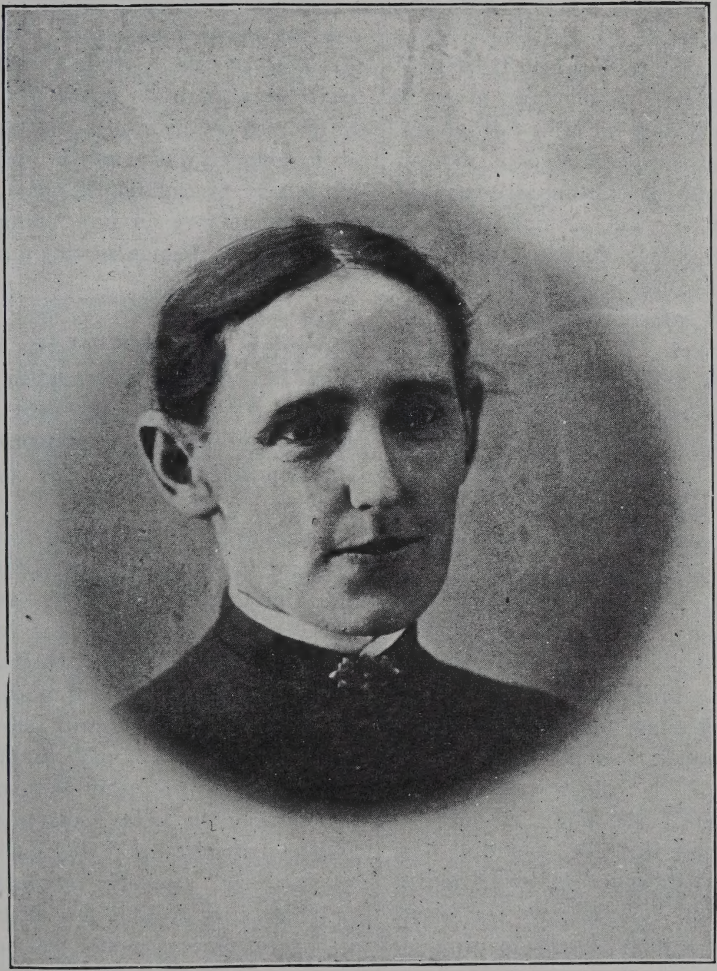
HON. HENRY PAGE HOLMES, probate judge of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Richland county, of the same state, March 1, 1840, a son of Samuel and Clarissa M. (Page) Holmes. The father, Samuel Holmes, was also a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Harrison county in April, 1814, a son of Jacob Holmes, a native of Virginia who early settled in Harrison county, Ohio, but later removed to Crawford county, where he passed his years in farming, and where he died, the father of eight children, viz: Mary, Samuel, Thomas, Abraham, Elizabeth, John, Barrick and William. Samuel Holmes was reared a farmer and carpenter, and followed the latter vocation until 1853, when he engaged in the hotel business in the city of Van Wert, for the first two years conducting the American house, which then stood where the Hall dry-goods store now stands, then keeping the Saint Charles house for a year, after which he built the Vant Wert house and conducted it for five years, when he sold out and carried on the Avenue hotel for a year, when he retired from active life and passed away September 12, 1889, well remembered for his genial disposition and unfailing urbanity. He was married in Richland county, Ohio, February 14, 1839, to Clarissa M. Page, who was born in Windsor county, Vt., February 9, 1820, a daughter Harry and Celina (Ives) Page, and to this union were born four children, viz: Henry P., Mary E., Celina E., and Emma A. The mother of these children now resides in Van Wert, a highly respected member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry P. Holmes was a lad of twelve years when brought by his parents to Van Wert, and here he attended the city schools until, at fifteen, he entered the Bulletin office to learn the printing business. Here he remained five years, serving in every capacity and learning every detail of the trade. In April, 1861, however, the call to arms aroused his patriotism, and he enlisted in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three months, and was sent to the front in western Virginia, where he took part in the battles of Philippi, Garret's Ford and Laurel Hill. Returning to his native state, he for three months attended school at Leesville, and then re-enlisted, entering company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years; he went out as orderly sergeant, was promoted to second lieutenant January 2, 1863, January 9, 1863, was promoted to first lieutenant, and on January 15, 1863, was made captain of company E, of the same (Ninety-ninth) regiment, and with this company he remained until the consolidation of the western army—with which the regiment had been identified from the beginning—when he was mustered out on December 31st, 1864. Capt. Holmes then came home and engaged in the milling business for two years; he then married and settled down to farming in Union township, where he still owns 320 acres of fine land, and



Henry P. Holmes



Emmaline Holmes

where he was peacefully, but actively, employed until 1892, when he was elected probate judge of the county by a majority of forty-four. The marriage of the captain occurred in Van Wert county August 16, 1867, Miss Emeline Burt being the bride. This lady is a daughter of Daniel Burt; was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1857, and is now the happy mother of seven children, viz: Burt, Elizabeth, Harry, Catherine, Walter, Grace and Anna. Capt. Holmes is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Patrons of Husbandry, and no gentleman of the county is more highly esteemed.

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JOSEPH KLINGER, an experienced farmer and practical carpenter, of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Hocking county June 12, 1815, and is of sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock.

John Henry Klinger, father of the subject of this biography, was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio in 1812. He entered eighty acres of land in Hocking county, and married, in Fairfield county, Elizabeth Bresler, the union resulting in the birth of nine children, viz: Lydia, Joseph, John, Henry, three that died in infancy, Tinnie and Phebe. After clearing up a part of his eighty acres, here he lived to be seventy-one years, six months and eleven days of age, died a respected citizen, and was in politics a democrat.

Joseph Klinger, our subject, was reared on a farm and learned the carpenter's trade in Hocking county. When about nineteen years of age he married, July 8, 1834, Eliza E. Crist, who was born October 19, 1812, the prolific union resulting in the birth of fifteen children, viz: Two, who died in infancy; John W., who died at the age of four years; William; Jacob and Jackson, twins; Daniel P., Isabel, Mary A., Eliza A., Tinnie; Matilda, died at the age of eleven; Joseph, Asa and Ella. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Klinger resided on an eighty-acre farm in the woods of Hocking county, which he partly cleared up and then sold; he next lived on rented land until September 6, 1853, when he came to Van Wert county and bought a farm of 120 acres in Washington township, deep in the woods; this farm he soon denuded of its forest growth, made a fine home, and did, beside, an immense amount of clearing for others.

At Delphos, Ohio, in 1863, Mr. Klinger enlisted in company A, One Hundred and Fifty-first regiment, Ohio National guards, for 100 days, under Capt. Edward King, was on duty at Washington, D. C., was present when the rebels made their attack on the works, and after a service of 120 days was honorably discharged, with the compliments of his captain for his faithful performance of his duty. Mr. Klinger then returned to his farm, which he has never since had occasion to leave. Mr. Klinger also had two sons in the war—Jackson and Daniel P.—both in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio infantry; also one brother, Daniel, in an Ohio regiment, and also a half-brother, Fred Smith, in an infantry regiment from the same state, who was for a long time a prisoner in four different prisons—among them Andersonville.

June 21, 1892, Mr. Klinger had the misfortune to lose his devoted life companion and helpmate, at the age of fifty-nine years. She was a true woman and mother, and died in the faith of the Methodist church, of which she had been for many years a pious member; of this church Mr. Klinger was for a long time class-leader, steward and Sunday-school superintendent, and a constant attendant until advancing years, with accompanying infirmities, precluded his further mingling with his brethren in their house of worship. In politics Mr.

Klinger was first a democrat, but changed his proclivities and joined the republicans in the infancy of their organization, and voted for their first nominee for president of the United States—John C. Fremont. He has always held the respect of his party and of the citizens, and has held the usual township offices. In the days of vigor and strength that graced his youth and earlier manhood, he was an industrious and a willing worker, and his mellow middle age was still marked by diligence and well directed toil. He has always been liberal in his support of enterprises designed for the public welfare, and stands before his fellowmen an honored citizen, father, patriot and man.

* * *

DANIEL P. KLINGER, one of the ex-soldiers of the late Civil war and a respected farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Joseph and Eliza Klinger, of whom further mention is made on another page, and was born in Hocking county, Ohio, February 10, 1841. He was quite well educated in his native county up to the age of thirteen years, in the meantime being inured to the hardships of a boy's farmer life. At the age named he was brought by his parents to Van Wert county and here reared to manhood on the home farm, and became an expert agriculturist. At Delphos, in this county, he enlisted, August 22, 1862, in company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until honorably discharged, at Salisbury, N. C., June 24, 1865, through general orders, and a few weeks within the expiration of the term of his full enlistment, which was for three years, or during the war. He fought in the battles of Mossy Creek, Tenn., and Buzzard's Roost, and was in all the fights of the Atlanta campaign, except Resaca, in which his regiment participated—in this campaign being for nearly three months under fire night and day. Later he fought at Dallas, Pumpkinvine Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, and still later in the battle in front of Atlanta; was in the pursuit of Hood, and finally was with Sherman when Atlanta fell, September 2, 1864. He was also at the battles of Columbia, Duck River, Spring Hill, Franklin, and the two days' fight at Nashville, Tenn.; he was also at Fort Anderson, and so held on, a brave and faithful soldier, until a victorious peace was reached.

At the conclusion of the Civil war Mr. Klinger retired to Van Wert county, Ohio, and here married, February 18, 1866, Sarah J. Carpenter, who was born April 21, 1843, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a daughter of James William Carpenter, a pioneer of Washington township, Van Wert county. James W. Carpenter was of Virginia birth and of English descent; his grandfather, John Carpenter, was a soldier of the Revolution, and his son, William R. Carpenter, who was born in Virginia, February 3, 1792, served in the war of 1812. He married Catherine Brewer, whose only child, James William, was born near Richmond, Va., where he was first married and where his first wife died. Later he moved to West Virginia and married Betsey Barnes, who bore three children, two of whom died young. John Carpenter eventually settled near Rushville, Fairfield county, Ohio, an honored member of the Baptist church.

James W. Carpenter, father of Mrs. Klinger, was born near Richmond, Va., February 20, 1821, and was about five years of age when he was taken to West Virginia by his father, and thence brought to Ohio. He married, April 28, 1842, in Fairfield county, Susannah Ream, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 7, 1823, a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Clines) Ream, the union resulting in the birth of thirteen children, viz: Sarah J., Charles

W., Mary A., Rebecca E., David S., Margaret E., Emma C., Clarissa P., Alvira, Wilson H. L., Minerva I., Lucetta and Iga O.—the first six born in Fairfield county and the remainder in Van Wert county, Ohio. Mr. Carpenter lived in Fairfield county until 1851, and then came to Van Wert county, where he bought and has cleared up 120 acres from the woods, and stands among the most respected residents of the township. He has held the offices of township trustee and steward of the United Brethren church, and in politics is a republican. His son, C. W. Carpenter, was a gallant soldier in the Civil war, and for seventeen months endured all the miseries of a rebel prison.

After marriage Mr. Klinger settled on his present farm, which then consisted of forty acres only, but which he has since cleared foom the woods and increased to eighty acres, improved with every possible convenience. To his marriage have been born eight children, viz: J. W. S., who died at the age of twenty-seven years; David E., who died at twenty-one; Irena, Reuben, Irella I., John G., Lola and Elva. The parents of this family are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Klinger is a trustee and Sunday-school superintendent. In politics Mr. Klinger is a republican, is one of the most honored citizens of Washington township, and is rearing his children to become, like himself, worthy and useful members of society.

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JOHN H. KOCH.—Prominent among the younger farmers of Liberty township is the well-known man whose name introduces this paragraph. The father of the subject, John H. Koch, was born in Hanover, Germany, in July, 1824, and received a good education in his native country. After coming to the United States John H. Koch married and rented land in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, but in 1860, became a resident of the county of Van Wert, settling in Liberty township, where he became owner of a farm consisting of 120 acres. He was a Lutheran in his church affiliations and in politics supported the democratic party; he died June 17, 1888; but his wife had preceded him to the grave, departing this life in 1875. To John H. Koch and wife were born the following-named children: John H., Louisa, Mary, George L. and Charles F., all living at this time.

John H. Koch, Jr., was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, May 19, 1858, but from the age of two years has been a resident of the township in which he now resides in Van Wert county. He was educated in both the English and German languages and early decided upon the useful calling of agriculture for his vocation, and since beginning life for himself has devoted his time and energies to the same. His success has been commensurate with his industry and good judgment, and he is now the possessor of over 300 acres of valuable farm land beside other property, and is comfortably situated financially.

Mr. Koch has served two terms as mayor of Ohio City, and at this time is discharging the duties of the second term of justice of the peace, having an office in the aforesaid town. He also represents the Columbia Building & Loan associations, and does a remunerative business in real estate, loans and collecting; in politics he is a democrat. Mr. Koch was married October 11, 1890, to Emrettie Albaugh, daughter of George and Ann Eliza (Grove) Albaugh. Mrs. Koch's parents were born in Stark county, Ohio, where they were also married. In 1856 they came to Van Wert county and settled in Liberty township, where the father's death occurred October 22, 1872; the mother is still living on the home farm. The following are the names of the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Koch: Hannah J., Ellen, Samuel and Laura, all deceased except Laura.

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GEORGE W. KOHN, the able editor and manager of the Van Wert Times, is a native of Paulding county, Ohio, and was born October 8, 1860, a son of Samson and Margaret H. (German) Kohn. The paternal grandfather of our subject was born in Virginia and was an early settler of the Buckeye state. He died while his son Samson was still quite young, after which sad occurrence his widow removed with her family to the Middle Creek settlement, in Paulding county, where her son Samson (who was born at Central College, Franklin county, Ohio) was reared to manhood and was married.

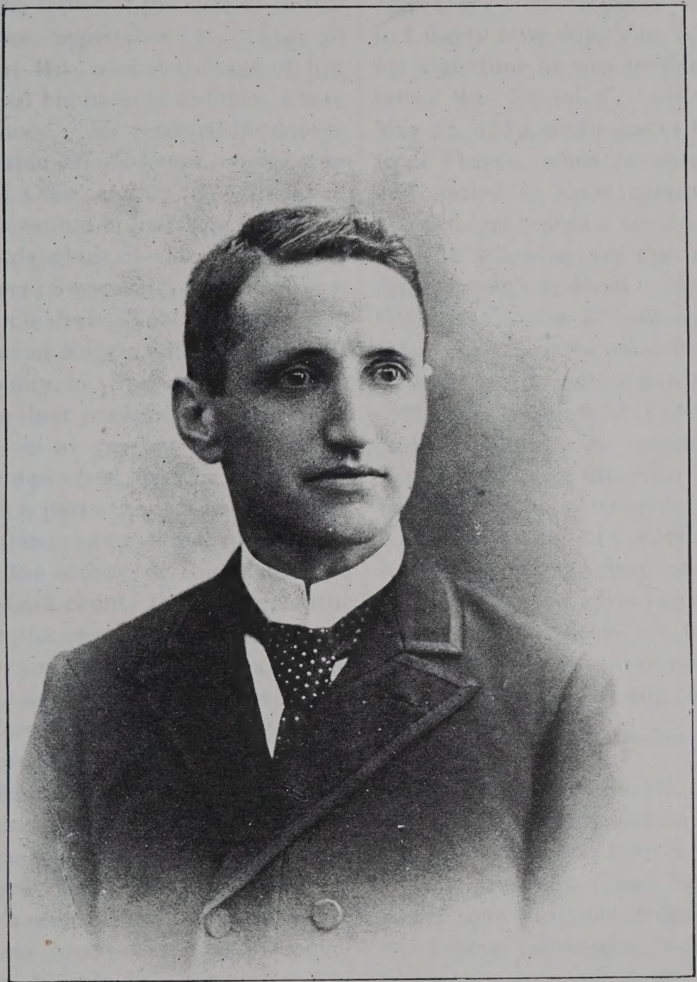
In 1870, Samson Kohn came to Van Wert county, and purchased his present farm in Pleasant township, close to the Van Wert city boundary, where he has since been prosperously engaged in the buying and shipping of horses and cattle, at the same time looking after his farming interests. His marriage has been blessed by the birth of five children, named George W. (our subject), Mrs. Mary C. Morton, Thomas H., Lucy A., wife of H. G. Bergert, of Chicago, Ill.), and Miss Emma J. Kohn. Politically Samson Kohn is a stanch democrat, and in his religion is devotedly attached to the Methodist Episcopal church, and to the support of which he is a liberal contributor, and in the faith of which his lamented wife was laid to rest July 17, 1891.

George W. Kohn, whose name stands at the head of this biographical notice, received his elementary education in the public schools of Van Wert city and was advanced to the high school, from which he was graduated in June, 1877. The next year he entered the Ohio Wesleyan university, Delaware, Ohio, and from this institution he graduated with the class of 1882. He chose the law as a profession, read under the auspices of Estep, Dickey & Squire, of Cleveland, Ohio, and in June, 1884, was admitted to practice at the bar. Returning to Van Wert, he formed a partnership with Saltzgaber & Glenn and continued in practice two years, when he withdrew from the firm and organized, in July, 1886, a stock company, which purchased the Van Wert Times establishment, and of this newspaper Mr. Kohn has been editor and manager up to the present time. In this capacity he has made the Times a newsy and popular journal, and as an organ of the democratic party has placed it at the head of the influential papers of the state of Ohio.

The marriage of Mr. Kohn was solemnized, November 22, 1892, with Miss Carrie Boyd, daughter of Robert Boyd, of London, Madison county, Ohio, and this felicitous union was crowned by the birth, July 3, 1894, of a daughter—Margaret Alice.

* * *

OLIVER KOOGLE.—The family of which the subject of this biography is a representative is of German origin. His grandfather, Jacob Koogle, was a native of Maryland, and early immigrated to Ohio, settling, about the year of 1819, in the county of Ashland, where he took possession of a small log cabin, on the Black Creek, in which, a few years previous, a family by the name of Seymore, had been murdered by Indians. By occupation Jacob Koogle was a blacksmith, and did much of the work for the early pioneers of Ashland county, among whom he settled. In religion he was a Lutheran, in politics a democrat, and in all things a first-class citizen. He was a hero in the war of 1812, and died in January, 1871; his de-



Geo. W. Kohn

voted wife preceded him twenty years, dying in 1851.

Daniel Koogle, father of the subject of this sketch, was born September 25, 1814, in Frederick county, Md., and at the age of five years accompanied his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He received his education in the log cabin school-house, common in the early days of Ohio, and on the 14th day of April, 1837, was united in marriage to Susannah Swoveland, daughter of John and Christian (Mesenheimer) Swoveland, to which union were born three children—Tobias, George W., and Oliver. Daniel Koogle and family moved to Van Wert county, in 1854, and settled on a farm near where their youngest son, subject of this biography, is at present residing. He made a farm of 240 acres, and for eight years operated, during a part of the summer seasons, a threshing machine, having first commenced that business in the county of Richland. He brought to Richland county the first separator ever operated in the county; he was treasurer of his township for eight years, was a democrat in politics, and like his ancestors, for several generations, subscribed to the creed of the Lutheran church. He died June 22, 1894; his widow, at this time, makes her home with the subject of this sketch.

Oliver Koogle was born in Ashland county, Ohio, March 27, 1846, and there remained until the family's removal to the county of Van Wert, in the year mentioned in a preceding paragraph. Mr. Koogle has always been a tiller of the soil, and ranks with the best farmers of his township. He was first married to Sarah Wise, who died within two years of the celebration of the nuptials, and April 12, 1877, he married Sarah E. LeBlond, daughter of Christopher and Charlotte (Cooper) LeBlond. Mrs. Koogle's father was a native of Knox county, Ohio, born November 16, 1814. He married in that county, but soon afterward moved to the county of Mercer, locating in the town of Celina, where he followed the carpenter's trade for some years, thence moved to Liberty township, Van Wert county, where for some time he was similarly engaged. His father was Everah C. LeBlond, born in Paris May 22, 1789, and came to the United States, from France, when seventeen years of age, and settled in Knox county, Ohio, where he married and reared a family.

The following are the names of Mr. and Mrs. Koogle's children: Myrtle A., Clyde P., Otis O., Charles F. and Catherine M. Mr. Koogle is a progressive farmer and trustworthy citizen. In partnership with his brother he owns 240 acres of land, which is well improved, and, in addition to agricultural pursuits, he pays considerable attention to dairy farming, having upon his place quite a number of fine Guernsey cattle. In matters educational he has always taken a deep interest and has given his children good advantages in that direction; politically he wields an influence with the democratic party, and in religion is liberal, not being indentified with any church organization.

LEONARD KUHL, an old and well known resident of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in the county of Tuscarawas, Ohio, November 20, 1834, son of John and Anna (Dilp) Kuhl. The father was born in Germany in 1801, and the mother's birth also occurred in the same country, in 1794, and their marriage took place about 1829. Shortly thereafter, they left their native land, and, immigrating to the United States, settled in Pennsylvania; thence, a few years later they moved to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where Mr. Kuhl engaged in farming. Subseqnently, he became a resident of the county of Richland, where he remained a few years, and then moved to Van Wert county, settling in Liberty township, where, for some time, he farmed a place for a part of the proceeds; later he purchased a place, made a good home and died in December, 1893; his wife had preceded him to the grave, departing this life about 1881. Mr. Kuhl was twice married, his second wife, to whom he was untied in 1886, being a Miss Ellory, who died in September, 1895. The following are the names of the children born to John and Anna Kuhl: Henry, Leonard, Philip, Daniel, John, Anna M., deceased; Hulda, wife of John Snyder; Sarah A. and Jesse. By a previous marriage with Adam Smith, Mrs. Kuhl had two children—John H., deceased, and Adam, of Liberty township, Van Wert county.

When two years of age, Leonard Kuhl was taken by his parents to Richland county, later accompanied them to the county of Van Wert, was reared to agricultural pursuits, and received his education in the common schools. May 10, 1863, Mr. Kuhl enlisted, in Miami county, Ohio, in company G, Forty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, for ninety days, but was not discharged until September, 1863. In 1865 he married Phebe Hardenbrook, daughter of Peter and Mary Hardenbrook. Mrs. Kuhl was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, August 25, 1827, and was eight years of age when her mother died. Her father was born in New Jersey, in 1801, the son of James Hardenbrook, who came to the United States from Germany in the time of the colonies and settled in one of the eastern states. Peter Hardenbrook emigrated with his parents to Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1819, and was married in 1825, to Mary Wagner, whose birth occurred in Virginia, in 1804; she died in 1839, in Illinois. Peter Hardenbrook lived in Hamilton county, Ohio, until 1837, when he moved to Illinois, thence two years later returned to Hamilton county, Ohio, remained there until 1845, when he moved to Miami county, Ohio, where his death occurred in 1866. In the meantime, 1841, he married his second wife, Susan Merrill, who departed this life in 1864. To the marriage of Peter and Mary Hardenbrook were born the following children: John B., Phebe, Mrs. Rebecca F. Smith, Mrs. Leah Buckles, Mrs. Mary A. Eisley and Laura.

In 1866, the subject of this sketch moved to Miami county, Ohio, where he farmed his father-in-law's place four years, and in 1870 purchased his present farm of eighty acres in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, where he has since resided. He is a member of the United Brethren church, a republican in politics and one of the progressive citizens of the community. To the subject and wife have been born five children—Albert; Clara, wife of P. Stump; Edgar, killed at the age of twenty-seven by a runaway team; Jodey, died in infancy, and Ward, deceased.

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HENRY KUNDERT, one of the well known farmers and citizens, and an ex-Union soldier, of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in the republic of Switzerland June 7, 1844. His father was Jacob Kundert, who brought his family to the United States in 1854. He first located near Kendallville, Noble county, Ind., where he remained one year, and then moved to Delphos, Ohio, where he lived for a year or two. He then bought a small place near Delphos, and then, in 1864, purchased a farm of eighty acres in section No. 12, Washington township, Van Wert county, and moved on it, where he lived until 1872, when he returned to Delphos, where he now resides, being in his eighty-first year. His wife is still living, being in her seventy-eighth year. They are members of the Lutheran church. To these parents four children were born, all in the old country, of whom Bertha is the wife of John Vogt, of Washington township; Henry and Christ, the latter a farmer of Washington township, are two of the sons. Henry Kundert received his schooling in the old country and in Delphos, getting both a German and an English education, and remained with his parents until he went into the Union army, enlisting in January, 1864, in company E, Fifty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, under Col. Rice. He was mustered in at Lima, and then went to Camp Dennison, near Dayton. They then went to Louisville, Ky., and thence to Nashville, Tenn., being in Logan's Fifteenth army corps, and was also with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. His first engagement was at Resaca, where a man on each side of him was killed, but he escaped injury. He was next in the battle at Dallas, Ga., then at Kenesaw Mountain, then at Atlanta, where, on the 22d day of July, he was captured. He, with other prisoners, was then taken to Andersonville prison, where he was held until the 22d day of September, when he was exchanged. While in prison he was seized with neuralgia and scurvy, which ruined his health, and when he was exchanged he was too sick to go with the army, and there was no way for him to be sent home on a furlough. When Sherman left Atlanta Mr. Kundert was too weak to walk, and so was given an old mule to ride for a couple of weeks, after which time he was able to march. He went with the army to the sea, thence through South and North Carolina. He was at Savannah, his division capturing Fort McAllister at that place. He was also at Columbia, S. C., when the town was captured and destroyed by fire. He was also at Goldsboro and Bentonville, N. C., the battle of Bentonville being the last fight. After the surrender of Johnston the army went to Petersburg and Richmond, Va., and then on to Washington to the grand review. They went to Louisville, Ky., and his division was taken to Little Rock, Ark., where they remained two months, and were there discharged August 28, 1865. He then came back to Columbus, where they were paid off, and then he came to Delphos. He then stayed with his father for a few years, and then, in 1869, he married Kate Binder, bought the place where he now lives, and began farming, at which he has since continued. He has eighty acres, fifty of which are improved and all under fence, and has a good residence, which he built in the spring of 1895.

To Mr. Kundert and wife twelve children have been born, all living, as follows: Charles, John, Jacob, Elizabeth, Christ, Kate, Henry, William, Fred, George, Oscar and Lucy. Mr. Kundert and family are members of the Lutheran church.

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JOHN C. LAMERSON, janitor of the high school building at Van Wert, was born in Hunterdon county, N. J., January 16, 1841, and is a son of John and Catherine (Aller) Lamerson, both natives of New Jersey and. of English descent. John Lamerson is a farmer, still residing in New Jersey.

John C. Lamerson remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, in the meantime securing a fair English education. In 1863 he removed to Van Wert county, where he has since resided. For some time after reaching this county he followed stationary engineering, but later engrged in the manufacture of staves, stave factories at that time abounding in this part of Ohio, and he became an expert in stave jointing. This branch of industry he followed until 1885, at which time he became engaged as janitor at the high school building, which position he still retains, and in which he gives universal satisfaction. He has eighteen rooms to care for, and, in addition, the five acres of ground surrounding the building.

On December 8, 1872, Mr. Lamerson married Mary Elizabeth Heckathorn, a daughter of Henry and Esther (Hartle) Heckathorn, natives of Winchester, Va., and of Georgetown, Pa., respectively. When a young man Mr. Heckathorn came to Ohio, and died in Wyandot county, in 1852, at the age of forty-two years. Mrs. Heckathorn with her family removed to Van Wert in 1868, and is still living, at the age of seventy-seven, her home being with her daughter. Mrs. Hechathorn is a granddaughter of Capt. Andrew Poe, a pioneer of Pennsylvania, noted in American history as the man who killed Big Foot, and his companion, two Indians that attacked him on his travels through the woods, he being engaged for years in purchasing at Pittsburg and causing them to be transported to the western pioneers, and having, during those years, many hair-breadth escapes, it being necessary for him to travel alone at all hours day and night. Every school-boy is familiar with the name and fame of Andrew Poe. Mrs. Heckathorn is a first cousin of the celebrated poet, Edgar Allan Poe, whom certain English writers consider the finest and most original poetical genius yet produced in America. George Poe, father of George, Andrew and Adam Poe, was one of the nobility of Germany. Mrs. Heckathorn is also a descendant of the Paton, Capt. Andrew Poe's wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Paton Poe, was of the lineage of the great missionary, John G. Paton, whose books on his life and labors among the savages of the New Hebrides thrill all who read them.

Mrs. Heckathorn's only son, John O., saw three years' hard service during the war of the Rebellion in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, was a prisoner of war two months at Belle Isle and three months in Libby prison. He was with Gen. Grant through the campaign in the Wilderness, and was present at the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865. He brought home with him a portion of the famous apple tree at Appomattox court house, which Mrs. Heckathorn still has in her possession, the tree being that under which the terms of surrender were agreed upon. He came home broken down in health and died in Van Wert in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Lamerson live in a comfortable home on Dickerson avenue, in Van Wert, with their three children, Charles Edgar, Maude Hazeltine and Gracie Marie. One child, Orlenthus Albert, is dead. Mr. Lamerson is a republican, and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

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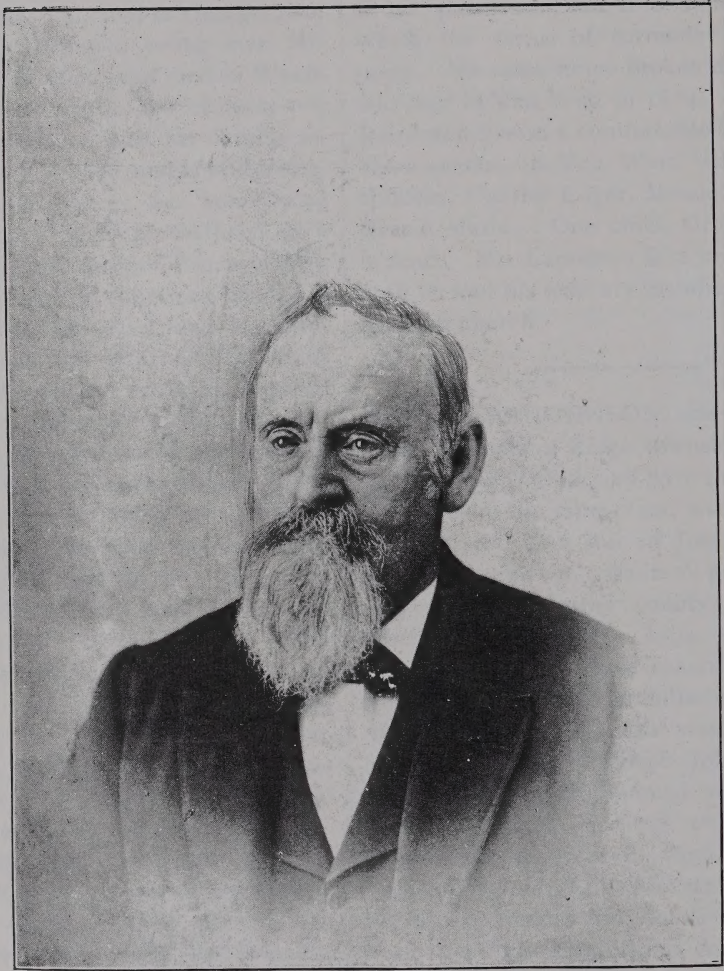
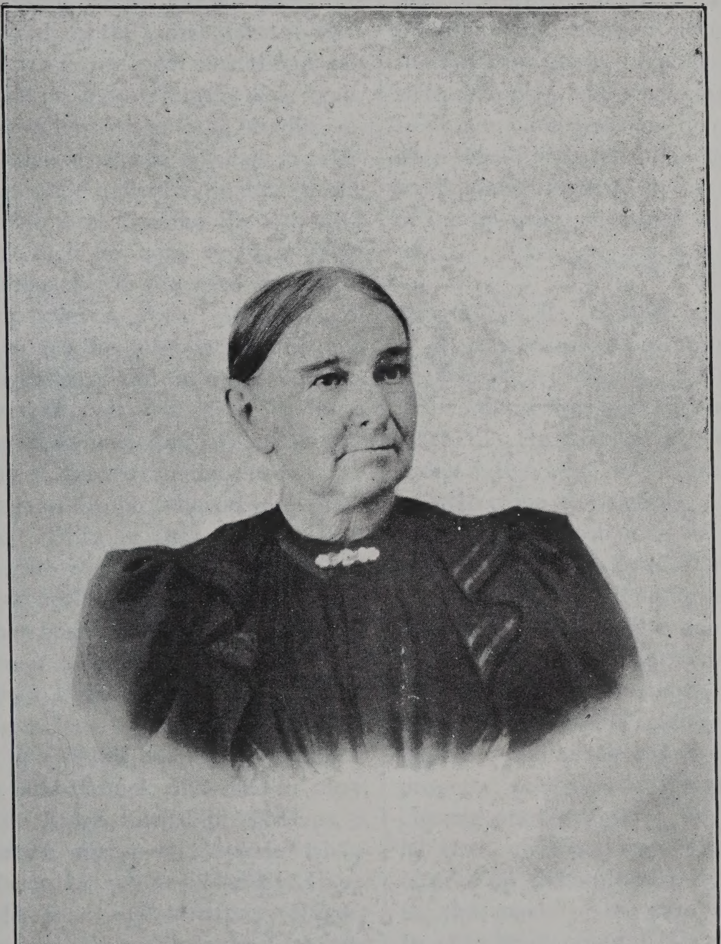
JOSEPH JOHNSON, one of the pioneer farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Butler county in the same state, was born January 2, 1826, and is a son of Joseph and Betsy (Mustard) Johnson, who in all probability were also natives of Butler county, and born, respectively, October 23, 1794, and December 11, 1804. Joseph, Sr., inherited some land from his father, Eli, (grandfather of our subject), and thus had a fair start in life. The brother and sister of Joseph Johnson, our subject, were born and named in the following order: William, deceased, who came to Van Wert about the year of 1856 and became a large land owner; Eli, who reared a large family, and in middle life, while threshing, fell dead on a straw stack; John, deceased; Joseph, our subject, is next in order of birth; Nancy, widow of George Morton, of Liberty, Ind.; Thomas, a resident of Butler county, Ohio; Ruth, widow of Michael Weaver, also of Butler county;Elizabeth, who died in maidenhood; Jason, who served in the late war, and now resides in Butler county; Daniel, who was also a



Joseph Johnson



Magdalene Johnson

soldier, died of small-pox; Elijah died in boyhood; Bennet reared a family and died in Butler county; James, the youngest of this family, owns a farm in Ridge township, Van Wert county, having come here in 1870.

Joseph Johnson, whose name opens this sketch, was reared on the home farm in Butler county and had but meager educational advantages, but his precéptive powers were keen, and his memory retentive, and he readily acquired a knowledge of men and things in practical life that he could never have gained in the school-room. He first became the owner of realty in 1859, then he came to Van Wert county and purchased 160 acres in Ridge township, about five miles southeast of the city of Van Wert, on which he has made many substantial improvements and brought under a state of cultivation that will place it on a favorable comparison with any farm of its size in Ridge or any of the surrounding townships.

The marriage of Joseph Johnson took place in Butler county, Ohio, in the year of 1849, to Magdalene Forlow, daughter of John and Catherine (Wallsmith) Forlow, and the result of this union has been the following children: William, a farmer and justice of the peace, of Ridge township; Delilah, at home with her parents; Margaret Ann, wife of Stephen Walter, a farmer of Shelby county, Ill.; James, who wedded a Miss Palmer, and died in 1893; Richard M., of Ridge township; Thomas, a farmer of Liberty township, who married Elizabeth Hertel; Jason L., who wedded Eve Gamble, and resides in Ridge township; Harvey Allen, who married Minnie Longwell, and resides in Shelby county, Ill.; Daniel Edward, who married Samantha Dunifon, and lives on the old homestead in Ridge township; Amos Irvin, also a resident of Ridge township and married to Laura Sanders; Scott E., at home; Joseph Perry, a clerk in the city of Van Wert and married to Teressa Faber; and one child that died in infancy. In politics Mr. Johnson is a republican and has for several terms served as township trustee, and in 1882 was elected infirmary director. He has also been popular with his fellow-cizens, and is known to be a man of sterling integrity. That he is a man of indomitable will and untiring, is proven by the fact that he is what is generally called a self-made man, and while his wealth was hard to obtain, he is free and generous in its expenditure for all projects intended to be of benefit to the public at large or for the improvement of the township and county.

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JOHN C. LAMPE, now deceased, but once a most prosperous farmer and respected citizen of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, in 1814. He received a very good education in his native land, was reared to farming, and in 1840 came to America, landing in Baltimore, Md., and making his way at once, via Pittsburg, Pa., to Zoar, Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he worked for six years in an iron furnace. In 1847 he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and purchased a farm in the woods of York township. This farm he immediately proceeded to clear up and otherwise improve, and at the end of four years sold the property, removing to Mercer county and purchasing another tract. For twenty-five years he lived on this farm, which he thoroughly cleared up and improved, every rod of it showing the marks of his care and manipulation. In 1877 he disposed of his carefully cultivated Mercer county property, came to Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and purchased the present home of the family, on which his death took place April 15, 1877.

The marriage of Mr. Lampe was solemnized in October, 1844, with Miss Mary Marbough, daughter of John and Mary (Garber) Marbough, natives of canton Berne, Switzerland, but residents at this time of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lampe were born five children, namely: Mary C., wife of Jacob Hartel, of Dixon, Ohio; John G., who died in infancy; Annie E., who lives with her mother on the old home place; and Henry and Christian F., who constitute the well-known firm of Lampe Brothers, stock breeders of Van Wert county. Mrs. Mary Lampe was born in canton Berne, Switzerland, in 1823, and when eleven years of age was brought to America by her parents, who located in Starke county, where they resided until 1838, and then moved to Tuscarawas, where the father continued farming until his death, in 1841, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lampe were active members of the Evangelical church, and politically Mr. Lampe was a democrat. He was prominent as a Freemason, and as a member of the Patrons of Husbandry he did much to advance the agricultural interests of the county, being a progressive and successful farmer, as well as a patriotic and public-spirited citizen. He was conscientious, upright and honorable in all his dealings, and won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Mrs. Lampe has now passed her three score and ten years, and can look back on her life with complacency, she ever having lived in the exercise of the Christian virtues and in the performance of her duties as a true woman.

Mrs Mary C. Hartel, elder daughter of John C. and Mary (Marbough) Lampe and their eldest child, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1845, grew to womanhood in the country home of her parents and received a good common-school education. To her marriage with Jacob Hartel, of Van Wert county, have been born eight children, namely: Catherine E., wife of Burt Dibble, of Tully township; Mary E., wife of Leo Stover, of Mercer county; William N. and Joseph C., of Dixon, Ohio; Emma S., Cora A., Henry E. and Olie I. Miss Annie E. Lampe, the younger daughter of John C. and Mary Lampe, was born in York township, Van Wert county, and resides with her mother on the old homestead in Pleasant township.

William H. Lampe, of the live stock firm of Lampe Brothers, was born in Mercer county in 1856, and the foundation of his education was laid in the village school of Mendon. He was reared a farmer, and this naturally led to stock breeding, in which pursuit he has become quite famous. September 9, 1891, he was united in marriage with Miss Sadie Baker, daughter of E. M. and Mary Baker, and one child, Ruth B., came to bless this union, but was early called away. In politics Mr. Lampe is a democrat and is a member of the state board of agriculture, in the transactions of which he takes a deep and active interest. Christian Frederick Lampe, the youngest member of the family, was born in Mercer county, October 30, 1858, was educated at Mendon village and was reared on the home farm. At the death of his father he associated himself with his brother, William H., in the breeding of thoroughbred horses and swine, and the firm now rank among the most successful breeders in the state and command a large patronage. January 27, 1892, Christian F. Lampe married Gertrude Hays, daughter of Morgan and Eliza B. (Larrimer) Hays, of Fayette county, Ohio, and this union also has been blessed with one child—Willard M. Mrs. Gertrude Lampe was born in Fayette county March 8, 1867, her father having been born in the same county in November, 1820; William Hays, father of Morgan Hays was, was a native of Fayette, county, Ky., and was of English descent. Morgan Hays and Eliza B. Larrimer were married in 1844 and became the parents of ten children, as follows: Almeda, wife of Abel H. Janes, of Fayette county; Mary D., who died in childhood; Edmond, a farmer of Illinois; Harlan, farmer of Fayette county, Ohio; Jane, wife of L. E. Parrett, of Fayette county; William, farmer of Illinois; Thomas L., of Fayette county, Ohio; Letitia, wife of Frank Dill, of Fayette county; Scott, on the old home in Fayette county, and Gertrude, now Mrs. Lampe. The mother of this family was born in Pennsylvania in 1825 and came when a child to Ohio with her parents. She was an active and devout member of the Presbyterian church, and died in that faith October 1, 1879. Mrs. Gertrude Lampe is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but her husband is not a communicant of any church, although he takes a deep interest in every thing that tends to elevate the morals of the community or promote its welfare. In politics he is a republican. He is a careful and progressive farmer and stock-breeder, and few men of his years can be congratulated on making so successful a business career.

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JOHN D. LARE, one of the successful and substantial farmers of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born January 31, 1853, on the family homestead in this township, where he has lived all his life. John Lare, his father, was a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., born October 3, 1817, and was a son of Samuel and Mary Ann (Leap) Lare, parents of five children—John, Mary A., Maria (died young), Elizabeth and William, all born in Westmoreland county. Samuel was a shoemaker by trade, but came to Ohio in 1833 or 1834, bought eighty acres of land in Crawford county, and farmed until his death, at eighty years of age. John Lare, father of subject, was married in Crawford county December 24, 1840, farmed on rented land for three years, and then came to Tully township, Van Wert county, where he had entered forty acres of land prior to his marriage to Susannah Roop, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Eshelman) Roop, of Crawford county. In 1844, John Lare and wife came with their two children, Sarah and Elizabeth, to Tully township, and settled on this farm, which was deep in the woods, cleared up the land sufficiently to form a space for a log cabin, and by hard labor Mr. Lare increased his property to 360 acres, and made as good a farm as there was in the county. In politics Mr. Lare was a know-nothing, a free-soiler, then a democrat, and finally a republican; he was the first postmaster in Tully township (now Convoy postoffice); he was township trustee, an early member of the school board, and of the board of education. To him and wife were born eight children, viz: Sarah A., Elizabeth, Peter (died young), Rebecca, Joseph P., Susannah, John D., and Mary A., who died when but one year old. The father of this family lived to be seventy-six years of age, and died on his farm September 25, 1823, respected by the entire community.

John D. Lare was reared to farming, but received a very good education in the district schools and in the schools of Convoy, and for two terms taught school in Tully township. December 27, 1877, he married Miss Mary Tracy, daughter of Elijah Tracy, of whom mention is made on another page. Mr. Lare then farmed on the old homestead until he purchased his present farm, which then consisted of eighty acres, covered with timber, brush and swamps; but he retrieved his farm from this wilderness, and added to it until he now owns 160 acres of as fine farm land as may be found in the township, and all cleared and improved (with the exception of a twelve-acre wood-lot), with a fine, commodious residence built in 1889, and drained with 2,000 rods of tiling. To Mr. and Mrs. Lare have been born four children, viz: Ira, Jay, Iris and Ray. The parents are members of the Methodist church, in which Mr. Lare has been a class leader since the organization of the congregation in Tully township. In politics he is republican, and has served as assessor one term; he is a member of the grange and is deputy master of the county, he being a practical and most skillful agriculturist, and his farm being a model of itself. Mr. and Mrs. Lare stand very high in the esteem of the community in which they live, are giving their children every advantage of the educational privileges afforded by the enlightened system of the present day. The personal character of Mr. Lare has never been impeached, and he has fully maintained, in his own person, the integrity of character that characterized his father, who was one of the pioneers of Tully township.

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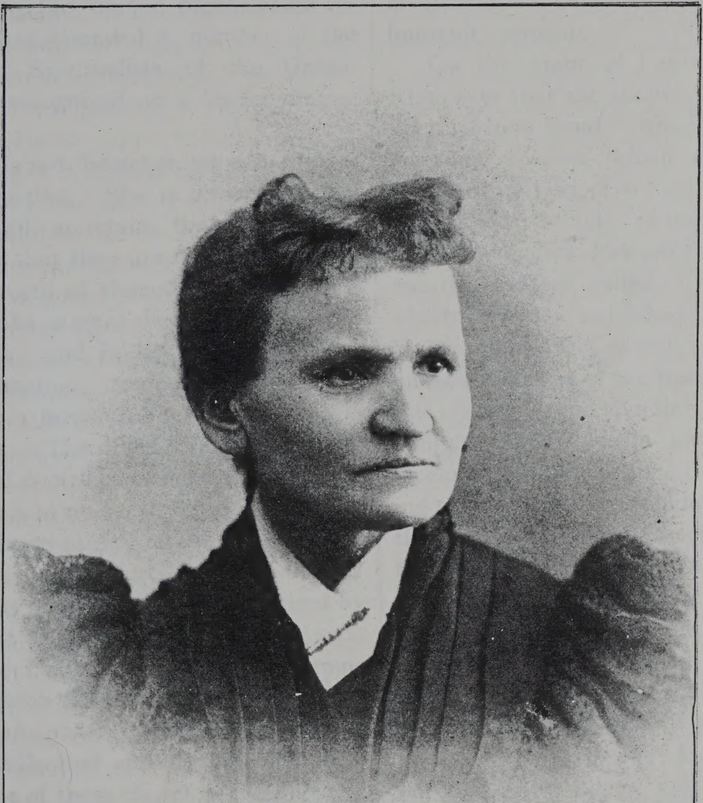
MAGDALENA KLINE, widow of Adolphus Kline, was born in Baden, Germany, April 2, 1838. Her father, John Christopher Exley, was a native of Baden and an owner of a large stone quarry. He was a contractor and builder of several large buildings and one cathedral in the fatherland, but was a farmer after coming to this country. The mother's name was Catherine Fischer, also a native of Baden. When thirteen years old Mrs. Kline came to this country and settled in Bucyrus, Ohio, where she remained for four years, and then moved to Van Wert, where she has since resided. January 1, 1862, she was married to Adolphus Kline, now deceased, who was born in Ottweiler, Prussia, October 26. 1824. His parents were Conrad and Caroline (Wagoner) Kline both of whom died in Prussia.

In 1848 Adolphus Kline came to America and settled in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he remained until 1854, when, on November 9, he enlisted in company Four, Second regiment of dragoons, U. S. A., Capt. Alfred Pleasonton commanding. He served in the Indian territory for four years, when, on account of rheumatism and asthma, he was obliged to quit the service before his five years of enlistment were up. He was discharged in accordance with instructions from the adjutant-general's office, dated September 7, 1857, and received the same in camp near Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 1, 1858, was signed John B. Villepigue, first lieutenant Second dragoons, and P. St. George Cooke, lieutenant-colonel, Second dragoons. After his discharge Mr. Kline returned to Fort Wayne, where he remained but a short time and then moved to Van Wert, where he remained until his death, May 9, 1884. He was a quiet, unassuming man and a tanner by trade. He was the father of seven children: Julia, born November 25, 1862, a graduate in the Van Wert High schools, who has taught in the public schools in Van Wert, Ohio, and in Plymouth, Ind.; she was married August 28, 1895, to Jerry Blaine, a prominent business man of Plymouth, Ind.; Charles, born December 12, 1864, now a resident of Van Wert and a printer by trade; William Robert, born September 4, 1868, now a carpenter in Van Wert and married to Rebecca White of Payne, Ohio, on July 1, 1894; John Christopher, born June 2, 1871, now a stone-cutter, residing in Van Wert; George W., born April 25, 1874, now a clerk in D. L. Clippinger's grocery, Van Wert, a graduate of Van Wert high school in 1896; Adolph, born May 21, 1876, graduated from the Van Wert high school in 1895, and is now employed in a bicycle factory in Plymouth, Ind.; Byron, born May 2, 1879, who is now attending high school at Van Wert. Mrs. Kline is a spiritualist, and is the leader of the organization in Van Wert which



MRS. MAGDALENA KLEIN.

is known as the "Society of the Faithful." She delivers a lecture to the society twice every week, and has published a book on spiritualism entitled "The Everlasting Gospel." She is quite eloquent in her addresses and is the means of keeping this unique organization together. She has attended a number of the conventions of Spiritualists of the United States, and is recognized as a leader among them.

Mrs. Kline is not, however, what she terms a radical Spiritualist. She is altogether conservative, but still maintains that the radicals are doing good, that they are filling their niche in the development of thought and the world of humanity. She is what she terms a "Christain Spiritualist," and in her lectures, and in private conversation, frequently alludes to "orthodoxy," in terms altogether too kindly for the radicals. The divinity of Christ is one of the principal doctrines of her teachings; but that divinity was in no sense physical, but was only spiritual in its origin, its character and its power over the spiritual forces of the universe. This power was greater than that exercised by any other spirit or of any angel, and was next to that of the Deity himself—the Supreme Mind, from which all intelligence, of which there is an infinite number of classes of degrees, draw their intellectual and spiritual supplies. From some one of these classes of intelligences mediums receive their inspiration, the class depending upon the intellectual and spiritual elevation the medium. Christ, being superior to any other medium that was ever on the earth, was able to draw upon the highest spiritual elements for his strength, and was thus better, purer and stronger than any other individual that has ever lived, to secure such benefits to all humanity for time and eternity, as no other can. His mission was not understood when he lived on earth. He says in Saint John 16:12, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." They have never been told, but will be given now, for he has prepared the world by his constant and powerful manipulation of nature's silent but active force, thereby making the revelation and demonstration of his mission to humanity possible.

On the night of February 8, 1870, Mrs. Kline says that she received her first visit from the "Justice Band," which communicated to her their mission, which was to induct her into the position of a meduim for them. In 1874, the "Society of the Faithful" was organized to carry forward the publication of a monthly journal, called "The Morning Star," which had been published the preceding year by Mr. G. A. McConahy and his son, James, under the advice of the Justice Band. In 1879 this society began holding public services for adults, and a lyceum for children; but the lyceum feature was found impracticable, owing to the intense prejudices of a portion of the community. But services for adults have been held regularly ever since. The society was chartered in the year 1893, by the state of Ohio, under the name of the "First Society of Christian Spiritualists," and while it has not accomplished all it could have desired, yet it feels that it has gained much knowledge and experience that will be of great value in coming years, and it feels much encouraged to go on with its work, as the conditions necessary for its complete success will improve steadily as time rolls on.

HARLAN F. LaRUE, one of the most successful educators of Harrison township, Van Wert county, is a son of Joseph LaRue. Harlan was born September 15, 1861, on his father's farm in Harrison township. He was educated in the district school and at the Worthington (Ohio) Central normal, and for two years, also, was an attendant at Denison university, at Granville. In 1880 he began the work pertaining to the profession in which he became so prominently identified as the seasons passed by. The Center school district, No. 5, Harrison township, was the second scene, for four months, of his initiatory triumph, followed next by two terms in his home district; and then the school in district No. 8, Pleasant township, was under his charge one year; next, in the same township, No. 6 was taught under him for a year; then he returned to district No. 6, and devoted another year to that school, following which he taught two years in his home district; for the period of two years following he taught in the Central high school of Harrison township, and then took a necessary rest for a year; the following two years he had charge of district No. 2, thus making the longest record of any other instructor in Harrison township. Mr. LaRue has been an active member of the Van Wert Teacher's institute. He is not a believer in corporal punishment, but has never failed to maintain an effective discipline by other and milder methods.

The marriage of Mr. LaRue was celebated March 31, 1887, with Miss Mary Louisa Bauserman, who was born September 25, 1863, a daughter of Jacob and Jane (Harvey) Bauserman, who were of Irish descent and the parents of four children: Ruth, Eliza, Mary L., and Allie. Mr. Bauserman was a farmer of considerable consequence, owned 120 acres of land, which he pre-empted and died in July, 1865, a member of the Presbyterian church. After his marriage, Harlan F. LaRue passed two years in Pleasant township, and then settled in Harrison township, where he now has a most pleasant home on a farm of forty acres (belonging to his wife, being purchased with money she inherited) which he has partly cleared from the woods. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. LaRue were named according to birth, as follows: Ethel Leora, February 7, 1888; Vere Princess, November 6, 1890; Zora G., May 14, 1892, and Frank Irving, November 15, 1894. In their religious affiliations Mr. and Mrs. LaRue are Baptists. Politically Mr. LaRue is a republican. For one year he was a lecturer for the Patrons of Husbandry.

Joseph LaRue, father of Harlan F. LaRue, a substantial farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Lambert and Jane (McBride) LaRue. His paternal grandfather came from France, settled in Virginia, and was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. Alexander McBride, the maternal grandfather of Joseph RaRue, was of Scotch-Irish descent and was also a patriot of the Revolutionary war. Lambert LaRue, grandfather of our subject, was born in Washington county, Va., was reared on a farm, was a soldier in the war of 1812, was married in his native state, and thence came to Ohio, where he located, first on Long Island, some forty miles below Wheeling, then moved to Richland county, where he cleared up a good farm, and finally came to Van Wert county, in 1854, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Pleasant township, and here died in November of the same year, at the age of about sixty-two years. To Lambert LaRue and wife were born ten children, as follows: Alexander, Jane, John, Abraham, Elizabeth, Margaret, Martha, Mary, Joseph, and another. Mr. LaRue was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was also a devout member; in politics he was a whig.

Joseph LaRue was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 24, 1836, received the ordinary education and was reared to farming and also to the carpenter's trade. He came to Van Wert county with his parents, and April 30, 1857, married Miss Matilda Eller, who was born June 16, 1839, in Richland county, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Hilburn) Eller, who were of German and Irish descent respectively, and the parents of nine children, viz: Polly, John, Frederick, Betsey, Sarah, Jeremiah, Matilda, Miriam and Rachel. Jacob Eller was a son of Abraham Eller and came from Richland county to Van Wert county in 1849, cleared up eighty acres of land in Pleasant township, and here died. Two years after marriage Joseph LaRue came to Harrison township, in the spring of 1860, settled on a forty-acre farm, on which he lived about twelve years, and later increased it to eighty acres.

May 2, 1864, Mr. LaRue enlisted, at Van Wert, in the 100-day service and served until honorably discharged, at Camp Chase, Ohio, August 28, 1864. He then veteranized, September 1, 1864, in company B, Seventy-eighth Ohio infantry, and in June, 1865, was mustered out, on account of the close of the war, at Columbus, Ohio. He saw service at Point Lookout, Md., was with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea, and at Milton, Ga., was injured by an iron rail falling on him while tearing down a railroad water-tank; but he continued on the march, although he could not always carry his knapsack, and eventually reached Washington, D. C., with the victorious troops and witnessed the grand review of May 23-24, 1865.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. LaRue have been born seven children, in the following order: Sarah J., Harlan F., Col. Ellsworth, Orland Sherman, Almon V., Iona D. and Viola M. Mr. and Mrs. LaRue are members of the Baptist church, and in politics is a republican. He is also a member of the G. A. R., Capper post, No. 231, at Convoy, and likewise a member of the grange. His social standing, it is needless to add, is among the most respectable families of Harrison township.

HARRISON LEATHERS, a prominent farmer and miller of Ridge township, Van Wert county, is a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and was born October 31, 1834, a son of Christian and Catherine (Shupe) Leathers, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Maryland, and each was about four years of age when brought by their parents to Ohio. Christian Leathers became quite well to do, through inheritance, and died in Van Wert county, honored and respected by all who knew him, September 17, 1864, a member of the English Lutheran church. Mr. Leathers came to Van Wert county in 1852, and of his family of eight children, brought with him, the survivors are three sons and two daughters. The eight alluded to were named, in order of birth, as follows: Noah, who died in infancy; Louis, who grew to manhood and reared a family, who are now all deceased; Eliza, deceased wife of Job Fowler; Mary, wife of Asa Pollock; Harrison, our subject; John F., who reared a family of his own, and died in 1894; Abraham, a Lutheran clergyman, and Sarah, wife of S. R. Moneysmith. The father of this family made his first purchase of land in Van Wert county in section No. 34, of Ridge township, part of which land is now in the possession of the subject of this sketch.

Harrison Leathers was reared on his father's farm and also enjoyed the usual school advantages. April 15, 1858, he was united in wedlock with Miss M. A. Cummings, daughter of Emanuel and Mary (Redman) Cummings—the former a native of Logan county, Va., and the latter of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Cummings had born to them a family of ten children, as follows: Mrs. Leathers, called Adeline by her friends; Lucretia E., who died in childhood; May Margaret, deceased wife of William Hill—also deceased, having been killed in battle; James Wesley, who died at the age of eight years; Rebecca Jane, widow of David Hart; Susannah, who died when three years old; Sarah, who also died in childhood; Nancy, died an infant; Malissa Ann, is the wife of George Null, and William Jefferson, who lives in Noble county, Ind. The mother of this family died December 27, 1855, and Mr. Cummings next married the widow of Judge Beard; this lady bore the maiden name of Eliza Jane Scott. After the death of this lady, Mr. Cummings took for his third wife Rachael Margaret Todd, who bore him two daughters—Irene and Maggie—and she, too, was called away by death. Mr. Cummings next married Susan Bell, now also deceased, and he himself died December 28, 1887. To the marriage of Harrison Leathers and Miss Cummings have been born four children, viz: E. A., residing on a farm near his father's, and wedded to Jennie Bell; W. C., in the employ of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad company, and who first married Ella Young and then Jennie Leslie; Delora Virginia is the wife of W. C. Gilliland, and Florence Emma Bell, the youngest child born to Mr. Leathers, is the wife of J. G. Prill.

At the age of twenty-eight years, Harrison Leathers enlisted in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio infantry, in August 1862; he was in a number of raids and battles, was on one occasion disabled and confined some time in a hospital, but served until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge, and on his return home re-engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Leathers are members of the Lutheran church, in which he has been an officer the past thirty years, and also for many years has been a superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, Mr. Leathers is a republican, and has served as clerk, trustee and assessor of his township. Mr. Leathers is the owner of 172 acres of fine farming land in Ridge township, beside some valuable lots in Middlepoint, and is doing a large grain business. His social standing is as excellent as his business relations, and his integrity and strictly honest methods of dealing have won for him the respect of all who know him. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F., No. 251, Van Wert, Ohio.

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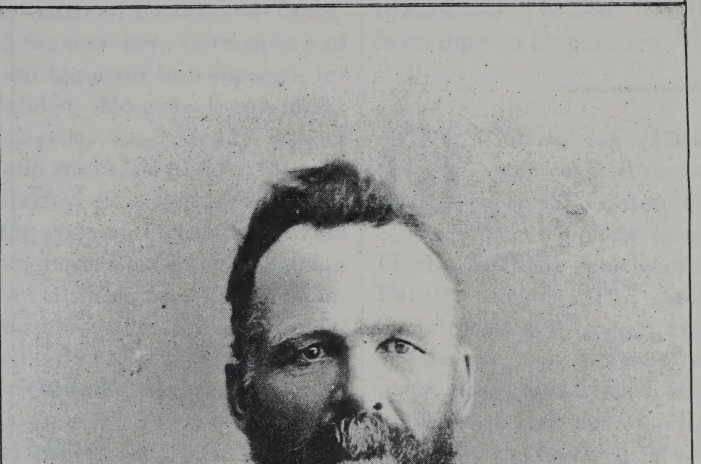
BENJAMIN JONES, one of the most progressive farmers of Willshire township, Van Wert county, was born in Richland county, Ohio, now known as Ashland county, January 17, 1837, and is descended from one of the oldest Welsh families in America. His great-grandfather, also named Benjamin, came to America with a colony, that settled in Maryland on land at present partly occupied by the city of Baltimore, and there died. James, a son of Benjamin, was born in Baltimore, but soon after reaching his majority came to Ohio and located in Columbiana county in 1808, being a pioneer in the full sense of the word. He had married, in Maryland, Rachael Arnold, and with his family moved from county to county, including Stark, Wayne, Medina and Richland—dying in the last-named county in 1840, and his widow in 1845. James Jones, father of our subject, was born in Maryland, near Baltimore, in December, 1807, and in Medina county, Ohio, in July, 1834, married Miss Catherine Deweese, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Deweese, and to this union were born the following children: Joseph (deceased), Benjamin (our subject), Elizabeth (deceased), Uriah (deceased), Daniel (deceased), John and James. The parents lived successively in Medina and Richland counties, Ohio, and in Adams county, Ind., where the father died, a member of the Catholic church and in politics a democrat; the mother is still living, in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio.

Benjamin Jones was early inured to farm

MRS. BENJAMIN JONES.



BENJAMIN JONES.

labor on his father's place, was educated in an old-fashioned log school-house, and in August, 1861, enlisted in company A, Forty-seventh Indiana volunteer infantry, and served in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas, taking part in all the marches, skirmishes and battles in which his regiment was engaged, including Fort Madden, Mo., Jackson, Miss., Grand Couteau Bayou, La., Muddy Bayou, La., Marksville and Atchafalaya, La., Spanish Fort and Fort Blakley, Ala., and Mobile, Ala. He was also at the siege of Vicksburg, Riddle Point, Pemberton, Port Gibson and Champion Hill, Miss., and in all these fights escaped injury, with the exception of being hit by a spent ball, which caused a slight fracture of the skull, but was still a "close call." He was appointed sergeant October 30, 1862, and was honorably discharged November 1, 1865, after a service of over four years.

The marriage of Mr. Jones took place December 24, 1865, with Miss Mary Dailey, who was born November 12, 1846, a daughter of James and Mary (Johnson) Dailey, natives of Athens and Harrison counties, respectively. James Dailey was born September 23, 1819, and his wife was born in September, 1823; they were married in Van Wert county, owned 600 acres of fine land, and died, respectively, February 27, 1863, and December 4, 1886, highly honored by all who knew them. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, at their marriage, settled on their present farm, then not much improved, but now containing 290 acres, with a fine brick residence and three barns. The soil is well drained and cultivated, and everything denotes the control of a master mind. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones were named as follows: Emma, Eva, Dailey D., Esaias T., Oscar B., James (deceased), Charles J., Harvey H., Mary A., Harry O., Clarence C., Fred C. and Clara A. Of these, Dailey and Esaias attended Middlepoint Normal college, and have both taught school. In politics Mr. Jones is a republican and is a member of the G. A. R. post at Willshire. He is devoted to his family, and for his helpmate, who has done so much toward aiding his progress through life, there is no limit to his affection.

GEORGE LAWHEAD, a carpenter and conservative business man, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, July 25, 1836, and is a son of John and Phœbe (Hibben) Lawhead, both natives of Fayette county, Pa., and respectively of Scotch-Irish and English extraction.

His paternal ancestors came to America about 1745 and settled on an English land grant in the colony of Virginia, where they lived until the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, when the grandfather of the subject of the present sketch enlisted in the patriot army under Gen. Washington and served throughout the entire period of that struggle. Although only a boy in years at the time of enlistment he endured all of the hardships of the winter at Valley Forge and took part in the famous campaign in which the Continental troops forced a passage through the icy Delaware river, and although badly frozen, he was in the front ranks with his regiment at the battle of Trenton. After the war ended he married, and in a few years removed to Pennsylvania.

Mr. Lawhead's forefathers on the maternal side were also of old colonial stock, the Hibben family coming to America from England about 1750. Joshua Hibben, although quite an aged man, shouldered a musket in defense of the country of his adoption and for four years followed the destiny of the colonies in their struggle against the mother country. At the beginning of the present century his descendants removed from Virginia to Pennsylvania, and in 1812 Mr. Lawhead's grandfather enlisted in the service of the young republic in its war with Great Britain. John Lawhead and Phœbe Hibben were married in Fayette county, Pa., and came to Ohio, in 1820, settling in Clinton county, where they followed farming until his death in 1865. In early life John Lawhead was an old-line whig, but became a republican upon the organization of that party, remaining a member of the same the remainder of his life. In his religious views he was a Presbyterian. His wife died in 1871, a life-long member of the Christian church. She and her husband were the parents of six children.

George Lawhead is the youngest of these six children. He was educated in his native county, where he spent the earlier part of his life, and there was married, October 7, 1856, to Eliza J. Mathew, and continued to reside in that county until 1867. Miss Mathew is a daughter of Jonah and Sarah (Stokesberry) Mathew, both natives of Culpeper county, Va., and respectively of Welsh and English extraction. Both came to Ohio with their parents in 1812, these parents entering land grants in Clinton county, and as soon as their families were comfortably settled in their new homes the male heads of each volunteered to serve their country in the war then going on between this country and Great Britain. Peace being soon declared, they returned to their families in Ohio. Jonah Mathew died in Clinton county in 1865, aged seventy-two years, and his wife died in 1890 at the age of eighty-eight. Both were members of the Christian church.

George Lawhead enlisted in the Union army May 1, 1864, in company K, Forty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and immediately went to the front. His regiment participated in the battles of Perryville and Monocacy Junction. Mr. Lawhead was deprived of any further privilege of fighting the rebels by being detailed to the quartermaster's department; yet he served out his time and was honorably discharged in September, 1864. In 1867 he removed to Van Wert county and settled in Pleasant township, where he lived on a farm until 1871, when he removed to the city of Van Wert, where he has since resided. While he is a carpenter by trade, which he learned in early manhood, he has not and does not follow that trade exclusively. Soon after coming to Van Wert he was elected sexton of Woodland cemetery, being the first to hold that position, and it is but justice to him to say that to him perhaps more than to any person is due the credit of converting this beauttful spot from the dismal swamp and forest to the lovely Woodland of to-day. In politics Mr. Lawhead is a republican and does not belong to any secret society.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawhead are both members of the Society of Friends' church and are highly reputable members of society, and have many friends. They are the parents of six children, as follows: Loretta, deceased; Emma T., wife of C. M. Smith, of Van Wert; Charles E. and Matthew J., both of Van Wert; Harvey H., deceased, and Millie M., who still resides with the parents at their home on North Elm street.

Emma T., the eldest living child, was educated in the Van Wert public schools and obtained an enviable reputation as a successful and competent teacher in the county schools. She followed this vocation until her marriage to C. M. Smith, of Van Wert, April 2, 1882. They live in a pleasant home on Tile street in southwest Van Wert.

Mathew J. also received the benefits of an education in the Van Wert schools and a practical business education in actual commercial life, having spent several years in the restaurant business in Latty and Lima, Ohio, where he was well known as a popular caterer to the wants of his customers. At present he resides on West Jackson street, Van Wert. His estimable wife, formerly Miss Orpha Cook, of Latty, Paulding county, Ohio, was a popular and successful teacher in the public schools of that county.

Miss Millie M., the youngest child, is a graduate of the Van Wert high school, and for the past two years has been engaged as a teacher in the primary department of the same school. She is an accomplished young christian lady, noted for her earnest work.

Charles E. Lawhead, the eldest son of George and Eliza J. Lawhead, was born near New Antioch, Clinton county, Ohio, October 1, 1862, and was five years old when his parents moved to Van Wert county. He received a common-school education for a limited time. At the age of fourteen he commenced work in the timber factories of Van Wert, and finished his studies in private night schools. He worked at the house-painting trade from 1881 to 1884, when he became book-keeper in the wholesale cigar and tobacco store of F. C. Arnold. He continued to act in that position until 1889, when he became the traveling representative of the firm, then largely engaged in the manufacture of cigars; filled that position until 1892, since which time he has been engaged in business of his own at No. 16 North Washington street, Van Wert. Believing in the principles of untiring industry and strict business integrity, he has been successful. Politically he is a stanch republican. Mr. Lawhead was married October 7, 1883, to Miss Jessie F. Allen, who was born in Van Wert, June 6, 1865, and who is a daughter of Harvey E. and Louisa (Van Horn) Allen. To this marriage have been born two sons—Fred C. and Edward W. Mrs. Jessie Lawhead is and for years has been a devout member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Van Wert, and is a lady of many excellent and attractive qualities. Born and reared in Van Wert, she enjoys the respect and friendship of a wide circle of warm personal friends and acquaintances.

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JOHN LEESON, at the head of the extensive cooperage firm at Van Wert, Ohio, known as the Leeson Cooperage company, was born near Montreal, Canada, July 20, 1837, a son of Edward and Mary (Quigley) Leeson. The father was born in England in 1800, was a soldier in the British army, was married in England, settled in Canada in 1830, and was there engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1873, being followed to his grave by his widow in 1878. Both were members of the Episcopal church. The seven children born to Edward and Mary Leeson were named Margaret, Anna, Maria, John, Elizabeth, Thomas and Fannie.

John Leeson was reared and educated in Canada and there learned the machinist's trade. Early in 1860 he came to the United States and followed his trade at Peoria, Ill., until July of the same year, and then worked in the railroad shops at Fort Wayne, Ind., until 1864, as a journeyman; he was then made assistant foreman and filled that position until 1880, when he was promoted to the general foremanship, which he held until 1882, when he came to Scott, Van Wert county, lived there two years, and in 1884 came to the city of Van Wert, where he has since made his home. In 1882 he purchased the hoop factory at Dawkins, Ind., moved it to Scott, Ohio, operated it until 1888, and then formed a stock company, composed of H. Butler, L. Dorin, and himself, for the manufacture of hoops, staves, headings, etc.; in 1889, the company was reorganized, the stockholders being Mr.

Leeson, G. H. Marsh, and J. B. Smith, under the title of the Leeson Cooperage company, of which Mr. Leeson is the manager. Mr. Leeson is also interested in a cooperage plant at Mill Shoals, Ill., and owns a farm of 248 acres in Van Wert county, Ohio; he is also interested, with others, in 300 acres in Van Wert county, and 1,000 acres in Paulding county; likewise he owns 1,140 acres of timber land in Hamilton county, Ill. He also has valuable town property in Fort Wayne, in Van Wert, and in Mill Shoals. Mr. Leeson, with his family, of whom mention will directly be made, is a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a republican, and for four years served as a member of the city council of Van Wert, and has also served as a member of the board of health; fraternally he is a Thirty-second degree Mason—it being as high a degree as any of the brethern of that order care to reach.

John Leeson was united in matrimony, at Fort Wayne, Ind., June 11, 1863, with Miss Mary P. Tower, a native of that city, born January 5, 1840, and a daughter of Benjamin H. and Catherine (Paul) Tower. Her father, Benjamin H., was born in Hamilton county, N. Y., and her mother, Catherine, was a native of New York city. They were married in Detroit, Mich., January 9, 1837, and to their union were born eight children, viz: Mary P., wife of Mr. Leeson; William H., deceased; Margaret A., of Fort Wayne; Benjamin H., of Toledo, Ohio; Katie, deceased; Agnes, deceased; Mack, a machinist of Fort Wayne; and John, deceased. The parents settled in Fort Wayne after marriage, and there for many years Mr. Tower followed cabinet making. Mrs. Catherine Tower died in that city July 6, 1856, and Mr. Tower, September 23, 1872—both members of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Tower was a democrat, and for some years was a councilman. The children that blessed the union of John Leeson and his wife, Mary P., were five in number and born and named as follows: Kate E., born October 19, 1864—died March 27, 1881; Benjamin B., born April 14, 1873—a medical student in Philadelphia, and a member of the Masonic order; Margaret A., born June 1, 1874—died January 16, 1878; John Alexander, born March 27, 1876—died March 24, 1878, and Mary L., born July 28, 1879. Mrs. Leeson is one of the twelve members of the Van Wert library association, and one of its most active workers, while Mr. Leeson, it is needless to add, is one of the most useful citizens of Van Wert. The elegant family residence is at the corner of North Washington and West First streets, where domestic happiness may be found, if found anywhere in this wide world.

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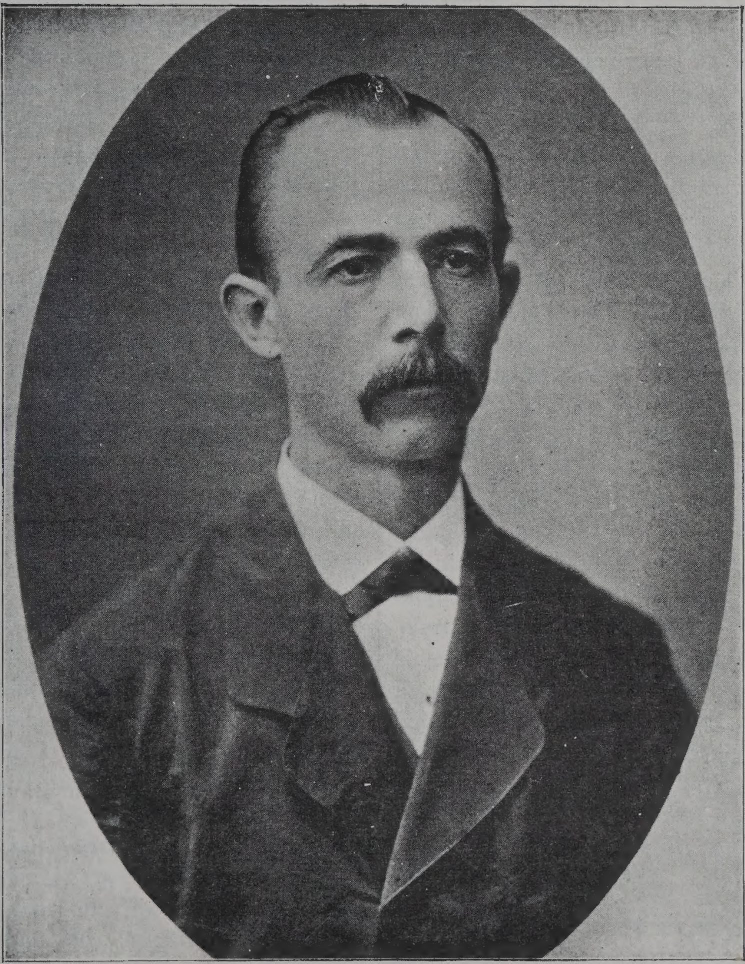
JOHN PETER KLEIN, deceased, was born in Outenberg, Bavaria, Germany, June 17, 1841. His father, Andrew Klein, was born in the same place, and at an early age learned the miller's trade, was very skillful and successful, and followed this trade until his death in 1868, when he left his family in very good circumstances. At an early age Andrew Klein married Miss Proffit, who lived near his home in Bavaria, and four children were born to them, viz: Lizzie, Jacob, Andrew and John P., the first and last of whom came to America. Immediately after landing in New York they came to Van Wert, where Miss Lizzie still lives and is yet unmarried.

John P. Klein, the subject of our sketch, passed his childhood and early manhood days in the old home in the fatherland, and there received a good education and learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked until he was twenty years old, when (in 1861) he



John P. Klein

came to America with nothing to battle with life but the determination to succeed and prosper in the land of his future adoption. He settled in Van Wert and worked at his trade until the war broke out, when he, as did many others from the land of his birth, entered the army of his adopted country to fight for its preservation. He enlisted in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, September 23, 1862, served faithfully and bravely through the war, and made an excellent record, for which he afterward drew a pension until his death.

On June 10, 1865, Mr. Klein was mustered out of service at Washington, D. C., returned to Van Wert and went to work at his trade, and on April 5, 1866, married Anna Haudershield, who was born in Switzerland on January 11, 1845, and when but three months old was brought to America by her parents. Her father, John Haudershield, was born on the 18th of February, 1804, in the same place, where, afterward, his children were born; he was a cutler by trade, at which he was very skillful. He was married to Anna Raber, also a native of Switzerland, and this marriage was blessed by the following-named children: Mary, Jacob, Christ, Anna, John and Henry. He followed his trade until middle life, when he emigrated and came to America, landing in New York, where he lived a while and then moved his family to Athens, Ohio, where he remained for seven years, and then moved to Van Wert and bought a farm, cultivated it for four years and prospered, and then retired and went to live with his daughter, Anna, with whom he remained until death called him away. He was in very comfortable circumstances at the time of his death.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Klein gave up the shoemaker's trade and took up mercantile business, at which he was very prosperous, and continued until his health broke down. In the spring of 1880 he went to Germany to visit the scenes of his boyhood and in hopes of regaining his lost health. After spending five months there, he, on October 5, 1880, again landed on American soil, here to remain until his death. He was a perfect gentleman, much liked and esteemed by all who knew him. He was a progressive, careful business man, public spirited, and had the confidence of all with whom he came in contact. Politically he was a democrat; he was an active worker, also, in Saint Peter's Evangelical church, of which his widow is still a faithful member. During life he was the organist of this church, and gave liberally to its support, as he did to all good and worthy causes. He left his widow, a most worthy lady, who resides in Van Wert, in very good circumstances. She is comforted in her old age by her five children, namely: Amelia, born March 9, 1867, and married to Charles Hott, of Van Wert; Louis, born July 23, 1869, who is a prompt clerk in A. Lynch's grocery, being a young man of exemplary habits and popular with all with whom he comes in contact; Mary, born July 9, 1875, now one of Van Wert's brightest and most charming young ladies and holding a very good position in D. R. Bonnewitz' dry-goods store; Frederick, born April 20, 1877, is a very promising young man and is progressing finely in his chosen profession, telegraphy; Florence, born January 28, 1883, is still at home with her mother. They form a happy family and are a joy and comfort to their mother.

HENRY G. LEHMANN, the subject of this review, holds distinctive prestige as one of the representative citizens and most prominent business men of the city of Van Wert, where he conducts, under the firm name of H. G. Lehmann & Son, an extensive retail dry-goods business, and it would be flagrant neglect were there failure to incorporate a review of his life in this compilation. Mr. Lehmann traces his lineage back to the German empire, and on either side to families of prominence and influence, being the son of Gabriel and Anna E. (Bochman) Lehmann, the former of whom was a native of Baden and the latter of Bavaria, Germany. The grandfather in the agnatic line was Leopold Lehmann, was a soldier for six years under the great Napoleon in Spain, and participated in the campaign through Russia; was also a physician of eminence, and emigrated to the United States about the year 1834, and soon after his arrival located in Columbus, Ohio, where his wife died. His family comprised seven sons and four daughters, all of whom accompanied him on his emigration to the United States. After a time he removed from Columbus and took up his abode near Fremont, Ohio, where he was engaged in the practice of his profession, and where he remained in practice until his increasing age compelled his retirement. He thereafter maintained his home with his son, Ludiger, near Rising Sun, Wood county, Ohio, until his death, which occurred July 27, 1872.

Gabriel Lehmann, father of our subject, was born in Baden, Germany, in the year of 1819, and was there reared and educated. At the age of sixteen years he was apprenticed to learn the tailor's trade, in which he became an expert workman. In 1842 he began business upon his own responsibility, at Fort Wayne, Ind., and after one year he moved to Charloe, which was then the county seat of Paulding county, and there conducted business for one year, when he settled in Delphos, then called Section 10, and established himself as a merchant tailor, and a dealer in men's furnishing goods. In 1860 he effected the purchase of a farm in Washington township, Van Wert county, and here he resided at the time of his death, in 1879. In politics he was originally a whig, but became a republican upon the organization of that party. He was reared in the faith of the Roman Catholic church, but before attaining his majority joined the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member at the time of his demise. In 1842 Gabriel Lehmann was united in marriage to Anna E. Bochman, and they became the parents of the following-named children: Henry G., the immediate subject of this review; Charles L.; Frederick H., and Matilda, who became the wife of Rev. G. H. Priddy, and who died in 1874.

Henry G. Lehmann, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., December 27, 1842, and his youthful years were passed at Delphos, where he was able to secure a good practical education. At the age of thirteen years he began his business career by engaging as a salesman in a dry-goods establishment at Delphos, Ohio. When his father retired to his farm, our subject accompanied him and there remained until August 19, 1861. At this time he responded to that imperative call which the nation made to all loyal men to aid in suppressing armed rebellion, and he enlisted in company H, Thirty-second regiment of Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served his full term, and then re-enlisted in the same company and regiment at Vicksburg, Miss., on the 1st of January, 1864. He was honorably discharged from the service of the United States on the 3d day of August, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio, his military record having been one of distinction and one in which he may well take pride. September 1, 1862, at Winchester, Va., he was appointed sergeant, and November 7, 1862, at Vicksburg, Miss., he was detailed as clerk of the headquarters of the Seventeenth army corps, Maj.-Gen. James B. McPherson, commanding. Upon the reorganization of the department and army of the Tennessee, under Maj.-Gen. McPherson, in 1864, he was detailed for duty as clerk in the adjutant-general's office of said department and army, continuing to serve in that capacity until he was detailed for similar duty in the adjutant-general's office, war department, at Washington, D. C., in June, 1865, which incumbency he retained until he was relieved at his own request, in order to enable him to be mustered out of the United States service, his regiment having been mustered out July 31, 1865. This antedated his discharge a few days, the date of the later being August 3, 1865. In token of his loyal and valiant service Mr. Lehmann was awarded the "medal of honor," on the 4th of April, 1864, said medal having been conferred by Maj.-Gen. McPherson, commanding the Seventeenth army corps. Mr. Lehmann participated in all the battles of the Allegheny mountains in West Virginia; in the engagements at McDowell, W. Va.; Cross Keys, Va.; Harper's Ferry, Va., 1862; and all the engagements of the Vicksburg campaign in 1863, and the siege and surrender of that stronghold.

After the close of his military service our subject returned to the parental homestead and shortly afterward accepted a position as book-keeper for A. B. McCurdy & Co., hardware dealers in Van Wert, which incumbency he retained for six years. He then associated himself with David Casto and John S. Eyler under the firm name of Casto, Lehmann & Co., and engaged in the hardware business, securing excellent patronage and continuing the prosperous enterprise until 1874. By this time his health had become seriously impaired, rendering it imperative that he should seek less sedentary occupation, and accordingly he disposed of his business interests, purchased a farm and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until the year 1882. In that year he became identified with the mercantile business in Convoy by purchasing a dry-goods establishment in that place, and he there conducted a successful business until 1888, when he came to Van Wert and established his present enterprise, which he has since conducted with a marked degree of success, the establishment being one of the best equipped and most popular in the city, and a representative patronage being accorded.

In his political adherency, Mr. Lehmann is stanchly allied with the republican party, and fraternally is a member of the W. C. Scott post, G. A. R., of Van Wert, and is also identified with the Knights of Maccabees. In his religious convictions he holds to the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he holds official preferment as trustee. In 1866 Mr. Lehmann was united in marriage to Eliza J. Zimmerman, daughter of Abraham Zimmerman, and to this union have been born the following children: William A., who is associated with his father in business; Anna L., wife of D. H. Shepard; Mary E.; Rosa B.; Levi F.; M. Pearl; John L.; Alice A., and Henrietta G. Mary E., Levi F. and John L., died in infancy.

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GEORGE LESLEY, probably the oldest resident of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Pennsylvania, born on the 24th day of August, 1815, near the city of Pittsburg. His paternal ancestors were among the early settlers of the Keystone state, and his father, Daniel Lesley, was born about the year 1777. Daniel Lesley was reared to manhood in Pennsylvania, was there married, and for a number of years followed the occupation of salt-making. He reared a family of five children, viz: Elizabeth, deceased wife of William Hutchison; Harrison C.; George, whose name introduces this mention; Ellen, deceased wife of George Smith; Orpha, deceased wife of Jesse Bailey, and Wyatt, of Napoleon, Ohio. About the year of 1820, Daniel Lesley and family immigrated to Harrison county, Ohio, being among the first pioneers of that section of the state, and there he lived the remainder of his days, departing this life in 1822. The wife, who had been his faithful companion for many years, died about the same time, and lies buried by his side.

George Lesley was left an orphan at a very early age, and when but seven years old was bound to one Isaac Thomas, a Quaker, with whom he lived until attaining his majority. He received his education in such schools as the country at that time afforded, in the primitive log school-house. Mr. Lesley began life for himself as a mechanic, and was employed for some time as salesman and builder of threshing machines, in which he acquired considerable efficiency. For a period of eleven years, he operated threshing machines and dealt in live stock in the counties of Licking, Knox and Harrison, and afterward engaged in agricultural pursuits in Perry and Licking counties. In 1854, he moved to the county of Van Wert, locating on the place where he now resides, which at that time was a tract of wild woodland, upon which but few, if any, attempts at improvements had been made. He erected a small house of logs, and at once set himself to the task of removing the forest growth and fitting the soil for cultivation, developing, in due time, a fine farm, upon which he expects to pass the remainder of his days.

In 1843, Mr. Lesley was united in marriage to Nancy Henderson, daughter of James and Nancy (Day) Henderson, to which union seven children have been born, viz: Frank, commercial traveler, whose home is in the city of Van Wert; James G., a painter, of the same city; Joseph, who holds the position of night marshal of Van Wert; Alice, wife of Joseph Hook, of Mercer county; Uretta, wife of Riley Horr, of Parsons, Kans.; William, deceased, and Mary O., wife of Samuel Balyeat, of Pleasant township. The mother of these children was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1821, a descendant of an old Pennsylvania family, a number of representatives of which were among the pioneer settlers of Ohio at the beginning of the present century. She was a woman of many excellent traits of character, a devout member of the Baptist church, and her death occurred in the year 1878.

Mr. Lesley has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Pleasant township ever since his settlement at the date above mentioned, and it is but a just tribute to state, in this connection, that he has ever been regarded as one of the honored and exemplary citizens of the community, toward which he has done so much to develop. He has already reached his four-score years, and looks back upon a life well spent, realizing that all of his success has been achieved by his own unaided efforts. He possesses a reasonable amount of this world's goods, takes an active interest in the local affairs of his township, and has more than once been called to fill important official positions. Politically Mr. Lesley has been a stanch supporter of the republican party ever since its organization, and has never wavered in his belief that its principles are for the best interest of the country.

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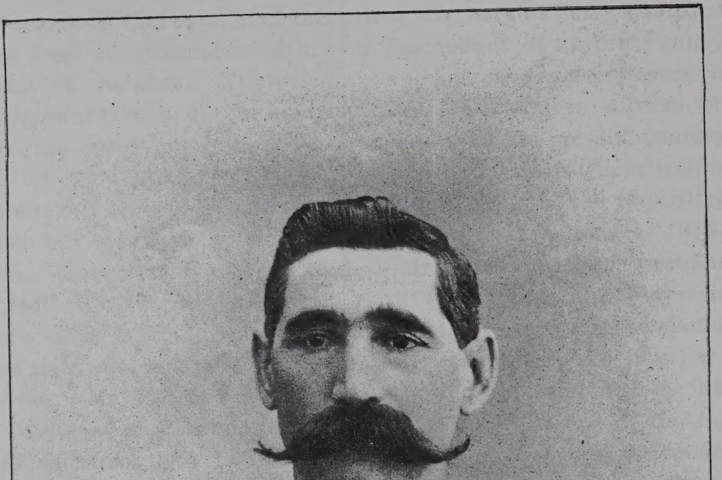
JACOB LEPLEY, a wealthy farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Columbiana county, in the same state, and was born June 26, 1815. His parents, John and Eve (Piper) Lepley, were natives of Maryland, but early became settlers of Ohio, and both died in



Peter Knittle

Trumbull county. Their children were born in the following order; Christina, deceased wife of William Forney; Michael and John, both deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Jehu Taylor; Susannah, deceased wife of Samuel Menser; Christian, a Lutheran clergyman of Springfield, Ohio, and Jacob, the subject of this sketch. The father of this family was a gentleman of limited means only, was a wagon-maker, and also carried on farming in a moderate way.

Jacob Lepley began his business life in 1839, as a clerk, at Kenton, Ohio, in the dry-goods store of his brother.in-law, Samuel Menser, but in 1840 returned to his father's home and worked for his brother Michael at wagon-making for two years. September 23, 1841, he married Elanor Creighton, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Montgomery) Creighton, who died July 10, 1895, the union resulting in the birth of the following children: Susannah, the widow of Simeon Hickman, of Van Wert county; Sarah Ellen, who died in childhood; Mary Ermina, wife of James Crooks, of Van Wert city; Martin Luther, who died in boyhood; Thomas, at home; Omar, a merchant of Hastings, Nebr.; Emmett, deceased; Nancy, wife of Clark Callahan, a farmer residing near Salem, Ohio; Franklin, deceased, and William J., a telegraph operator at Sawyer, Nebr. After marriage Mr. Lepley followed farming for about twenty years before coming to Van Wert county, but in the winter of 1860 purchased 160 acres in Ridge township, which he has converted into a lovely home. He has met with abundant success as a farmer and is now one of the most thriving agriculturists of Ridge township, if not in the county of Van Wert. With his wife, he is a sincere Presbyterian, and has been a ruling elder in the church for more than thirty years. Since the organization of the republican party he has been one of its ardent members, although previously he had been a democrat. He and family are greatly respected by the people of Ridge and adjoining townships, and are well deserving of the regard in which they are held.

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PETER KNITTLE, one of the well-to-do farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, was born in Allen county, Ohio, April 8, 1850, a son of George and Margaret (Walters) Knittle, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Hocking county, Ohio. George Knittle was born July 23, 1803, and after an extraordinarily prolonged and useful life, died May 10, 1894; his wife was born in 1827, but did not reach the longevity that was granted to her husband, having died July 26, 1870. The more prominent events in the life of George Knittle may be briefly summed up as follows: As a child he was brought from Pennsylvania to Ohio by his parents, who settled in Fairfield county, where George was reared to farming. In Fairfield county, also, George Knittle was first married, and in 1833 moved to Allen county, where he entered 160 acres near Elida, on which he settled with his wife and first-born child, John, and after his settlement in Allen county, this little family was increased by the birth of Elizabeth, Sarah and William—all four of whom are now deceased. In 1842 his first wife died, and to his second marriage, with Margaret Walters, were born three children—Samuel, who resides in Ridge township; Caroline, the wife of Jacob Burgner, a farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and Peter, our subject. In 1853, George Knittle came to Van Wert county and purchased 320 acres in section No. 14, Ridge township. To this land he added acreage to some extent, and after giving to his surviving children eighty acres each, had a residue of 240 acres, which have since been partitioned.

Peter Knittle, our subject, besides being a practical farmer, has devoted considerable of his time to carpenter work, blacksmithing and threshing, being in every respect a thorough-going business man, filled with energy and expedients. He has served his fellow-citizens four years as township trustee, and in the fall of 1892 was elected to the office of county commissioner, receiving the largest vote of any candidate on his ticket, and in both positions his duties were well and creditably performed and in a manner that has redounded to his own good name and to the benefit of his constituents—many miles of ditching having been completed during his incumbency of his last posisition. In the fall of 1895 Mr. Knittle was elected to the second term of county commissioner, being the only democrat elected in the county, and, having a majority of ninety-six to overcome, was elected by thirty-two votes.

Mr. Knittle was happily married, June 24, 1875, to Miss Lucy A. Stewart, daughter of Thomas and Angeline (Nye) Stewart, of Fairfield county, Ohio, the result of the union being five children, viz: Nettie May, Joseph Edward, Laura Emma, Ora Edith and Noah Andrew. Mrs. Knittle and her eldest daughter, Nettie, are devout members of the Lutheran church, and the entire family have so lived as to win the respect and good will of all that know them.

Mr. Knittle owns 220 acres of fine land situated in section No. 14, Ridge township, with fine buildings and well drained, and in company with Philip Paulus owns a complete Rumley thresher outfit, picket-mill, corn husker, etc.

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M. T. LEITNER, an experienced farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, comes of good old sturdy Holland-Dutch stock, and is a son of William B. and Elizabeth (Miller) Leitner. His grandfather, Adam Leitner, was born in Holland about 1750, and when a young man was banished from his native country on account of his religious belief, he being a Protestant. On coming to America it is probable that he first settled in Maryland and later moved to Pennsylvania, as he died in Little York at the age of eighty-five years. He had married, in Holland, the Princess Wilhelmina Berrypole, the result being the birth of six children, named John, William B., Adam, Samuel, Peter and Lena. The father of our subject, William B. Leitner, was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, and grew to manhood in Little York, where he learned the hatter's trade. In 1832 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Miller, who was born in Cumberland county, Pa., in 1808, a daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Loganecker) Miller, and in 1840 came to Ohio and located in Wayne county, making the journey in wagons. Here he worked at his trade for seven years, when he removed to Shelby, in Richland county, and became connected with the railroad. About 1858 he moved to Crestline and remained with the railroad company until 1867, when he come to Van Wert county and purchased a farm in Union township, on which he lived until 1880, his wife dying in 1875. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Leitner numbered nine and were named as follows: Sarah, deceased wife of H. B. Matoon; Wilhelmina, deceased wife of T. S. Raymond; Catherine, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of T. S. Marvin; Caroline, who died in childhood; Susan, married to Dr. A. R. Lord; Elsetta M., wife of S. A. Murphy; Adeline, wife of B. F. Baxter; and M. T., the subject of this sketch. The parents of this family were both members of the Church of God, and in politics Mr. Leitner was was first an old-line whig, but later a stanch republican.

M. T. Leitner, the subject proper of this sketch, was born in 1837 and received his early education in a little log school-house in Shelby, Ohio. At the age of thirteen he entered the freight office of the Bee Line Railroad company as clerk, and there remained until 1861, when he responded to his country's call and enlisted in company I, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Burns, for three years. He was assigned to the Sixth brigade, under Gen. McCook, in Tennessee, and took part in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Tuscumbia, Guntown, Battle Creek, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Kenesaw Mountain. He was wounded at Corinth, Miss., while in skirmish line, sent home on furlough, and discharged August 6, 1862, but re-enlisted in company K, One Hundred and Twentieth Ohio, and was sent to Gen. Grant's army at Memphis, Tenn., with which he participated in the Mississippi campaign, fighting at Fort Pickering and Young's Point, and then skirmishing forty-two days near Yazoo Pass. He was then sent up Red river under Gen. Banks, but the boat on which he was embarked was sunk and all but fifteen of his regiment captured, Mr. Leitner being among those who escaped. He was then sent to Saint Louis, Mo., where he remained until the close of the war, and was honorably discharged, August 26, 1865. He then returned to Shelby, and in 1867 came to his present home in Union township, Van Wert county.

The marriage of Mr. Leitner took place January 25, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth C. Murphy, born in 1847, a daughter of John and Nancy A. (Porter) Murphy, whose sketch will be found on another page. To this union have been born four children, viz: Catherine, who died in infancy; Eva, Maud and John W. Both Mr. and Mrs. Leitner are members of Lutheran church, and politically he is a republican. In 1882 he was elected township clerk, and in this capacity served four years, and is at present a notary public. Mr. Leitner is an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all his neighbors.

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ELI P. LESLIE, deceased, at one time a prominent physician of Van Wert county, was born November 18, 1817. He was a son of Elisha Leslie, a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, having been born there October 27, 1789. In his native county he early learned the trade of a tailor, and for many years followed that trade, being unusually successful in his calling. He married Miss Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, who came from Virginia to Ohio, and after their marriage they removed to Hancock county, Ohio, remaining there until, at a very old age, they removed to Bluffton, Allen county, where they died, he at the age of seventy-seven, she at the age of seventy-one. They were the parents of the following children: Joseph, Mary, John, Eli P., Sarah and Elizabeth. Only one of these six children is now living, viz: Elizabeth, a widow, of Dunkirk, Ohio. She is the mother of ten children. Elisha Leslie was in his early life a whig, but toward his latter days he was a republican, that party advocating principles in which he believed. In religious views both he and his wife were Methodists, and both were excellent people in every respect.

Eli P. Leslie was born in Columbiana county, Ohio. He was educated in the country schools of that county, and having made good use of his time was enabled to teach school when he was sixteen years of age. This profession he adopted early in order to earn money with which to pay his expenses while studying medicine at the medical school at Springfield, which he attended for some time, and then went to Columbus, where he remained three years, graduating with the highest honors of his class in 1853. After graduating he located in Williamstown, Hancock county, Ohio, and practiced there one year. Then he removed to Cannonsburg, where he practiced sixteen years, wth gratifying success. From there he removed to Logan county, where he remained four years, and then returned to Hancock county, where he remained nine years. In 1870 he located in Bluffton, Allen county, and in 1878 he finally removed to Van Wert county, where he was elected superintendent of the county infirmary and physician for the same institution, which positions he filled four years. He was a strong man—strong in everything that he was or that he undertook. In politics he was a strong democrat, and in religious matters he was a strong Lutheran. Nothing about him was at all half way. But, withal, he was a very liberal man both with his means and in his opinions. He recognized the right of every man to form his own belief and to arrive at his own conclusions, without reference to him or to the preconceived notions of any person or class of persons. He lived in Convoy, Van Wert county, from the time of his location there, in 1878, until his death, wich occurred February 29, 1888. On October 24, 1841, he was married to Miss Hannah Marshall, of Trumbull county, Ohio, by whom he had ten children, as follows: Frank, James, Albert J., Samantha, William, Melissa, Joseph, Eliza, John and Clements, of whom six are living. The deaths of the others occurred as follows: James B., July 23, 1845; Albert J., March 28, 1881; John, March 9, 1879, and Samantha, September 28, 1850.

Dr. Eli P. Leslie, when he died, left his family in good circumstances. Three of his children live in Convoy, Ohio; one in Van Wert, Ohio, and one in Chicago. All are married and heads of families except Eliza, who is single.

Hannah Marshall, the wife of Dr. Leslie, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1820. Her father, Benjamin Marshall, was born in Pennsylvania, July 5, 1791. He was of Irish descent, and a farmer by occupation during his entire life. At the age of twelve he left Pennsylvania and removed to Ohio, locating on a farm in Trumbull county, on which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1862. In politics he was a democrat, and he was a member of the Presbyterian church. By his marriage to Jane McKinley—cousin of Maj. William McKinley—he was the father of nine children, as follows: William, Carson, Hannah, Eliza, Isaac, Emeline, Lida, Clark and John. Four of these children are still living, three in Ohio and one in Nebraska. All are married. Hannah Marshall, the wife of Dr. Leslie, met him at Cannonsburg, and they were married after an acquaintance of six weeks; but notwithstanding this short courtship their lives were very happy ones. She is now living in Convoy, Ohio, with her daughter Eliza, highly esteemed by all for her sterling qualities of character.

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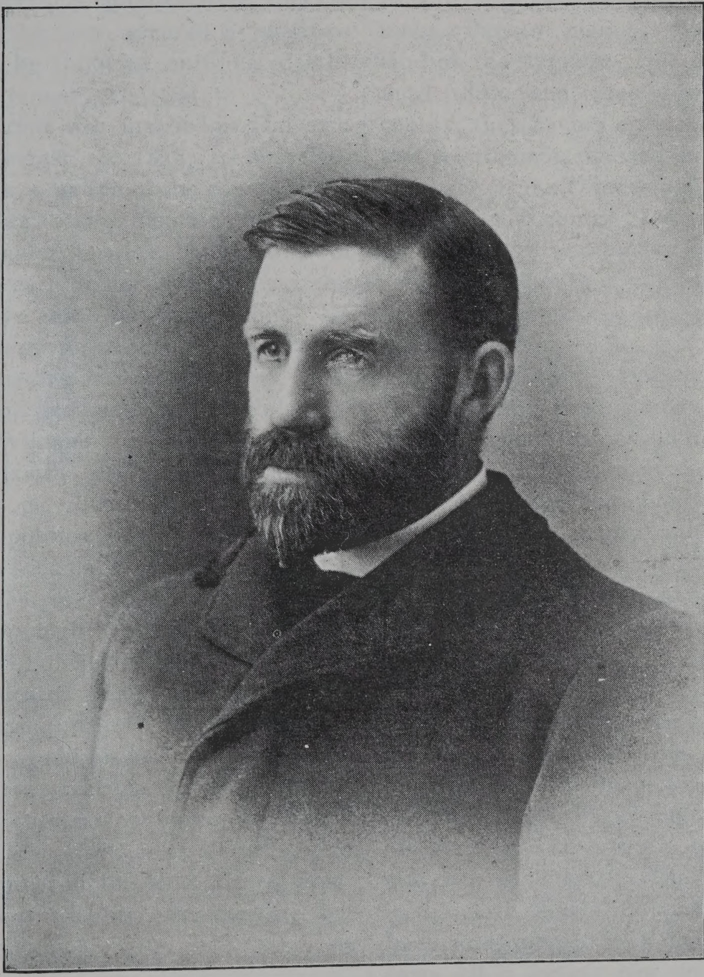
DR. ADAM NELSON KROUT, deceased, was born in Baltimore county, Md., December 30, 1836, a son of John and Nancy (Bond) Krout. John Krout, the father, was a native of Pennsylvania, was a farmer, and came to Ohio about 1856, locating in Hancock county. His wife, Nancy, was also a native of Pennsylvania, and both she and her husband ended their years on earth on the Ohio farm mentioned above. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom four still survive.

Dr. A. N. Krout was a mere child when taken from Maryland to York county, Pa., by his parents, with whom he there resided until about twenty years of age, when, with them, he came to Hancock county, Ohio. There he



A. L. Kraut

began the study of medicine under Dr. McDonald, of Mount Blanchard, read under him until 1862, and then entered the Starling Medical college at Columbus, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1866. He at once located in Van Wert, where his abilities were quickly recognized, and he soon secured a lucrative practice, which he followed until his death, which occurred January 22, 1891.

Dr. A. N. Krout was married in Hancock county, Ohio, August 18, 1858, to Miss Rachael A. Orwick, a native of the county, born January 18, 1842, and a daughter of Henry and Hannah (Taylor) Orwick, both natives of York, Pa., who early in life came to Ohio, and here died in 1870 and 1856 respectively. By the union of the doctor and his wife were born five children, viz: an infant, deceased; Gertrude, Milton and Emma V., all three also deceased; and William C., at home. The father of this family was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a trustee, and in politics was a republican until 1888, when he became a prohibitionist. He was also a member of the Royal Arcanum, and socially stood very high. He accumulated considerable property in his life-time, owning, at the time of his death, a fine farm of 225 acres in Pleasant township, three valuable residence lots in Van Wert, and his private residence on South Washington street; beside this property, he held a life insurance policy for a considerable amount. Mrs. Krout is also a prominent and devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is highly respected by her friends and neighbors.

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JOHN LUERSMANN, one of the well-known farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born on the farm where he now lives on May 8, 1852, and is the son of Casper Luersmann, one of the pioneers of the township. The father was a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was reared, and where he was married to Anna Elizabeth Raude. In 1844 they came to the United States, landing in New York, and coming direct to Fort Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio. They rented land on the Auglaize river and farmed there until 1847, and then came to Van Wert county, they having entered forty acres from the government, located in section No. 35. This was then all woods and full of wild animals and wild game. But they began to clear off the timber and by dint of hard work were soon able to put in a crop. The father died in 1886, in his seventy-seventh year; the mother died in 1891, aged eighty-two years and three months. Both parents were members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church. To the parents three children were born, as follows: Clara, born in the old country, was married to Harman Trentmann, of Marion township, Allen connty, and died in February, 1884, leaving her husband and five sons and three daughters; Dina was born in Putnam county, in 1846; and our subject.

John Luersmann was brought up on the home farm in Washington township, and attended the district schools, learning both German and English. He has always lived on the home farm, remaining with his parents all their lives. Two years before his father died he deeded the farm to his son, and the latter now owns it entirely. There are eighty acres in the place, and in 1890 our subject purchased forty acres more, which does not join on but is close, all in section No. 36. The residence, however, is in section No. 35, two miles southwest from Delphos. In 1893 he also purchased a farm of sixty-five acres near Landeck, for which he paid $4,000.

Mr. Luersmann was married, in 1876, to Annie Maesker, who was born in Marion township, Allen county, in 1856, and is the daughter of Casper Maesker. To Mr. and Mrs. Luersmann nine children have been born, as follows: Rosa, John H., Frank, Mary, Regina, Joseph (deceased), Alice, (deceased) Leo (deceased) and Bertha. All the family are members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church. Mr. Luersmann is a member of the Saint Joseph's society and his wife is a member of Saint Mary's Altar society.

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WILLIAM W. LUDWIG, one of the substantial and enterprising farmers of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Baltimore county, Md., July 8, 1838, and is of sturdy German descent, his great-grandfather, John Ludwig, having brought his family from Germany prior to the American Revolution, and having settled in York county, Pa., but dying in Van Wert county, Ohio. John Ludwig, second son of the John named above, and the grandfather of William W., our subject, was also born in Germany, and was a young man when he came with his father to America and settled in York county, Pa. where he became a prosperous farmer, a prominent citizen, and quite wealthy for his day, and where he married, and died, a member of the Lutheran church. John Ludwig the third, father of our subject, was born in York county, Pa., March 11, 1806, and died in Hancock county, Ohio, February 17, 1872. He had received a sound, common-school education in his native county, was there married to Miss Eve Hilderbrand, daughter of Philip and Katie (Inetine) Hilderbrand, pioneers and wealthy farm people of York county, and to this marriage of John and Eve Ludwig were born the following children: Isabella, Ellen B., Rebecca (deceased), William W. (our subject), Henry H. (who died at Arcadia, Ohio), Sarah J. (deceased), and John W. (died at Chattanooga, during the late war). The parents of this family, after their marriage, continued to live in York county, Pa., for sixteen or eighteen years on a farm, and then moved to Crawford county, Ohio, whence they removed to Seneca county three years later, and finally, five years later, settled in Washington township, Hancock county, where they first bought a farm of 120 acres, but afterwards increased it to 160 acres, and there died members of the United Brethren church.

William W. Ludwig, the subject proper of this biographical notice, received in his youthful days a good, solid common-school education, and was reared on the home farm in York county, Pa., where he married, April 20, 1862, Mrs. Caroline Smith, daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Strayer) Stiles, and widow of Charles Smith, who died January 17, 1856, and to whom she was the mother of three children—Ellen (deceased), Sophia and Frank C. Mr. Smith was a farmer and shoemaker of York county, Pa., was a democrat in politics, and in religion a Lutheran. The children born to Mr. Ludwig by his marriage to Mrs. Smith are Henry H., Lydia A., Amelia, John W., and Della. One year after his marriage Mr. Ludwig left his home in Pennsylvania and located in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, where he resided a year, then moved to Hardin county, where he lived two and a half years, then moved back to Hancock county, purchased a farm near Vanlue and lived there five years, then bought his father's old farm in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, where he lived for eighteen months; then emigrated to Holt county, Mo., where he bought 180 acres, on which he lived two years; then traded for a farm in Richland county, Ohio, on which he made a home nine years, and then traded for his home of eighty acres in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, on which he has since resided and to which he has added seventeen acres, having now as fine and as well improved a farm of its size as there is in the county—all of which has been earned by his own industry, aided by that of his family. Mr. Ludwig is a stanch democrat and has served two terms as township trustee; he is also a justice of the peace. He is liberal in his contributions to church purposes and is equally liberal in his aid to school enterprises. He is a member of lodge No. 791, I. O. O. F., at Scott, and is a well known and highly respected citizen. Mrs. Ludwig is a consistent member of the Evangelical church. Her brothers and sisters were named, in the order of birth: Leah (deceased), Maria, Sarah (deceased), Katie, Lydia, Mary, Eliza, Henrietta, Christian J. and William—her own birth occurred April 5, 1831.

**ALEXANDER LEWIS**, one of the wealthy land owners of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in New Jersey and comes from an old colonial family, of English descent. John Lewis, his father, also a native of New Jersey, married Mrs. Euphemia Earl, whose maiden name was also Lewis, but no relationship existed between them. The only issue of this marriage was Alexander, our subject, who was born March 4, 1834. John Lewis, the father, died in 1837, and in 1838 the subject was brought to Ohio by his mother and maternal grandfather, James Lewis, who settled in Belmont county. Here the lad, Alexander, began work, at a tender age in the coal mines, and at the age of sixteen began to learn the trade of stone-mason, at which he later worked twenty-seven years, part of the time in company with John Whitcraft, a brother-in-law. While yet a boy he went to Tuscarawas county, and when a young man went to Muskingum county, where he married, September 2, 1856, to Elizabeth Whitcraft, who was born October 9, 1832, a daughter of George and Eliza (Hannel) Whitcraft. George Whitcraft was a farmer and an old settler of Muskingum county, and he and his wife were parents of twelve children, viz: Thomas, Isaac, Elizabeth, John, Sarah J., Harrison, Nicholas, Nancy J., Mary, Lewis F., Ann and Sarah. In politics the father of this family was a republican and had four sons in the Civil war—Thomas, Isaac, John and Harrison. George Whitcraft, in course of time removed from Muskingum to Hocking county, bought a farm 110 acres, and there resided until his death at the age of seventy-two years, a member of the United Brethren church, although in earlier life he had been a Methodist, and all his life a worthy upright gentleman.

Alexander Lewis, after his marriage, also settled in Hocking county, Ohio, where he was engaged for twenty years in the stone-mason business, as alluded to above. He began with no capital, and for fifteen years carried his tools from place to place, working on bridges and doing a vast amount of work as journeyman, as well as contractor for work on stores and other buildings. In 1875 he came to Van Wert county, and, in company with John Whitcraft, bought 400 acres of prairie land, his own share being 240 acres. By thrift, good management, and industry, he increased this property to 320 acres, including his farming land, all of which he has deeded to his children, with the exception of 120 acres, which he reserves for his own use. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have been born four children, viz: Albert M., George I., John and Lucy J., all natives of Hocking county. Of these, Albert married Elizabeth Downing, and is the father of seven children; George I. is the husband of Jennie Downing, sister of Albert's wife, and has five children;

John is married to Julia Sponseller, and is the father of four children; Lucy, now deceased, married John Sponseller, and had one child. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lewis affiliate with the Methodists in their religious belief, and while in Hocking county Mr. Lewis was a member of the Masonic fraternity in good standing, being a regular attendant of his lodge. In politics he is a republican. Mr. Lewis is entirely self made, having begun life as a poor boy, and the first $20 he earned as a coal-miner has been placed in his present farm. He has reared a respected family of children, and he himself stands high as a citizen and as a man of sterling worth and integrity of character. His farm is one of the best in Tully township, and now comprises 334 acres, including the 120 acres reserved from his earlier possessions.

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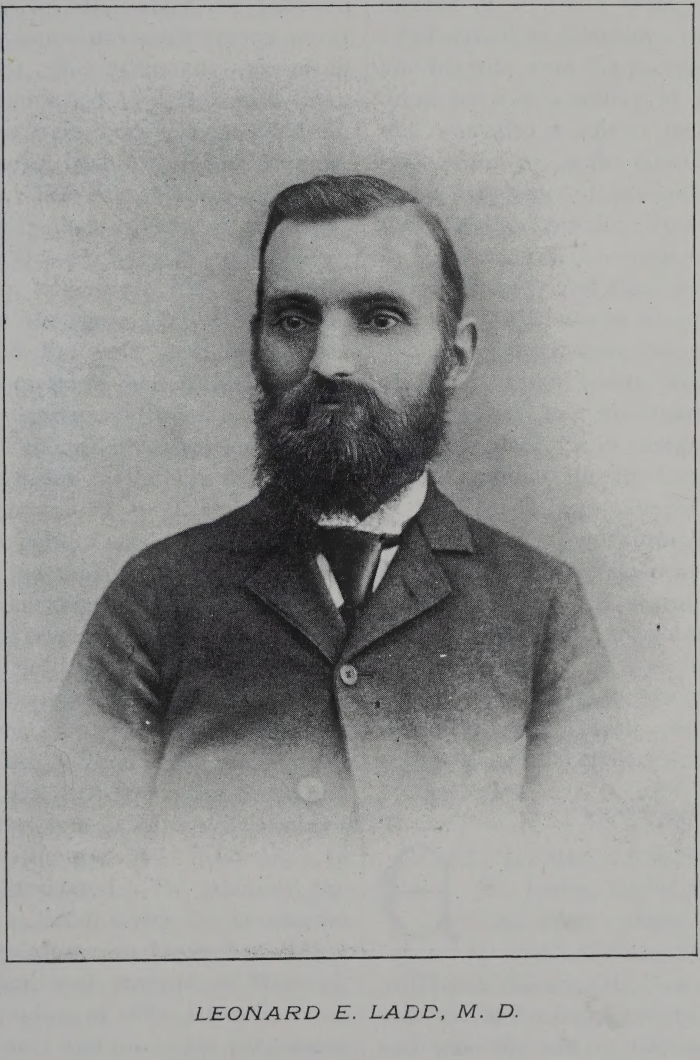
DR. LEONARD E. LADD, a leading physician of Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from sterling Puritan stock of English origin. A remote ancestor, Capt. Ladd, was a paymaster in the English navy and came to America in 1660, landing in Massachusetts bay. The family took an active part in the early Indian wars and their descendants were still later active in the Revolutionary war, and have been in all the wars since. The great-great-grandfather of Dr. Ladd was with Col. Pepperell of Maine, during the second French war, when that officer captured from the French the fort at Louisburg, on Cape Breton island, June 17, 1745, for which feat the American commander was knighted by George II, of England—being the first native of New England to be so honored. The Ladd ancestor here alluded to was the first of the family to settle in Maine and assisted to build the first block house at Saco, as a defense against the Indians, in the trouble with whom the Ladd family took an active part. When Dr. Ladd, our subject, first began the practice of medicine, about 1881, his office was on the site of this identical block house in Saco.

Thomas Ladd, grandfather of our subject, was born at Saco, Me., about 1761, was a farmer, and was first married to Sarah Phillips, in 1783, who bore ten children. Of these, Thomas, a United States land surveyor, was killed by the Indians in the west at an early day; the other sons were named William, Andrew, Edmund and Rufus. The daughters were Mary, Icy, Unice, Lucinda and Sarah. The second marriage of Mr. Ladd was with Hannah Jose, in 1813, also of Puritan stock, and whose ancestors were warriors of the early French Indian wars. The French and Indians several times swept over Maine, and, on two different occasions, Saco was captured. On one of these occasions a member of the Ladd family was digging a well, and his wife was attending the windlass, when an attack from the Indians was so sudden that Mr. Ladd was unnoticed, while his wife was borne off a prisoner to Canada and detained for some years.

To the second marriage of Thomas Ladd were born six children, viz: Samuel E., Silas, John, James, Dorcas and Sarah. Of Thomas Ladd's children several sons were in the war of 1812, one of whom, Thomas, Jr., was discharged at Quebec and walked the entire distance home, carrying his old flint-lock musket, which is still in the possession of the family. The father was a well-known citizen, and his farm, which he cleared up six miles from Saco, and on which he died at the age of seventy-two years, has never been alienated from the family.

Samuel Ladd, the second son of the above, and father of subject, was born on his father's farm near Saco, Me., April 24, 1818, was reared on the farm, and also became a ship-



LEONARD E. LADD, M. D.

joiner or finisher. He married Jane C. Peterson, born July 7, 1837, daughter of Nicholas and Alice Peterson. The father, Nicholas Peterson, was born in Sweden, July 5, 1795, of a noble family, but at the age of fourteen years ran away to sea, which he followed thirty years, for some unknown reason never returning home. He eventually settled in Maine, where he married Alice Brown in June, 1822. To them were born eleven children, as follows: Joseph, Nicholas, Jacob, Andrew, Jackson, Calvin, Alice, Ann, Catherine, Elizabeth and Jane Clemens. Alice Brown was born in Maine, October 5, 1792, and died in Waltham, Mass., August 26, 1885. Nicholas Peterson died at the age of sixty-three years. To Samuel Ladd and wife were born seven children, of whom three died in infancy; the four attaining mature age were named Dr. Frank B., Dr. Leonard E., Alice and Addie. Mr. Ladd, as were his forefathers for generations, was a member of the Congregational church, and his politics was democratic. He was a man of exemplary character, was a highly respected citizen, and died at Saco January 1, 1889, seventy years of age.

Dr. Leonard E. Ladd was born at Saco, Me., October 30, 1857, and received the usual academical education of the better class of New England lads; he then began the study of medicine under Dr. J. A. Berry, of Saco, and next attended the college of Physicians and Surgeons, at Baltimore, Md., from 1879 to 1881, when he graduated. He practiced the first six months at Saco, laying the foundation for a future reputation; in December, 1881, he came to Ohio, and stopped in Hancock county until the spring of 1882, when he came to Van Wert county and made his permanent headquarters at Middlepoint, building up rapidly a lucrative practice and a deservedly high reputation,

The marriage of Dr. Ladd took place September 7, 1883, to Miss Laura B. Morris, who was born at Elida, Ohio, November 10, 1862, a daughter of James and Margaret (Hilliard) Morris. James Morris was of an old Virginia family, and came to Ohio in 1844; he first located in Fairfield county, and in 1848 or 1850 settled in Allentown, Allen county. He and his wife were the parents of fourteen children; he was a soldier of the Mexican war, and was also a soldier for three years, in an Ohio regiment, in the late Civil war; he lived to be sixty years of age and died a member of the Christian church. To Dr. and Mrs. Ladd have been born five sons—Roscoe, Vaughn, Cloyd, Wilmer and Paul, and the family affiliate with the Lutheran church. In politics the doctor is a republican, has served as mayor of Middlepoint four years, and is very popular with his party and the citizens generally. He has been physician in charge of the Van Wert county infirmary for the last nine years, where he has had a large clinical experience. His large practice extends throughout the surrounding country, and his fame as a physician is not limited to his local surroundings. He is a deep student and an unremitting reader of everything pertaining to pathology and hygiene, and his keen habits of observation, yet genial and kindly deportment, make him invaluable accessories in his clinical practice.

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EUPHEMIA LEWIS, widow of John W. Lewis, late of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and a daughter of James and Susannah Ellis, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1843. Her father was born in Frederick county, W. Va., in 1804, and was the son of Christopher Ellis, who came from Germany in an early day and settled in one of the eastern states, thence, later, moved to Clinton county, Ohio. James Ellis, when quite young, accompanied his parents to the county of Clinton and there grew to manhood on his father's farm, and about 1829 was united in marriage to Susannah Woolman, daughter of John and Mary (Burden) Woolman. To this marriage nine children were born: Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Starbuck; Mary J., wife of William Reed; Eliza, deceased; Martha, deceased; Jacob, deceased; Granville; John W., deceased; Euphemia and James V. The mother of these children was born in Clinton county in 1809, her parents, both natives of New Jersey, having been among the first settlers of the Buckeye state. She died January 23, 1882. James Ellis was a successful farmer, secured for himself a comfortable competence, was a highly respected citizen and departed this life in 1870.

Mrs. Euphemia Lewis, the subject of this sketch, was reared in the country home of her parents and received her educational training in the country schools of Clinton county, and on the 17th day of October, 1867, became the wife of John W. Lewis; five children were born to this marriage: Eugene E., who resides on the home farm; Jennie M., wife of Nicodemus Tindall; Earnest R.; Emma L. and Harry W.

John W. Lewis, the husband and father, was born in Butler county, Ohio, in the year of 1844, the son of James and Nancy (Bone) Lewis. In his youth he moved with his parents to Clinton county, where he engaged in farming and where he resided until 1870, in December of which year he became a resident of the county of Van Wert, purchasing a farm in Pleasant township, where the family now resides. He was a man of industry, as is attested by the fact that his land, at the time of his taking possession, was in a wild state, but he soon succeeded in developing it and establishing a comfortable home. He brought his farm to an excellent state of cultivation, was progressive in his ideas relative to agriculture, and did much in a quiet way to enhance the industrial interests of his community. His death occurred in October, 1882. Mrs. Lewis is possessed of excellent judgment, has given personal attention to the management of the farm, and is a lady honored and respected in her neighborhood. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also belongs to Pleasant grange, with which organization her husband was also identified.

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SAMUEL W. LONG, the senior partner in the real estate and insurance firm of Long & Wappner, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born March 27, 1850, in Ashland county, this state, a son of Peter and Margaret (Barnhart) Long. The father, Peter Long, was a native of Strasburg, Germany, was born October 4, 1807, but at an early age was left an orphan and was bound out, until eighteen years old, to learn tailoring. His time having expired, and in order to avoid military service, he came to America, the trip requiring forty-one days, and landed in New York city. In 1827 he came to Ohio and resided in Canton, Stark county, one year; there married and engaged in farming until 1835, when he moved to Ashland county, where he continued to farm until 1878, when he retired to Loudonville, that county, and passed the remainder of his days in comfort, dying January 12, 1893. His wife, Margaret Barnhart, was born also in Strasburg, January 6, 1805, and was married in Canton, Ohio, June 28, 1828. She had been acquainted with Mr. Long in Germany, and had there became his betrothed. To this union of Mr. and Mrs. Long were born ten children, viz: George W., Peter, John M., Anna, Adam, Mary, Catherine, Daniel, William and Samuel W. Mrs. Margaret Long passed away December 12, 1874, a devout member of the Lutheran church; her husband was also an adherent of this religious denomination, in politics was a democrat, and at his death was the owner of 240 acres of farm land and other valuable real estate, almost entirely earned through his own industry and that of his faithful helpmate.

Samuel W. Long, our subject, was reared to seventeen years of age in his native county, on his father's farm, and then went to the town of Ashland to learn the baker and confectioner's trade, at which he there worked for two years—then went to Pittsburg, Pa., where he sojourned one year; in 1870 he returned to Ohio, and until 1880 made his home in Napoleon, Henry county. In the latter year he came to Van Wert and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, which he conducted on his sole account until 1888, when he was joined in the business by George Henry Wappner, of whom mention is made on another page, and with the exception of one year, the firm name has ever since been that of Long & Wappner, it being one of the strongest and most popular in its line of business in the city of Van Wert.

The marriage of Mr. Long took place in Henry county, Ohio, in 1872, to Miss Clara E. Reiter, a native of that county, and to this union were born two children—Idella May (deceased) and Clara E. Mr. Long had the misfortune to lose his wife May 5, 1878, and his second marriage took place in Van Wert, July 20, 1882, to Maggie E. Hattery, who was born in this county September 16, 1853, a daughter of Nathaniel Hattery, whose biography is published elsewhere in this work. This happy union has been blessed by the birth of one child—Peter Earl. Mr. Long is an elder and also treasurer in the Lutheran church, of which his wife is also a devout member; he is secretary of the Ohio National Building & Loan association, and fraternally is a member of the National Union; in politics he is a democrat. He is also a notary public, and the firm are agents for some of the most substantial fire, life and accident insurance companies in the United States and elsewhere.

MICHAEL LONG, an old settler of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Germany, May 25, 1827, and came to America with his parents in 1837. He is a son of Daniel and Margaret (Keil) Long, who were the parents of eight children, named Annie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Mary, Michael, Henry, Daniel and John, all born in Germany. Daniel Long, the father, was a potter by trade, and sailed from Bremen in the ship Marcus, landing, after a passage of fifty-six days, in the port of New York. The father at once brought his family to Ohio and built a pottery in Seneca county, and there passed the remainder of his days, dying at the age of sixty-eight years, in the faith of the Catholic church.

Michael Long, the subject of this biography, was debarred of the usual educational advantages, beginning hard work for his living as a farm hand while still young. He married, in Seneca county, Margaret Smith, who was born in Germany in September, 1828, a daughter of Nicholas and Margaret Smith. Nicholas Smith was a farmer and came to America about 1833, settled in Seneca county, Ohio, cleared up a farm from the woods, and there died, a devoted member of the Catholic church. His six children were named, in order of birth, as follows: Nicholas, Catherine, Elizabeth, Eva, Margaret and John. Mr. Long and wife continued to live, after marriage, on the home farm of forty-seven acres, which he had cleared himself from the woods while still young, and there made his home until 1850, when he came to Van Wert county and bought eighty acres of land in the woods of Washington township, all of which he subsequently cleared and converted into a fertile and profitable farm. During the earlier day, beside working at his own clearing, he assisted to erect the first Catholic church edifice in Delphos, devoting two days each week to this purpose until its completion. He had also assisted in building the first Catholic church in Seneca county, and later aided in erecting all the Catholic churches of his neighboring towns, including those at Landeck, Ottoville and Van Wert, and also contributed very liberally of his means to the magnificent structure at Delphos. To Mr. and Mrs. Long have been born three children, viz: Nicholas, who died when five years of age; Louisa, who died at the age of twenty-five years, a married woman; and Mary F.

Mr. Long has by thrift and well directed labor greatly increased his farming property and is now in prosperous circumstances. For four years he was a councilman of the Catholic church at Delphos, and as a democrat has held the office of school director. He is a self-made man in the true sense of the word, and an honored citizen, standing high in the esteem of all the residents of Washington township and of the adjacent country for miles around.

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**WILLIAM N. LONGSWORTH,** M. D., of Convoy, Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is one of the oldest and most honored members of his profession of Van Wert county, and was born in Frederick county, Md., February 13, 1818, of English and German descent. Solomon Longsworth, grandfather of the doctor, came to America while still a young man, was married, in Baltimore county, Md., to Miss Nelson, daughter of Henry Nelson, the union resulting in the birth of eight children, viz.: Solomon, Basil, Susan, Harriet, Betsey, Nancy, Sirak and Caty.

Solomon Longsworth, son of the Solomon mentioned in the above paragraph and father of our subject, was born in Baltimore county, Md., in 1789, received a common-school education; became a farmer and made his home on the old farm in Baltimore county, Md., until he was married to Katie Boyer, of German descent, but a native of Montgomery county, Md., and this union resulted in the birth of nine children, viz.: John W., Caleb, Joshua, William N., Enoch G., Solomon R., Mary A., Susan (deceased in infancy), and Cornelius, who also died in infancy. In 1832 Mr. Longsworth removed with his family to Guernsey county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of 160 acres, which he increased to 200 acres, but, two years later, in 1834, he removed to Richland county, and early in 1846 came to Van Wert county, and purchased eighty acres of land in the unbroken forest of Washington township. This land he also cleared up and then purchased eighty additional acres, but lived to enjoy his new possessions two years only—dying late in 1848, at the age of fifty-eight years. His widow, however, continued to reside on these premises for several years, and then sold. Mr. and Mrs. Longsworth both were members of the Methodist Protestant church, of Mr. Longsworth was a local preacher, and, as may well be supposed, a devoted Christian and laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. He was a patriot, and of his nine children he gave one, John W., to the service of his country during the late Civil war, and John W., in turn, gave up three children of his own to the service.

Dr. William N. Longsworth received his preliminary education in his native county, and in 1832 came to Ohio with his parents, with whom he resided on the farm until 1844, when he began the study of medicine at Congress, Wayne county, under Dr. Leander Firestone, who was a prominent medical man of his day, and who, before his death, occupied a chair in the medical department of Wooster university. Dr. Longsworth next attended lectures at the Cleveland Medical college, and after graduation began practice in Lorain county, but at the close of three years he relinquished this somewhat contracted field and chose Van Wert county as the scene of his future professional labors; here he located in Van Wert, in 1853, and practiced until 1873, becoming known as one of the most skillful physicians that had ever entered Van Wert county, and enjoying the respect and confidence of the people of Van Wert and adjoining counties. He accumulated a handsome competence, and for a time sought relief from the active practice of his profession, but he was of too nervous a temperament and of too active a mentality to entirely abstain from business.

In 1873 the doctor established a factory in Lima, Ohio, for the production of wooden handles for agricultural implements, etc., and carried on the factory over eleven years; he then sold his factory to his son, Ira R. Longsworth. In 1885 the doctor settled in Convoy, Van Wert county, and here resumed the practice of medicine, meeting with the same success that had elsewhere attended him, but at the close of four years he again relinquished the practice of his profession and established a notion store, and also became agent for the Adams Express company, a position he still retains.

The first marriage of Mr. Longsworth was solemnized September 22, 1847, with Miss Sarah A. Doolin, a daughter of William and Sarah (Ury) Doolin, of Wayne county, Ohio, and this union resulted in the birth of one son, Myron V. Longsworth, the mother dying in 1855. The second marriage of the doctor was with Miss Olive Richey, daughter of M. F. and Sarah (Eaton) Richey, the former one of the oldest settlers of Harrison township, Van Wert county. To this second marriage of the doctor have been born eleven children, viz: William (died at the age of thirteen years), Ira R., Lawrence R., Clara P., Howard, Lucy, Walter (died in infancy), Horace, (also died in infancy), Reece F., Shirley N. and Katie. Dr. and Mrs. Longsworth are members of the Presbyterian church, of which he has been an elder many years, and in politics he is a stanch republican. He is a strict temperance man, and a Good Templar, and in 1886 was elected mayor of Convoy.

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ALFRED L. LONGWELL, dealer in imported horses, Van Wert, Ohio, is a son of James and Phœbe (Leonard) Longwell, and was born in Delaware county, Ohio, August 19, 1839. James Longwell was born in Kentucky in 1803, a son of Robert, a native of Ireland; Robert was married in Kentucky, where he carried on farming until late in life, when he came to Ohio and located in Delaware county and passed the remainder of his days. There were born six children, viz: Lafayette, Ezekiel, James, George and two daughters, all now deceased. James Longwell remained with his parents until he was married, in 1825, to Phœbe Leonard, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1812. To this union were born seven children, viz: an infant, deceased; Mary J. and Ira, both deceased; Cecelia, wife of John Eckelburg of Delaware county, Ohio; Alfred L., our subject; John, of Delaware county, and Sarah E., wife of J. C. Reed. The parents of these children were members of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Longwell was a republican; he was a successful farmer, and at the time of his death, in Delaware county, owned a fine farm of 218 acres.

Alfred L. Longwell was reared and educated in Delaware county, Ohio, remained at home until twenty-two years of age, or until his marriage, August 22, 1861, in Delaware county, to Mary Reed, who was born in Virginia September 13, 1841, a daughter of Robert and Rebecca Reed, to which union were born seven children, viz: James R.; Minnie, wife of H. Johnson, farmer of Illinois; William John, with the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad; Frank, with the same road; Emma V., deceased; Charles, a student of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Edith A., a milliner. After his marriage, Mr. Longwell farmed in Delaware county until 1862, then came to Van Wert county and located on his farm of 160 acres of wild land, which he occupied for two years; he then sold and purchased eighty acres in Ridge township and eighty acres in Jackson township, and there made his home until 1872, when he again sold out and bought a tract of 160 acres in the south part of Ridge township, and another tract of eighty acres, where he began, in 1884, buying fine stable horses and brood mares. His first purchase was Bazaine, No. 1994, a French draft horse, which he kept three years; he then bought Liberator, in 1887—a Belgium horse that died; then bought the Norman mare Bibi, which he still owns; then Cæsar, now six years old; then Clyde King; Hayno A. Clyde, a Kentucky colt; Coast Guard; Hendrian, a German coach; also Col. Brice, a Norman. His stable now consists of four full-blooded colts, two brood mares and ten stallions, as well as other stock. His farm comprises 240 acres of land, well improved; also commodious barn, a large feed yard, and stock in the patrons' warehouse, at Van Wert, and a picturesque dwelling. Mr. and Mrs. Longwell attend the Methodist Episcopal church and have their residence on South Washington street, near Maple street, in the city of Van Wert, where they are surrouded by a host of genial and social neighbors.

CHARLES R. LONGSWORTH, senior member of the firm of Longsworth & Agler, photographers of Van Wert city, was born in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, October 25, 1870, and is a son of Solomon R. and Catherine (Somerset) Longsworth. He comes of a long line of honorable ancestry, most of whom followed the occupation of agriculture. The father, Solomon R. Longsworth, was born in Frederick county, Md., June 7, 1830, and was a son of Solomon Longsworth, also a native of Maryland, but born of English parents. Solomon Longsworth, about 1832, emigrated to Van Wert county from Maryland and died a year later. He was an old-time whig in politics, was a farmer by occupation, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and married Catherine Boyer, who died about 1871. She, like her husband, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was the mother of the following children: Wesley, deceased; Mary A., widow of James Clarke, of Noble county, Ohio; Joshua, deceased, who lived in Kansas; Phillip, deceased; Dr. William, of Convoy; Enoch, of Worthington, Ind., and Solomon R., deceased.

Solomon R. Longsworth, as may be readily inferred by what has been said above, was quite young when he was brought to Van Wert county. Here he was reared by his mother, was educated in the common schools of the day, and brought up to perform farm work, that being the most that could be done at that time. On November 11, 1851, he married Catherine Somerset, daughter of John and Rachael Somerset, who, when they came west, first settled in Allen county, but later removed to Van Wert county. Mr. Somerset was a republican in politics, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, served in the war of 1812, and died in 1872. His wife died about 1860. Their daughter, Catherine, who married Mr. Longsworth, was born November 24, 1831, in Allen county, Ohio, but was educated in Van Wert county, to which county she had been taken in her youth by her parents. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She and her husband were the parents of nine children, viz: Samuel W., deceased; William A.; John F., a merchant of Van Wert; Elmer A., engaged in buying, pressing and selling hay in Van Wert; Frank, a railroad man of Fort Wayne, Ind.; G. W., a telegraph operator of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio; Charles R., of Van Wert; Chloe R. C., a teacher of Van Wert; and S. O., a clerk in Van Wert.

After his marriage, Solomon R. Longsworth settled down on a farm near Middlepoint, which he cleared and improved, and which, about 1863, he sold, and then purchased a farm of 120 acres, where his son, William A., now lives. Some time afterward he purchased forty acres more, and still later, forty other acres, making his farm consist of 200 acres of land. This is now one of the best farms in Van Wert county, and is well improved. In politics Mr. Longsworth was a republican, and he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of his church he was a trustee for several years, and he was active in its support. He was drafted into the service of the government during the war and served 100 days. His death was caused by small-pox in 1873, and his widow died in 1879 of heard disease.

Charles R. Longsworth was but two years old when his father died, and only seven years of age when his mother was taken away. Thus thrown upon the world, he was reared by different relatives until he was twelve years of age, when he went to live with J. H. Springer, of Ridge township, remaining with that gentleman four years. He then attended school at Middlepoint for about one year, when he received a certificate to teach school, and taught his first term in Union township. This profession he followed four years, in the meantime studying photography with the view of adopting that as his profession for life. In 1892 he opened a studio in Rockford, Ohio, remaining there about a year, and in 1893 removed to Van Wert, where, in company with D. E. Agler, he opened a studio and has been engaged in business there ever since.

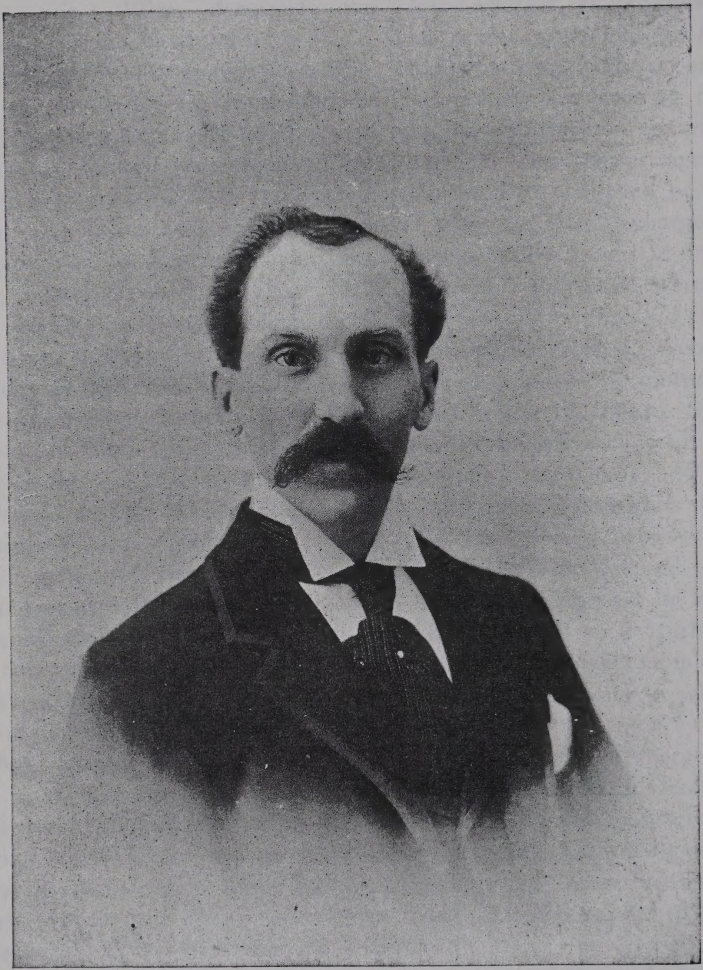
Mr. Longsworth was married in Van Wert March 25, 1891, to Lydia E. Klinger, born in Van Wert, Ohio, October 8, 1867, and a daughter of Jacob A. and Jane (Holden) Klinger, both natives of Ohio. To this marriage there has been born one child, Orr E. Mr. Longsworth is a republican in politics, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both are good people and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

WILLIAM LYBARGER, a highly respectable retired farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, March 1, 1811, and is therefore eighty-five years of age. He is a son of John and Jane (McNeal) Lybarger, the former of whom was born in Erie county, Pa., in 1785. John Lybarger was reared a farmer. and married Jane McNeal in 1806, soon afterward locating in Ashtabula county, Ohio, living there until 1826; he then removed to Pennsyluania, where he remained three years on rented land, and at the end of this time he purchased sixty-seven acres, upon which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1845. His wife died in 1850. In politics Mr. Lybarger was a democrat; he was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was also in numerous battles with Indians. Mr. and Mrs. Lybarger were the parents of two children, viz.: Eliza, deceased, and William, the subject of this sketch.

William Lybarger lived in pioneer days from his boyhood up to his arrival at manhood's estate. His education was received in one of the old log school-houses frequently described in this volume in connection with the lives of early settlers. He began work upon the farm when yet a boy, continuing thus occupied until his marriage, which occurred in 1841. His wife, whose maiden name was Abigail Lake, was born in Knox county, Ohio, in 1819, and was a daughter of Nicholas and Sallie Lake, both natives of New England. After living on rented land for three years, they removed to Van Wert county, in 1846, and located on land Mr. Lybarger had previously entered from the government, and upon which he has lived ever since, a period of fifty years. During this time Mr. Lybarger has witnessed almost a complete transformation of every industry in the county, and the growth and development of many new industries. The methods of traveling both on land and on water have since been completely changed. From the slow-going ox team, and the not much more rapidly moving horse team, the world has passed to the fast flying steam locomotive on the best possible form of road. Farm labor has also been as much transformed as any other form of labor, steam having in many departments supplanted horse power, as horse power some years since took the place of oxen. Much of Mr. Lybarger's farm work in the early days of his life in Van Wert county, was done by the slow plodding ox team; plowing, harrowing, hauling logs, hauling rails, and fire wood, almost every kind of team work was done by means of the patient, toiling, mild-eyed ox. We are now living in a rapid age, then we were living in a slow age. Now we are living in the age of iron and steel and steam; then we were living in the age of muscle and of wood. Mr. Lybarger, as he is now living, retired from all active participation in practical affairs, looks back upon the progress of the last fifty years and then turns to the end of the next fifty years, and tries to imagine by what means and by what power agriculture, locomotion and industry will then be carried on.

Mr. and Mrs. Lybarger reared a family of eight children, and had one child that died in infancy. The eight were as follows: Shannon; Sarah, widow of Peter H. Miller; John, Edward, Charles B., George, Eliza and Eva. Mrs. Lybarger, the mother of these children, died August 28, 1894. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Lybarger is in politics a democrat, and has held several of the minor offices within the gift of his party. He has always been an active, industrious man, and a careful and economical manager. What he possesses he acquired by his own efforts, and it may truthfully be said of him that in every way he is one of the self-made men of the county in which he has lived so many years.

Charles B. Lybarger, son of William Lybarger, was born October 22, 1856. Educated in the common schools, he remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, assisting his father on the farm. He was married December 28, 1881, to Miss Florida White, born February 20, 1863, and a daughter of Addison D. and Rebecca M. (Monser) White, both natives of Ohio. By this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lybarger are the parents of four children, viz.: Franklin H.; Veonie, Jessie and Freddie. After his marriage Mr. Lybarger located on forty acres of land he owned in Ridge township, Van Wert county, and there



W. C. Lawrence

he continued to reside with his family until March 6, 1895, when he removed to the old homestead to take care of his father. In politics Mr. Lybarger is a democrat, active in the support and defense of his party's principles. He is a young man, full of hope and energy, and is also full of ambition. But, as is his duty, he has left his own home and farm and is taking the best care possible of his aged father, who is far past the allotted three score and ten years of age. He is a young man of excellent character and disposition and has the good will and best friendship of all who know him and his respected family.

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**WILBUR C. LAWRENCE.** — The gentleman whose biographical sketch is herewith presented is a native of New York, in which state his ancestors, both paternal and maternal, located in colonial times, the former coming to the new world from France. The family for many years were residents of Westchester county, of which part of the state the subject's grandfather, Norman Lawrence, was a native. Norman Lawrence married Hannah Pardee, also of the county aforesaid, and reared a family of eight children, whose names are as follows: Mollie, Gertrude, Cyrus, Frank, Zophar, Hattie, Lydia and George, all but two of whom are still living, namely: George, met his death before Richmond, while gallantly defending the country's flag, being twenty-eight years of age at the time, and Zophar, who died in 1895. The parents of these children were Presbyterians, as were many of their ancestors, and the father, a farmer by occupation, was a man of sterling worth and unimpeachable integrity.

Cyrus Lawrence, the third in order of birth in the above family and father of Wilbur C., was born at Lewisboro, Westchester county, N. Y., in April, 1825, and received his educational training in the schools of his native town and county. When nineteen years of age he began teaching school and with the capital thus acquired, and possessed of a laudable ambition to increase his scholastic knowledge, he further educated himself, alternately attending and teaching school until his twenty-eighth year. He then withdrew from the educational field and engaged in mercantile business at South Salem, N. Y., with which branch of trade he has since been identified. In the spring of 1852, he married Clarinda Bouton, daughter of Enoch and Ursilla (Read) Bouton, who was born in Westchester county, N. Y.. in 1830, and they became the parents of the following children: Wilbur C,, whose name appears at the beginning of this sketch; Cornelia F., deceased; Martha J., wife of J R. Tucker of Colchester, Conn., and George, who resides with his parents. Cyrus Lawrence is a man of much more than ordinary mental powers and for many years has been potential in the public affairs of his town, where for a quarter of a century he filled the office of justice of the peace. For eight years he was index clerk in the general assembly of New York, and also served some time as justice of the county court of Westchester county sessions. In politics he is an ardent supporter of the republican party, and like the majority of the family subscribes to the Presbyterian creed, of which religious body his wife is also a member.

Wilbur C. Lawrence, the leading facts of whose life are herewith presented, was born June 11, 1853, in Lewisboro, Westchester county, N. Y., and passed his youthful years in his native town, in the school of which he laid the foundation of his intellectual training. He remained under the parental roof until his twenty-eighth year, in the meantime acquiring a practical knowledge of business in his father's mercantile establishment.

Mr. Lawrence was induced to locate in

Van Wert upon the solicitation of a friend, A. M. Bouton, who preceded him hither, and the two became partners in the hardware trade, which they carried on successfully for a period of ten years. At the end of that time Messrs. Lawrence & Bouton disposed of their stock, after which, the subject became secretary of the Van Wert Furniture company, which position he held until the establishment went into the hands of a receiver in 1893, Mr. Lawrence being appointed receiver. During the succeeding year he gave his attention to the closing out of the company's business, and in May, 1894, in partnership with A. W. Cox, purchased the insurance agency of Wolcott & Wolcott, which, under their joint management, was consolidated with the Augustine agency, theirs then becoming one of the largest and most reliable insurance firms in northwestern Ohio. The company represents twenty of the largest insurance companies in the world and does an extensive business throughout Van Wert and other counties of northern Ohio. During his residence in the city and county of his adoption he has earned the reputation of a clear-headed and capable business man, and in his social intercourse none can be more pleasant and agreeable. In disposition Mr. Lawrence is aimable and gentlemanly, traits which have contributed not a little to his success in business and which have won for him many friends throughout the county. Politically he is an earnest republican, and while active in behalf of his party, is quite popular with all classes, irrespective of political affiliations, as is attested by the fact of his having been nominated, in 1895, as candidate for the office of clerk of courts, over two well-known competitors, many of his political adversaries having used their influence in his behalf. The burden of the fight lay upon Mr. Lawrence and another candidate on the republican ticket, and it is only justice to him to say that he won the victory by straightforward, honorable methods, without the aid of money. He takes possession of his office August 3, 1896. Mr. Lawrence is very popular with all classes of people, and it is altogether probable that to this is to be attributed his success in a large degree, for as "love laughs at locksmiths," friendship often leaps over party lines.

Mr. Lawrence is a prominent member of the Pythian fraternity, in the local lodge of which he has held all the chairs. Beside having been appointed special deputy of the grand chancellor of the state, he also belongs to the grand lodge and takes an active part in the deliberations of the same.

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WERT AGLER, a most worthy citizen of Van Wert was born in Mercer county, Ohio, June 10, 1838. He is a son of J. and Mary (Putnam) Agler, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born in 18—, and the latter in 1813, and were married in 1833. J. Agler was reared on a farm in his native state and followed that honorable and most useful occupation until his death. Soon after his marriage he removed to Ohio and bought a farm in Mercer county, where he remained one year, and then removed to Liberty township, Van Wert county, where he remained the rest of his life, dying in 1868. He was a most industrious and honorable citizen, and was liberal in the use of his money, freely contributing to the aid of religious and other worthy enterprises to the extent of his ability, at the same time being unusually successful in his calling. Politically he was a democrat and religiously a member of the United Brethren church.

He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Timothy, Harmon, Wert, Morris, Sarah, Andrew, Charlotte and Putnam.

Of these Harmon, Sarah and Putnam are dead. The rest are married and heads of families of their own. Timothy married Elizabeth Brewer of Van Wert, and she died in 1893. Morris married Mollie Sinder, and is living in Marshall, Ind.; Andrew married Nancy Acum of Mercer county, and after her death married Sarah Putnam, they are living in Van Wert county; Charlotte married Daniel Whitmore of Van Wert, and they are living in Van Wert county. The mother of these children still lives on the old farm in Van Wert county, is a highly respected woman, and a member of the United Brethren church.

Wert Agler, the subject of this sketch, was born in Mercer county and was reared on his father's farm, coming to Van Wert county with his father. Continuing to follow farming until the war, he then enlisted, September 10, 1861, in company A, Forty-sixth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served one year and six months, and participated in several battles and skirmishes, the principal battle being that at Pittsburg Landing, in which he had a narrow escape, being shot in the hand while loading his gun and slightly wounded. At Corinth he was taken sick, but went on with his regiment to Memphis, Tenn., where, on January 1, 1863, he was discharged. Returning to his home he resumed farming on his father's farm, and April 16, 1863, he was married to Anna Krick. Not long afterward he purchased a farm and began life in earnest on his own account and met with most gratifying success. In March, 1893, he moved into the city of Van Wert, purchased a beautiful cottage, and is now living retired. Politically he is a democrat and religiously a member of the United Brethren church—freely donates to the cause of religion and also that of education, as well as to all public enterprises of merit. He and wife are the parents of two children: Morris Monroe and Delles E. Morris Monroe was born July 20, 1864, and died March 18, 1867. Delles E. was born in 1869 and is at the present time a member of the firm of Longsworth & Agler, photographers of Van Wert, and one of the finest artists in the city, and is married to Mollie Huffman, of Saint Mary's. Mention has already been made of the excellently artistic work executed by these gentlemen.

Anna Krick, wife of the subject, was born July 22, 1842, in Ashland county, Ohio, and lived with her parents until her marriage. She is a woman of great worth and a member of the United Brethren church. Her father, Phillip Krick, was born in Pennsylvania, in June, 1792, and at an early age learned the cooper trade, afterward learning the carpenter trade, at which for the greater part of his life he worked, and was unusually successful, being a man of industry and skill at his trade. When he became old he returned to the cooper trade, which he followed for some years. He married Susan Cumler of Pennsylvania, removed to Ohio and located in Ashland county. In 1846 he removed with his family to Adams county, Ind., where he remained for twelve years, returning to Ohio in 1858, and settling on a farm in Van Wert csunty, working at farming, as well as at his trade, until his death, which occurred in 1872. Politically he was a democrat and religiously a member of the Presbyterian church. He and his wife were the parents of fifteen children, as follows: John, William, Mary, Samuel, Eliza, Margaret, Jacob, Philip, Emanuel, Elijah and Elias (twins), Henry and Lydia (twins), Catherine and Anna. Of these fifteen children William, Mary, Samuel, Emanuel, Henry, John, Philip and Catherine are dead, the rest are married and heads of families of their own. The mother of these children died in 1868, a good, highly esteemed woman, and a member of the Presbyterian church.

DELLES E. AGLER, a member of the firm of Longsworth & Agler, photographers of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert county, February 6, 1869, and is a son of Wert Agler, whose biography is on page 471.

Mr. Agler was reared to manhood on a farm, enjoyed the advantages of the common schools of his youth, and also attended the Rockford schools for a period of two years. In the month of September, 1889, he entered a photographic studio in Van Wert, where he remained until he became proficient in the art of photography, and then, in 1890, went to Saint Mary's, and there opened a studio of his own, on which he followed the profession he had chosen until his studio was burned out in April, 1893, when he returned to Van Wert, where he became engaged as operator for J. E. Smith, remaining thus engaged until November of that year. He then succeeded J. I. Ream and organized the firm of Longsworth & Agler, which is now so widely known throughout the country for its excellent work in the special art to which they devote their attention. Their studio is finely equipped for high-grade work in photography and is visited by many hundreds who desire the finest results of that art, which, to quote a favorite expression of photographers, "secures the shadow ere the substance perishes."

Shortly after leaving Saint Mary's, he was married June 15, 1893, to Miss Mollie Huffman, who was born in Beaver Dam, Allen county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Lewis and Annie (Stewart) Huffman, both of whom are natives of Ohio. To this marriage there have been born two children, viz: Lucile E. and Robert Wert. Mr. Agler is a member of the I. O. O. F., and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are people highly regarded by the community in which they live.

ELI ALBRIGHT, brother of William Albright, whose biography appears on page 7, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in April, 1838. Such educational training as he obtained was acquired, during the winter seasons, in a little log schoolhouse, and in his youth he turned his attention to mechanical pursuits, becoming proficient at blacksmithing, carpentering, cabinet-making and tanning. With the rest of his father's family he came to Van Wert county in 1859, and purchased a farm in Pleasant township, where he has since resided, giving the greater part of his attention to tilling the soil, in which he has met with well merited success. In addition to agriculture he was for some time engaged as an auctioneer, in which capacity he visited nearly every part of Van Wert and adjoining counties; in 1880 he purchased the farm where he now lives and is classed with the progressive and substantial citizens of Pleasant township. In December, 1860, his marriage was solemnized with Lucy Gleason, daughter of Stephen and Amanda (Fletcher) Gleason. The following children were born to this marriage: Florence, wife of Howard Kreider; Cora, wife of George Augemine and Sherman. The mother of these children was born August 3, 1834, in New York, and when a child was brought by her parents to Van Wert county. Her death occurred, December 6, 1864, and June 14, 1866, Mr. Albright married Mary E. Riedenbach, daughter of John N. and Catherine (Scear) Riedenbach, natives of Germany, but for a number of years residents of the county of Van Wert. Mrs. Albright was a native of Holmes county, Ohio, and died February 22, 1882, being the mother of the following children: George W., Charles W. (deceased), Harry, Alfred, Leonard (deceased), Adeline and Katie. Mr. Albright then married his present wife, Ella M. Border, daughter of Nathaniel and Katie (Taylor) Border, natives respectively of Virginia and Pennsylvania. Five children are the results of the third marriage, viz.: Bertha, Mercy L. Icy, Mattie and Eli. Mr. Albright is a democrat in his political belief, fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, with which he has been identified for thirty-four years, and is a leading citizen of the community in which he resides.

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LEONIDAS BALYEAT.—Among the leading and representative citizens of Harrison township, Van Wert county, few are more conspicuous or deservedly popular than Leonidas Balyeat, farmer and stock grower, who has not only made a success of life, but is a descendant of one of the leading pioneer families of the county. Mr. Balyeat was born on his father's farm in Harrison township, on February 11, 1856. He received the usual education common to youths of his time and surroundings, to which he has since added by study, observation and experience. Following in the footsteps of his worthy father he became a farmer, and to the prosecution of his chosen life work he has brought more than the usual amount of intelligence, skill and application, and to this is due, to a great degree, his success. He owns and cultivates 130 acres of the old homestead in Harrison township, raising a diversity of crops, and paying considerable attention to stock-raising. In politics he is a republican, though in the election of minor officials, always votes for the man of ability and fitness regardless of politics. He served for one year as assessor of Pleasant township, discharging the duties of that office with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned. In his views and ideas Mr. Balyeat is progressive and liberal. He is a warm advocate of good roads and schools, and in fact of every movement having for its aim the advancement and improvment of his community and county. He has inherited the sturdy characteristics of his ancestors, and for these and his many other qualities of both head and heart he is universally popular among his neighbors and fellow-citizens.

Mr. Balyeat married Sarah J. LaRue, a daughter of Joseph LaRue (see sketch of H. F. LaRue, on page 427). While they have no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat have an adopted daughter, Cora, whom they are rearing as their own child. Both Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat are members of the Baptist church, of which he is also a clerk. The reader is here referred to the sketch of the Balyeat family, page 29, of this volume.

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JEREMIAH J. ALSPACH, a rising and promising agriculturist of Union township, Van Wert county, was born in Perry county, Ohio, February 22, 1852, a son of Jesse and Eva (Long) Alspach. The father, Jesse Alspach, was also a native of Perry county, and was born in 1818, and was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Runkle) Alspach, further mention of whom is made in this sketch. Jesse Alpach was reared on his father's farm, and about the year 1846 married Eva Long, doughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Siebolt) Lang, who were of German parentage. Mrs. Eva Alspach was born in Perry county in 1819, and bore to her husband, Jesse, five children, viz: Benjamin, a farmer of Perry county; Elizabeth, wife of Jonathan Bope, of Perry county; Jeremiah J., our subject, Allen, editor of the Thornville News, and Oliver O., of Van Wert, whose biography in full will be found on another page. The father of this family died in Thorn township, Perry county, in 1863, but the mother survived until May 22, 1874, when she, too, was called to rest with her husband, in the faith of the Lutheran church. Jesse Alspach had been an active democrat in politics, but his wider reputation rested on his ability as a farmer.

Jeremiah J. Alspach was thoroughly trained to the hard work of the farm and also received a good common-school education. About the year 1875 he married Miss Mary Packer, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Neel) Packer, and born in Perry county, February 26, 1852. William Packer was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, was a son of John and Elizabeth (Prutzman) Packer, and was captain in the state militia of Ohio. About 1816 he came to Ohio and located in Jacksontown, Licking county, but a few months later bought a farm in Perry county. About 1848 he married Elizabeth Neel, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Zartman) Neel, and who was born in Perry county in 1816, and to this union were born six children, viz: Marion, deceased; Mary, wife of our subject; Charles, a farmer of Perry county; Sarah and William H., deceased, and Esther, of Perry county. William Packer died on his farm, in Perry county, in September, 1893, an attendant of, but not a member of, the Lutheran church. Mrs. Mary Alspach is a devout member of this church, of which also her husband is a prominent member. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Alspach the following children have been born, viz: A., deceased infant boy; William O., born July 10, 1878; Carrie E., who died in infancy; Homer R., born January 8, 1883; Bessie, born February 26, 1884, died August 29, 1884; Mary Loulla, born March 1, 1887. In 1887 Mr. Alspach sold his farm in Perry county and came to Van Wert county and bought his present home, of which about sixty acres were cleared. This farm he has placed under a fine state of cultivation and a few better farmers are to be found in the county. In politics Mr. Alspach is a democrat, but is in no sense an office seeker although he has served for three years as township trustee, and has given entire satisfaction. He is an honest, honorable and public-spirited citizen, and well deserves the high esteem in which he is held.

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**CALEB I. BURRELL**, a successful farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Hickey) Burrell, and was born February 21, 1861. His parents are both natives of Licking county, Ohio, and respectively of English and Irish descent. Thomas Burrell was a farmer in Licking county until 1864, at which time he removed his family to Madison county, where he purchased 400 acres of land in what is known as "Darby Plains," land then conceded by many to be the best in Ohio. Mr. Burrell has been one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers in Ohio, and he and his wife still reside in Madison county—he at the age of seventy-two, she at the age of sixty-eight. Mr. Burrell is not a member of any church, but his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal congregation. In politics he is a democrat of the old tpye.

Caleb I. Burrell is the fourth of seven children. He spent the days of his youth at home and in attending the schools of his neighborhood. At the age of twenty he entered the National Normal university at Lebanon, Ohio, taking a general course and remaining two years. Returning home, he spent his time on the farm until his marriage, November 29, 1883, to Maggie L. Gamblin, a daughter of James and Jennie (Lochey) Gamblin, natives of England and Canada, respectively, and at that time residents of London, Madison county, Ohio. Mr. Gamblin still lives in London, and follows the trade of mason and contractor, and there Mrs. Gamblin is also living. Maggie L.

Gamblin attended the schools of London until her graduation therefrom in 1881.

In February, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Burrell removed to Van Wert county, Mr. Burrell having a short time previously purchased a tract of eighty acres of timber land in Hoaglin township, upon which he still lives. He added thereto eighty-two acres adjoining. This land he has improved and made of it a model farm, and has now a most comfortable country home, having in 1892 erected a very neat and cozy residence, one of the best in the township. On September 20, 1895, Mrs. Burrell died of consumption, a most highly accomplished and cultivated lady, a member of the Presbyterian church and a true christian woman. She lies buried in Woodland cemetery at Van Wert. Mr. Burrell is a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a democrat, and his friends, in 1895, within a few days of the meeting of the county convention, announced his name as a candidate for sheriff; but owing to the fact that there were several candidates for the nomination and to the shortness of the time, he was defeated, but stood second on the list of names as to votes. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Burrell—Lee, aged eleven, and Jennie, aged eight.

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**WILLIAM BURRIS**, one of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Hugh Burris, who came with his father from Ireland and located in Beaver county, Pa., and there married Margaret Nickelson, a daughter of William Nickelson, who also came from Ireland. Hugh and Margaret Burris resided in Beaver county, Pa., for a few years after marriage, and then came to Ohio and bought eighty acres of land in the wilderness of Guernsey county, on which they resided until his death. He also entered other lands, and at the time of his death owned tracts o land as follows: Eighty acres, twenty acres and 100 acres in the home place, and 100 acres, sixty acres, 100 acres, eighty acres, sixty acres and 160 acres elsewhere in Guernsey county. The mother was a strict member of the United Presbyterian church, and the father, although not an active politician, was in his proclivities a Jacksonian democrat.

William Burris, the subject of this sketch, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, December 15, 1828, and was educated in one of the primitive log school-houses of those pioneer days in his native county. Being reared on his father's spacious and fertile farm, he was well inured to toil and prepared for the cares and duties of matrimonial life, which was initiated by his marriage to Mary L. Watt, and consummated by the birth of the following children: John A., William (who died young), Barbara A., Margaret J., Mary I., Cora M. and Sarah E. The marriage took place in Guernsey county, January 1, 1867, and immediately thereafter the newly wedded pair came to Van Wert county and took possession of his parents' elegant farm of 218 acres in Liberty township. This farm is probably one of the most carefully cultivated, and best attended to in every respect, of any of similar size in Liberty township, and its improvements unparalleled, or, to say the least, unexcelled. Mr. Burris and his wife have seen Liberty township change, since their long residence here, from a desolate wilderness of a dense forest growth to a land of blooming fields, orchards and gardens, that delight the eye and bring the profit to the industrious farmer that places him and family far beyond the reach of gnawing want and worrying care, as far as this world's goods are concerned, and Mr. Burris and family have been among the foremost in effectuating this happy result. The brother of Mrs. Burris, William N. Watt, has also been a potent factor in raising Liberty township to its present elevated plane, and the attention of the reader is called to his biography, which will be found on another page.

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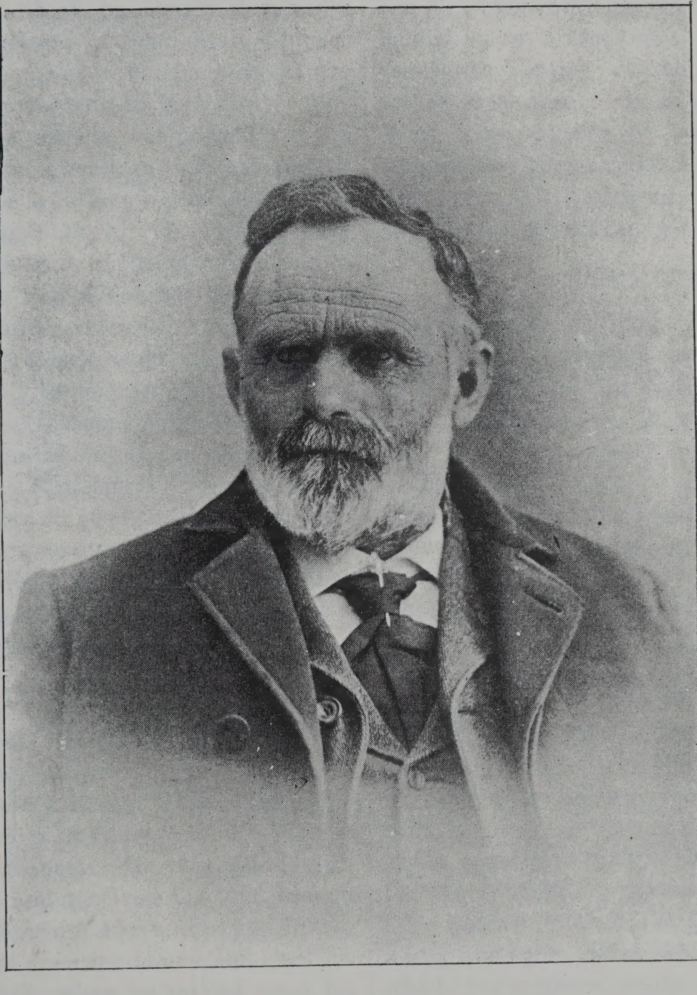
GEORGE LEWIS, a successful farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, son of James E. and Nancy (Bone) Lewis, was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 29, 1842. The father was born in New York in 1812, of good Welsh stock, received a limited common-school education, and was reared on a farm.

When eighteen years of age, James E. Lewis left his home in New York, and came west to Cincinnati, where he learned the trade of saddletree maker. After serving his apprenticeship he went to Butler county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade until 1853, when he moved to Dayton, Ohio, and after two years' residence in that city he returned to his old home in Butler county. Some years later he moved to Clinton county, and in 1870 came to Van Wert county, and purchased a farm in York township. He then gave up his trade and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in October, 1890. About the year of 1830 he was united in marriage to Nancy Bone, daughter of Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Murphy) Bone, of the state of Delaware. To their union the following children were born: Emeline, deceased; Thomas, who died in childhood; Sarah, the deceased wife of James Gregor, of Springdale, Ohio; George, the subject of this mention; John W., deceased; James, also deceased; Ford, of Celina, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased; Liberty W., deceased; Walter, of Van Wert; Anna, wife of William A. Ayers, of Kansas. The wife and mother of these children was born in Butler county, Ohio, about 1813, and grew to womanhood in the country home of her parents. She was never a member of any church, though her works show her christian faith. Her death occurred August 18, 1890. James E. Lewis was a stanch supporter of the republican party and always took a deep interest in its success.

George Lewis, son of the above and subject of this mention, laid the foundation for his education in the common-schools of Butler county, and then attended the city schools of Dayton. He left school in his eighteenth year to respond to his country's call and enlisted in company B, under Capt. Stone, Thirty-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was with the first Union regiment sent into Kentucky. He participated in some of the most trying campaigns and bloodiest battles of the war, fighting at Mill Springs, Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga, where he was wounded September 20, 1863, by a ball passing through his left hand. He was sent to hospital No. 14, at Nashville, Tenn., where he remained until the following February, when he was transferred to the hospital at Louisville, Ky., and a short time after he rejoined his command at Burnt Hickory, Ga. He later participated in the battles of Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek; his term of service having then expired, he was mustered out of service and sent home with an honorable discharge August 20, 1864, having fearlessly and faithfully performed his duty as a soldier. He then began farming on a rented farm in Clinton county, on which he remained five years. In 1870 he came to Van Wert county, and rented a farm in Pleasant township, which he cultivated until 1879, when he purchased his present home. In 1872 he was united in marriage to Maria Devoe, daughter of Ephriam and Susan (Smith) Devoe, of Greene county. To this union two children have been born—Susan and Edward.

Mr. Lewis espouses the cause of the repub-



GEORGE LEWIS.

lican party and is ever ready to support the principles he advocates. He has been honored by his chosen party with the office of justice of the peace, which office he now holds. He is an earnest and enthusiastic worker in the grange, in which he stands deservedly high. He is overseer of Ohio State grange, and Van Wert county owes much of its success in agricultural prosperity to his efforts. For eight consecutive years he was president of the Van Wert county agricultural society, and for four years has been an honored member of the state board of agriculture. His farm of forty acres of valuable land, in Pleasant township, a few miles from Van Wert, has the marks of thorough cultivation and careful management. He is essentially a self-made man and owes his success wholly to his own efforts. He is a successful farmer, a useful, public-spirited citizen, and has won his way to the esteem of all who know him. Mrs. Maria Lewis his amiable wife, was born in 1851, in Greene county, her father dying soon after her birth; and later her mother married Charles Stiles, with whom she lived until his death in 1893, and is now a resident of Greene county, Ohio.

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DARIUS O. COOPER, son of Jesse K. Cooper, was born August 3, 1852, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He came to Van Wert county with his parents at the age of ten years. He was reared upon the homestead, and received his education in the common schools of Pleasant township.

He remained upon the homestead until his marriage, in 1876, when he settled upon his present farm of 160 acres, received from his father. When he moved upon this farm, there were but twenty-five acres cleared. He now has 100 cleared, and under an excellent state of cultivation. The farm has decidedly fine improvements, and may be called one of the leading places of the township. Mr. Cooper married Miss Alice, daughter of Abram Hoghe, and they are the parents of eight children, viz.: Hester A., Maud, Dulcinia, Goldee, Jesse K., Hiram A., Owen A., and Florence. In politics Mr. Cooper is a republican, and in his religious views a Methodist, and a member of the North Liberty church, in which he has served as steward. He is a member at Van Wert lodge, F. & A. M., also of Van Wert chapter and council, and Ivanhoe commandery. (See sketch of Jesse K. Cooper, on page 130, for further genealogical facts.)

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JOHN L. COROTHERS, one of the most successful farmers of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Seneca county in 1855, a son of Philip C. and Delilah A. (Hufferman) Corothers. Philip C. Corothers was born in Beaver county, Pa., in 1832, and was a son of Mathias Corothers, a native of Virginia, but who came to Ohio as a pioneer and settled in Seneca county, buying a farm of 160 acres, on which he resided until his death.

Philip C. Corothers, father of John L., our subject, attended the public schools there and also learned the carpenter's trade, becoming at once the leading contractor and builder of his county. At the first call for volunteers at the opening of the late Civil war he enlisted for three years in company H, Fourteenth Ohio infantry, and served with valor and gallantry and took part in every engagement in which his regiment engaged. On his return from the war he resumed his business and accumulated a handsome competence, but in the crises of 1876 met with many reverses. The seven children born to his marriage with Miss Delilah A. Hufferman were named, in order of birth, as follows: John L., subject of this sketch; Cynthia J., wife of Samuel Stump; Mary A., wife of Harry Handwerk; Nelson P., of Missouri; Wilbert R.; Edgar B., and Mathias E., both of Van Wert. Mrs. Delilah Corothers is a native of Pennsylvania, but was a child when brought to Seneca county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Corothers were formerly members of the Baptist church, but afterward became devoted members of the Society of Friends, in which faith the death of Mr. Corothers took place, January 19, 1895.

John L. Corothers was educated in the common schools of Seneca county, and in the normal school of Republic. For three years he had worked as a carpenter under his ftaher, but on quitting school he leased a farm in Seneca county, on which he lived from 1877 to 1880, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased a tract of woodland, which he cleared and on which he built a house, but two years later sold this and bought another farm, on which he resided until 1883, when he again sold out and purchased his present farm of 160 acres, which he has thoroughly underdrained and placed under an excellent state of cultivation. The marriage of Mr. Corothers took place November 11, 1875, to Mary Schaaf, daughter of Jacob and Phebe (Rockey) Schaaf, natives of Germany, but respected resident of Seneca county, Ohio, where their daughter Phebe was born September 23, 1853. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Corothers resulted in the birth of four children, viz: Cora E., who died in infancy; Wilbert H., Rolla F. and Lemuel C. Mrs. Corothers is a member of the Lutheran church, and while Mr. Corothers is a member of no church organization, he is liberal in his aid to all denominations. Fraternally, however, he is a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 76, I. O. O. F., and is also a member of the National Union of Van Wert. He is a progressive citizen and stands very high in the esteem of the community.

JOHN J. HUMPHREYS, of Humphreys & Hughes, wholesale grocers of Van Wert, was born in Allen county, Ohio, November 25, 1847. His father, Richard Humphreys, was born in Wales in November, 1806, and at thirty-four years of age married Miss Jane Jones, a native of the same place. Richard Humphreys remained in Wales after his marriage, engaged in farming, until 1845, when he came to America with his young wife, and for a few months stopped in Pittsburg, Pa. In the fall of 1845 he came to Ohio and employed himself in farming in Allen county until 1889, in June of which year his wife was called away, when he retired to pass the remaining years with his daughter, Mrs. J. D. Evans, of Allen county, where he died in May, 1884. The children born to Richard and Jane Humphries were five in number, and were named in order of birth as follows: Jane (Mrs. J. D. Evans), Margaret, John J., Catherine, and Thomas, a Congregational minister.

John J. Humphreys, whose name heads this biographical notice, received a very good English education in the common schools of his native country, which was supplemented by a course of study in a business college. For three years he taught school in Allen and Van Wert counties, daily adding to his own stock of information. The succeeding five years he acquired a thorough knowledge of mercantile pursuits, and in 1874 he succeeded Mr. A. Conn in the firm of A. Conn, Son & Co., in the grocery trade at Van Wert, and the style was changed to Dunathan & Humphreys, then to Dunathan, Humphreys & Holbrook for about a year and a half, and for the following eight years the business was carried on under the firm name of Dunathan & Humphreys, at the expiration of which period Mr. Dunathan sold his interest to William T. Hughes, and the company assumed its present name—Humphreys & Hughes. A retail and jobbing trade had been done until 1886, when the retail business was abandoned altogether and jobbing and wholesaling has since occupied the entire attention of the two partners. The business rapidly increased, and in 1893 the firm erected one of the most magnificent business buildings in northwestern Ohio. This edifice is located at the corner of East Main and South Market streets, Van Wert, and has a frontal of sixty-six feet, with a depth of 132. But to give a strict idea of the massive block, twenty-two feet additional frontage must be added, making a total of eighty-eight feet. This portion belongs to H. F. Rump, the builder and contractor, and is in exact correspondence in every detail with the other part, so the whole will be taken together. It could be said that many buildings, not its equal, have been estimated at a cost of above $75,000. It is a combination of the Corinthian, composite and renaissance styles of architecture, the good points of each of which are embodied and bronght out. It is built of Bedford limestone, the massive Corinthian support columns being of blue Bedford stone. Some fifty-two car-loads of dressed stone were altogether used. The cut stone ornamentation throughout presents a very tasty appearance, and the building is three stories and a basement in height, the ceilings of which are all lofty. That the amount of business transacted by this firm is immense it is useless to state, and mention is made of it here to illustrate the wonderful business capabilities of Mr. Humphreys, who is, in the full sense of the term, a strictly self-made man.

The marriage of John J. Humphreys took place in Van Wert county November 29, 1874, to Florence E. McCoy, who was born in Van Wert county, November 30, 1854, a daughter of Moses H. McCoy. To this union have been born seven children, who have been named as follows: Eugene C., who is a fine vocalist; Wilbur R., a student now in college; Agnes L., Edna and Ethel, twins; and Helen L. and Harold L., twins. Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys are conscientious members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Humphreys has been an elder for nine years. In politics he is a stanch republican, but has never been an office seeker. He is also a strong and ardent supporter of the cause of temperance, and never loses a chance to speak in its favor, and by his daily walk sets an example that is worthy of imitation. Personally he is very popular, rendered so by his fine physical appearance and his courteous and genial deportment. Mr. Humphreys is one of the live and energetic men of to-day, giving of his best energies in furthering the interests of their large and increasing business, he being known as one of the most capable wholesale grocerymen of northwestern Ohio. He is very careful in representing his goods and upon the shipment of same is careful to see that everything that goes out is first-class. Mr. Humphreys owns valuable city property, and the coming year will erect a $10.000 residence, which will be the home of comfort and plenty.

DAVID J. JONES, of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Jackson county, Ohio, born March, 1850, a son of John H. and Mary (Edwards) Jones, natives of Wales. John H. Jones, the father, came to America in 1837, sailing from Liverpool, England, when twenty-three years of age. On arriving in this country Mr. Jones was first employed on a railroad at Pittsburg, Pa., at sixty-two and a half cents per day. In 1842, he returned to Wales, was married there, and in 1847 made his second trip to America, accompanied by his wife and two small children, settling in Jackson county, Ohio, where he had previously purchased eighty acres of wild land, and where he spent the remainder of his life. He reared a family of ten children, as follows: Evan and John who were born in Wales and came to America in infancy, and here Evan and John died in childhood, and Evan the second, also died young; David J., our subject; Ebon J., who resides in Jackson county, cashier in the Oak Hill bank; John J., resident of Van Wert county; Kate A., deceased wife of John Lewis, died April 20, 1895; Evan J., a physician of Oak Hill, Jackson county; Joseph J., of Jefferson Furnace, Jackson county, and Edward J., a farmer. John H. Jones, the father, died July 15, 1891, and his wife in August, 1892.

David J. Jones grew up on his father's farm, received a first-class education, having attended Lebanon college five terms, and at the age of eighteen became a teacher, his first school having been taught on the farm of Edward Hughes, near Venedocia; this vocation he followed ten years successively, having taught in all thirty terms. In 1876, he came to Van Wert county, to make a permanent home, and located on his present farm, then a swamp, occupied by a band of singing frogs; this he has cleared, drained, cultivated and improved with a fine, spacious modern residence, which commands a fine view; he has also erected suitable and substantial out-buildings. The farm is comprised of 133 acres, and will compare favorably with any other farm of its size in the county. September 20, 1877, Mr. Jones was united in wedlock with Lizzie Lewis, daughter of David H. and Elizabeth (Davis) Lewis, both natives of Wales, and for a time residents of Pomeroy, Meigs county, Ohio, where David Lewis pursued his trade of blacksmithing, afterward removing to the neighborhood of Bethel, Jackson county, Ohio, where they reared a family of seven children, viz: John, postmaster of Samsonville, Jackson county, Ohio; Mary, who died in girlhood; Hannah, also deceased; Enoch L., druggist of Oak Hill; Daniel, a farmer of Jackson county; David, farmer of the same county, and Lizzie, wife of our subject. David H. Lewis died in February, 1888, his wife having died in September, 1878.

To D. J. Jones have been born seven children, named: Johnny, Lizzie Ann, David, Edwin, Mamie Edith (deceased), Ada Mary and Evan Emlyn. In politics Mr. Jones is a republican, and in 1887 was elected to the office of justice of the peace, and has served continuously ever since, never having had a decision reversed during this long period. Mr. and Mrs. Jones worship at the Zion Calvinistic Methodist church, and but a few families in the township of York enjoy a greater degree of respect than that of our subject.

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GRIMES McCONAHY, deceased, was born in Lewistown, Juniata county, Pa., October 18, 1819, and was quite young when brought to Ohio by his parents, who located in Richland county. There Mr. McConahy grew to manhood and was married to Elizabeth McNulty, who bore three children and passed away in 1844, two of her offspring soon followed her; the survivor, Adellia, was married to B. W. Brown of Delaware, Ohio, and died in 1876. Mr. McConahy, subsequent to his wife's death, moved to Lima, Allen county, Ohio, and there married Lucetta Baker, April 30, 1847. This lady is a daughter of the venerable Charles Baker, of whom further mention is made below. From Lima, Mr. McConahy came to Van Wert in 1851, in a wagon, accompanied by the family of A. W. Baker, the two gentlemen forming a partnership in the general merchandising business and occupying the building now standing on Market street, north of Gilliland's warehouse. He later sold his interest to Mr. Baker and joined James Webster in the grocery business, with a restaurant attached; he was also in the harness trade, and, in addition, ran a saw-mill north of the old cemetery. In 1853 he went to Bucyrus and secured the agency of the Fort Wayne road, which he held eleven years, and served also as operator and express agent for several years. He had a boot and shoe business for a time. He then erected the building now occupied by Arnold's cigar store and conducted a bakery and grocery in conjunction with a Mr. Rank. In 1865 he was a candidate on the democratic ticket for auditor, but was defeated. As at this time his party had no organ, he united with a number of other prominent democrats and established the Van Wert Times. In 1867 he was triumphantly elected to the office of auditor and was reelected in 1871. He later served as deputy treasurer under John Seaman, during the illness of the latter; he then resumed the grocery business, which he sold to his son Carey McConahy, a few months before his own death, which occurred on Monday morning, September 26, 1887, at the age of sixty-eight years, eleven months and eight days—his ailment having been heart decease. His remains were interred in Woodland cemetery under the auspices of Van Wert lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M. of which he was a charter member and the first worshipful master. Mr. McConahy, it will be seen, had led a most useful and active life, had made hosts of friends, and his loss was deeply deplored by his widow, surviving children and by the public of Van Wert in general.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. McConahy were nine in number, viz: Charles Alonzo, wagon and carriage dealer of Van Wert; Albert D., who died in Indianapolis on the Thursday preceding the Monday on which the father died; James A., editor of the Daily Star, Valparaiso, Ind.; Mary F., wife of William A. Caldwell, superintendent of the Deaf and Blind home, Berkely, Cal.; Elmer B., general stock agent at Chicago of the Northwestern railway company; Carey B., traveling salesman for Humphreys & Hughes, wholesale grocers of Van Wert; Walter G., horseman, at home, and Laura B., wife of J. W. Nichlos, of Saint Louis, Mo.

Charles Baker, the father of Mrs. Lucetta McConahy, widow of Grimes McConahy, was born in Lincoln county, Me., a son of Eber Baker, December 8, 1804, and came with his parents to Marion county, Ohio, settling where the city of Marion now stands, and of which city Eber Baker was the founder. Charles, with his brother, George W., sawed with a whip-saw the timber with which they constructed the first house on the original plat, in which rude building the family resided seven years. In 1824 he took charge of a tannery, a part of which his father had purchased, and in 1826 erected one of his own. Later he moved to Lima, Allen county, and engaged in the grocery business, and in 1833 was appointed postmaster of the town. He was elected treasurer of Allen county in 1835, and in 1839, by appointment, assumed the duties of clerk in the office of register of the United States land office, which duties he performed two years. In 1849 he returned to Marion, where a long and prosperous business career awaited him, but he has long since retired from active pursuits and has spent a great deal of his time in traveling. His first marriage took place, in 1828, to Miss Mary Anderson, and his second to Mrs. Tacey T. Anderson, the latter a daughter of Abel Thomas and widow of James A. Anderson. Mr. Baker celebrated the 90th annivereary of his birthday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. G. Allen, on East Center street, in the city of Marion, where the venerable gentleman ate dinner with a few of his relatives and enjoyed the good wishes and pleasant society of his true and loving associates. He now resides with his daughter, Mrs. Grimes McConahy.

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AUGUSTUS P. McCONAHAY, practical jeweler of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of the state and was born in Wooster, Wayne county, July 31, 1838, a son of Joseph E. and Maria E. (Betts) McConahay, natives of Pennsylvania and Connecticut respectively, though married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, about the year 1834, from which place they shortly afterward removed to Wooster, where Mr. McConahay followed his trade of tanning until 1854, when he came to Van Wert, and in this city died on February 22, 1872, his widow surviving until January, 1893; they were both good old-fashioned Scotch Presbyterians, very pious people and the parents of three children: Augustus P., Caroline (deceased), and Lucy E., wife of J. W. Rout, of Tennessee.

Augustus P. McConahay, at the age of fourteen, left his home, went to Teere Haute, Ind., and was apprenticed to S. R. Freeman, a jeweler, with whom he remained four years, and then, in 1856, came to Van Wert, Ohio, but shortly afterward went to Wooster, where he had the management of a jewelry establishment for a short time; thence he went to Newark, Ohio, remained until 1859, and thence went to Greenup, Ky., whence, in June, 1861, he went to New York and took steamer for Aspinwall, Central America, crossed the isthmus to Panama, thence embarked for Manzonella, Mex., but was wrecked off the coast, and endured many harships, yet finally arrived at his destination, San Francisco, Cal., July 4, 1861; thence to Nevada City, Cal., then to Virginia City, Nev., and to Reese River, Nev. (then a mail station and also a great silver town), and so on to Salt Lake City, at which point he arrived in November, 1864, and there saw many of the more noted saints; he next traveled overland to Atchison, Kan., then to Chicago, Ill., and to Cincinnati, Ohio, working in a jewelry store in the last named city until 1865, when he located in Van Wert, where he opened a store with a very limited capital, but which business has prospered, and he has now a very fine establishment, well stocked with everything pertaining to his line.

The marriage of Mr. McConahay took place in Greenup, Ky., May 15, 1865, to Miss Laura A. Myers, who was born in Greenup in 1844, a daughter of John Myers, and to this union have been born the following children: Etta B., wife of T. C. Wilkinson, William M., Claude R., Vernon B. and Roy P. Mrs. McConahay is a Presbyterian in her belief, and in politics Mr. McConahay is a republican; he is also a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M., of Van Wert chapter, No. 71, R. A. M., of Van Wert council, No. 73, R. S. M., of Ivanhoe commandery, No. 54, Knights Templar, and of Cincinnati consistory, S. P. R. S., and also of the Syrian Mystic Shrine. Mr. McConahay has also served his party on the board of education for twelve years and also as a member of the board of park commissioners, and is recognized as one of Van Wert's most useful citizens.

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JONATHAN McCONNELL, one of the old soldiers of the Civil war from Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Scotland and is a son of Gavin and Mary (Carlisle) McConnell, of the famous Highland clan of the same name. They were eight children in this family, six of whom reached maturity, viz: James, Margaret, Naomi, Mary, Jane and Jonathan. In 1840, Gavin McConnell brought his family to America and engaged in farming near Pittsburg, Pa., until 1846, when he came to Ohio, and bought eighty acres of land in Harrison township, Van Wert county, and from this land, with the assistance of his son Jonathan, he cleared off the heavy growth of timber and converted into a pleasant home. He here lived until he reached his eighty-eighth year, when his earthly career was ended on November 10, 1874. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church, and, until the outbreak of the late war, he was a democrat in politics, but then became a republican. He was a man of great industry and of sterling integrity, and highly respected among his neighbors.

Jonathan McConnell, the subject of this skech, was born in Paisley, Scotland, October 15, 1832, and was about fifteen years of age when he reached Van Wert county. He was inured to the hard work of the farm and aided on the home place until he enlisted on May 2, 1864, at Van Wert, in company I, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve 100 days, but, the troops being badly needed, he served about five months. He was soon promoted to be corporal, and his duty was performed at Hammond's Point, Md., as guard; he was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, September 22, 1864, and for the faithful service rendered by the soldiers at Hammond's Point, President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton caused a certificate of thanks to be issued—a ducument which Corporal McConnell has most carfully preserved. Through exposure while on duty, Corporal McConnell contracted asthma, and was ordered to the hospital, but he declined going, preferring to remain in his quarters, and he is still a sufferer from the disorder. On his return home, the corporal resumed farming until about 1886, when he located in Convoy and carried on a trade in notions until 1892, when he withdrew from business and is now living in retirement, a much respected citizens. The corporal is in politics a republican and is a member of Capper post, No. 236, G. A. R., of Convoy, in which he has filled all the offices, except that of commander. He was a good soldier, and when he entered the army weighed 160 pounds, and when he came out his avoirdupois was ninety, including knapsack and accoutrements. He has always been regarded with much favor by the citizens of Convoy, and his home is one of the most pleasant in the town, being presided over by his faithful and aimable sister, Jane.

JAMES R. McCONNELL, one of the substantial farmers of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., February 8, 1833, and is a son of William and Nancy (Reed) McConnell. William McConnell was also a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., and a son of John McConnell, who was born in Ireland about 1740, and married Betsey McIntire, née McKinley, a sister of the grandfather of Gov. McKinley of Ohio. William McConnell, father of subject, was born June 25, 1799, and his wife, Nancy Reed, was a native of Ireland, a daughter of James Reed, who came to America and settled in Westmoreland county, Pa., when his family were still young. To William and Nancy were born thirteen children, of whom our subject was the sixth in the order of birth. The family all came to Ohio in 1839, and located in Hancock county, on a farm of 160 acres, and here William McConnell died February 26, 1864, at about the age of sixty-four years. In politics he was a democrat, but had two sons in the Union army during the late war. In religion, Mr. and Mrs. McConnell affiliated with the U. P. church.

James R. McConnell was married, January 8, 1857, in Hancock county, Ohio, to Barbara

A., who was born August 30, 1829, a daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Dunkle) Rowinsky, natives of Pennsylvania and of Polish and German descent respectively. After the marriage, James R. McConnell lived on his father's farm for sixteen years, and then, in 1873, came to Van Wert county and settled on eighty acres of land, which he has cleared and improved, and converted into a delightful home. To Mr. and Mrs. McConnell have been born seven children, viz: John A., who died at the age of seventeen and a half years; William R., who married Alice Whittenbarger, and became the father of three children; George R., married to Ollie Hook, who has borne two children; James H., who married Lora M. Miller, and is the father of two children; Sarah N., wife of A. L. Baxter and mother of three children; Hugh H., married to Mary Kreischer, and the father of one child, and Mary M., now the wife of John M. Stewart, and the mother of one child. Mr. and Mrs. McConnell are members of the U. P. church, and in politics Mr. McConnell is a democrat. The children of these parents have all been well educated and are a credit to the various neighborhoods in which they live, while Mr. and Mrs. McConnell enjoys the respect of all who known them.

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JOHN McCOY, deceased, was born in Madison county, Ohio, May 31, 1833, a son of Alexander and Eliza (Gillispie) McCoy. Further mention of these parents will be found in the biography of Moses McCoy, of Ridge township, to which the attention of the reader is invited.

From Madison county John McCoy, our subject, when six years of age, was brought to Van Wert county by his parents, who located in Ridge township, and with whom our subject remained until twenty-four years of age. John received a very fair education, and at the age of eighteen years began teaching school, a profession he followed until twenty-five years old, when he bought eighty acres of land from his father, and began farming on his own account; shortly afterward his wife, of whom mention will be made further on, became heir to 160 acres, which property was soon sold and eighty acres adjacent to Mr. McCoy's farm were purchased and added thereto. Mr. McCoy was an intelligent and industrious agriculturist, and at his death, which occurred February 20, 1884, he was the owner of 160 acres, with many valuable improvements and well stocked with fine Durham and other cattle, Mr. McCoy having been the first to bring graded live stock to the township. Mr. McCoy was a republican in politics and was a justice of the peace many years, and for fourteen years township treasurer; he was a Mason and Patron of Husbandry, and in religion a Presbyterian. He was prominent as a local politician, was worthy in all respects, and his death was deeply deplored, not only by his family, but by the whole of the population of Ridge township. Since his departure the property has been under the able control of his widow.

John McCoy was joined in matrimony in Columbiana county, Ohio, November 18, 1857, to Miss Eleanor Montgomery, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, October 20, 1834, a daughter of John and Sarah (Poe) Montgomery, and a sister of James Montgomery, of Pleasant township. To the union of John and Eleanor McCoy were born seven children, in the following order; Marion P., who for three terms was county surveyor of Van Wert county, Ohio, and in 1892 went to Oklahoma, where he is now a member of the legislature; John M., deceased; Anna E., wife of Frank Gamble, of Convoy; James A., a traveling salesman; Sarah E., wife of E. Wert, a druggest of Scott, Ohio; Flora Belle, and Charles G., away from home, attending school.

L. W Lorber

LOUIS W. LORBER, one of the leading business men of Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in the city of Raslowitz, Hungary, June 21, 1854, a son of Herman and Esther Lorber. Louis W. Lorber was educated in the schools of Berlin, Germany, and learned the German, Hungarian, Danish and Hebrew languages. The children born to Herman Lorber were nine in number and were named, in order of of birth, Bertha, Maurice, Jacob, Isaac, Aaron, Rosa, Gertrude, Louis W. and Mary. Herman, the father, died in 1872, at about fifty-seven years of age, and a member of the Lutheran church.

Louis W. Lorber, in 1871, came to America, landing in New York city in December, whence he came to Ohio and worked as a laborer in Cleveland for three months, and then as a farm hand in Perry and Franklin counties, and in 1876 came to Van Wert county, where, also, he engaged in farm labor. On May 12, 1877, he married Elizabeth L. Miller, daughter of Israel Miller, the result of this union being six children, viz: Matilda M., Pleasant M., Elmer I., Gracie F., Daisy and Esther. In 1884 Mr. Lorber, having saved $1,300, came to Convoy and bought an interest in a saw-mill of John Wistner, and six months later bought out his partner's remaining interest, and is still prosperously conducting the mill. August 12, 1891, Mr. Lorber formed a partnership with E. P. McNeal, purchasing a half interest in the latter's tile business; in the spring of 1894 they sold this plant and engaged in the dressed lumber trade, Mr. Lorber still retaining his saw-mill. Mr. and Mrs. Lorber are members of the Methodist church, of which, also, he is a trustee; he is also a member of Convoy lodge, No. 641, I. O. O. F, in which he has filled all the offices, and is a member of Hiawatha tribe, No. 116, Improved Order of Red Men. In politics he is a republican, served as a member on the board of education three years and was re-elected in the spring of 1895; he was a member of the republican central committee of Van Wert county in 1893, when the state gave William McKinley, Jr., 181,000 majority for governor, and is still a member of said committee. He is also treasurer of the Columbus Building & Loan Investment company of Convoy. Mr. Lorber is an excellent example of a self-made man, having accumulated his property by thrift, hard labor and honest purpose. His credit is solid and his integrity without a flaw.

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JOHN McCRORY, deceased, was born in Richland county, Ohio, December 12, 1828. His parents were William and Jane (McLaughlin) McCrory, who were of Irish descent, their ancestors having come to America late in the eighteenth century. William McCrory, father of our subject, was a farmer in Richland county, Ohio, and for twenty-five or more years filled the office of justice of the peace. Of his nine children six reached maturity, viz: David, of Allen county, Ind.; Jane, William, Susan, James and John, all of whom, however, are now deceased with the exception of the first named.

John McCrory, when a child, was taken by his parents to Ashland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, learned the carpenter's trade, and in December, 1857, married Miss Sarah Springer, who was born in Ashland county November 28, 1827, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Moudy) Springer, who located in that county about the year 1800. Henry Springer, who was a farmer, subsequently came to Van Wert county and purchased a large tract of land—over 1,200 acres—and also assisted in erecting some of the earliest buildings put up in the city of Van Wert. Just after his marriage, John McCrory started for California, where he passed five years in mining; the following nine years he was engaged in farming in Ashland county, Ohio; November 15, 1874, he came to Van Wert county and located on a farm of 212¾ acres, which had been presented to Mrs. McCrory by her father. John McCrory departed this life February 10, 1882, the father of two children—John S. and William Charles, both farmers of Van Wert county. In 1883 Mrs. McCrory moved with her orphaned children to the Pleasant township farm and resided thereon until July, 1890, when she returned to the city and now has her residence on the corner of Shannon street and Maple avenue. Mr. McCrory was a democrat in his political affiliations, fraternally was an Odd Fellow, and in religion a Lutheran; he was universally esteemed as an upright man, whose memory bears no blemish or stain; Mrs. McCrory is also a member of the Lutheran church, and is respected and honored by all who know her.

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ALBERT L. McDONALD, a descendant of an ancient pioneer of Virginia, and a prominent citizen of Van Wert, was born January 3, 1841. He is a son of Alexander McDonald, who was born in Virginia in 1795. Alexander McDonald was of Scotch descent, was educated in Virginia, and learned the trades of brick-mason and stonemason. That he was a well educated man is evident from the fact that after his arrival in Van Wert county he taught not only in the country schools of this county, but also in the public schools of the city of Van Wert, continuing to teach until his death, which occurred in 1850 and was caused by typhoid fever. Politically he was a democrat and in religious faith a Universalist. He was one of the best men that ever came to this county, always hospitable and kind. It is sometimes stated that the origin of the phrase, "the latch string is always out," was in Virginia, one of the most hospitable of the southern states, and Mr. McDonald brought to the west with him his southern habits and opinions. Alexander McDonald was married at an early age to Miss Sedameras McIlhenny, of Virginia, who belonged to the same class of Virginians as her husband. They were the parents of the following children: William, Lydia, Thomas, Lancaster, Wesley, Wylie, David, Albert, and Isaac, of whom William, Thomas, Lancaster and Wesley are dead, and the living are all married. The mother of these children died February 28, 1885. Upon coming to Ohio, in 1843, Mr. McDonald first settled in Richland county, but soon afterward he removed to Van Wert county, at a time when there were but few settlers and few cabins in this part of the state.

Albert L. McDonald was born in Richland county, Ohio, and having obtained the education the common schools of that county were capable of imparting, he learned the carpenter trade. Remaining at home until his marriage, which occurred March 9, 1869, to Miss Susan Beveau, he then began life for himself. To the marriage of Mr. McDonald and Miss Beveau there were born the following children: Iona and Albana. Iona was born July 28, 1872, and was married to Sibley Neil, November 30, 1895. Before her marriage she was a school-teacher. Albana was born February 3, 1875, and is living at home. Mr. McDonald is in politics a democrat, and is in every way a liberal man. conceding to others the rights that he claims for himself. He is still living in Van Wert city.

Susan Beveau, wife of the subject of this sketch, was born April 22, 1846. Her father, John Beveau, was born in France, was there reared on a farm, and this occupation he followed for a living. By his first marriage he became the father of the following children: Cain and Henry. The mother of these children dying, he married the second time; his second wife also dying, he then married Miss Catherine Terie, a native of France. To this third marriage there were born the following children: Mary, Thomas, Christine, Josephine, John, Peter, Nicholas, Jacob and Susan. Of these the following are dead: Mary, Thomas, Josephine, John and Nicholas. The others are married and have families of their own. John Beveau upon coming to the United States, located on a farm in Van Wert county, Ohio, upon which he lived and followed farming until he reached old age. He then retired from active business and enjoyed the earnings of his earlier years until his death, which occurred in 1871, his wife surviving him until June 18, 1888. Mr. Beveau was in politics a republican and was a member of the Catholic church. He was a good man, kind hearted, and a true friend. Susan, his daughter, was born in Ohio, and lived with her parents in Van Wert county until she was married to Mr. McDonald. In religious belief she prefers the United Brethren church, of which she is a member. Both she and her husband are excellent people and are of high social standing in the city of Van Wert.

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JOHN P. BUCHER, a retired farmer and prominent citizen of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Richland county, Ohio, December 20, 1830, was reared on his father's farm, and farming, with the exception of nine years, in which he was engaged in carpenter work, has been his life vocation. His great-grandfather was a German by birth and was early a settler of Pennsylvania, in Dauphin county of which state John Bucher, grandfather of our subject, was born, was married to Elizabeth Plank, and was drafted to serve in the war of 1812. John and his wife, Elizabeth, early came to Ohio and settled in Richland county, where he owned 1,000 acres of land, which he divided later among his children. In politics he was a Jackson democrat, and in religion both he and wife were adherents of the German Reform church, in the faith of which both passed away in Richland county. Their son, Peter Bucher, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., in 1801, was brought up a farmer and married, in Dauphin county, Elizabeth Light, daughter of John and Nancy (Lendes) Light. After the birth of three children in Dauphin county, Mr. and Mrs. Bucher came to Ohio and wrought out, from land his father had given him, a farm of 200 acres from the wilds of Richland county, and here the remainder of their family was born the children appearing in the following order: Amos W., Harriet, Eliza, John P., Henry C., Joseph P., and Mary E. In politics Mr. Bucher was a democrat, and both he and wife were members of the German Reform church, and in this faith both died—the wife April 14, 1842, and the husband a number of years after.

John P. Bucher, the subject of this biography, was educated in the common schools of Richland county, Ohio, and on December 24, 1857, married Leah Baer, daughter of Abraham and Maria (Nischly) Baer, of Dauphin county, Pa., and this marriage was blessed by the birth of Henry F., October 21, 1859, and Mary E., (Mrs. Walburn of Van Wert), May 7, 1861. After his marriage Mr. Bucher worked for two years at carpentering in Richland county and then came to Van Wert county, and the same year, 1859, bought his farm of 160 acres in Hoaglin township, of which he has deeded eighty acres to his son and is reserving the remaining eighty acres for his daughter. This land is highly cultivated and improved with good house, barn and proper out-buildings.

Since his settlement here, Mr. Bucher has seen Van Wert county transformed from a wilderness, filled with bear, deer and turkeys and game of all kinds, as well as wolves and other beasts of prey, to its present garden-like beauty and prosperous agricultural and industrial condition. In politics, Mr. Bucher is a democrat; in his religion he is a German Baptist; is a trustee and steward in his church, and is liberal in his financial aid to both church and school. He is well and favorably known in the county and township, and esteemed everywhere for his integrity and intelligence.

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JACOB HENRY FOSTER, editor and proprietor of the Van Wert Bulletin, was born in Findlay, Ohio, March 6, 1839. His grandfather, Jacob Foster, was born in Germany and was brought to this country in 1790, when he was seven years of age, his parents settling in Virginia, nearly opposite Gallipolis, Ohio. He served under Anthony Wayne in his campaign against the Indians in the northwest as a private soldier, and was promoted to a lieutenancy for gallant services in piloting a party of men to Gen. Wayne's headquarters for supplies and ammunition. He was one of the earliest settlers in Hancock county, Ohio, bought a farm there and lived upon it until his death in 1850, when he was sixty-seven years old. In politics he was a whig, and took an active part in political affairs. He was three times a candidate for commissioner of Hancock county, but was defeated each time by one vote; he was a state road commissioner, and laid out and constructed the first road, through the woods, from Findlay to Tiffin, via Fostoria. He was noted throughout northwestern Ohio as a great apple raiser, and at his death left the greatest orchard in this part of the state. His farm, containing 160 acres, lay one mile north of Findlay, but now the city has been extended sufficiently to take it all into the limits of the city. For his services in the war under Wayne he received a warrant for 160 acres of land, which warrant was sold by some one of his descendants. His wife died in 1860. Mr. Foster married Miss Mary Galbreath, by whom he had thirteen children, as follows: Jacob; Daniel, father of the subject; Sarah, who married James Carlin; John; Andrew Jackson; Thomas; Elizabeth, died a young lady; Rachel, who married F. Greer; Mary, who married J. C. Douglas; Silas; Phœbe, who married William Hixon; James, and one that died in infancy.

Daniel Foster was born February 12, 1813, was educated in the country schools, was reared on the farm north of Findlay, and became a dealer in horses and commercial paper. His residence was at Findlay, and he was the discoverer of natural gas in that place, in 1837, and gas was burned in his house for twenty years, all of this time he having a large flambeau in his dooryard, for illuminating his premises.

In 1837 Daniel Foster married Miss Mary Margaret Ford, by whom he had five children, as follows: One that died in infancy, Jacob Henry, James D., Lindo, Elleanor and Zedora. Mary Ford was a daughter of Henry and Elleanor (Nicholas) Ford, the former of Irish descent, and a soldier under Gen. Andrew Jackson in the Florida war. He was a farmer of Washington county, Md., and died in 1820.

Jacob Henry Foster received his education in the common schools at Findlay. When he was eleven years of age he began to learn the printer's trade in the office of the old Hancock Whig at Findlay, serving a regular apprenticeship in that office and in that of the Findlay Courier, entering the latter office in the fall of 1852. In 1856, when but sixteen years old, he became foreman in the office of the Hancock Jeffersonian, which position he held until 1860, when he established the Fostoria News. This paper he disposed of in 1863, with the view of entering the army, but was rejected on account of being afflicted with rheumatism, Re-establishing his paper he ran it for a short time, when he sold it to J. V. Jones, and it is now known as the Fostoria Review.

The state central republican committee, desiring to establish a paper at Ottawa, Putnam county, to support the candidacy of Hon. James M. Ashley for congress, Mr. Foster conducted the Ottawa Telegraph in his favor, against Gen. A. V. Rice, who was the democratic candidate, and who was supporting Gen. McClellan for the presidency as against President Lincoln. At the end of the campaign, which resulted in the election of Mr. Ashley, the Telegraph was suspended.

Mr. Foster then removed to Van Wert and purchased a half interest in the Bulletin from Judge H. C. Glenn, and in 1865 purchased the other half interest. This paper he ran until 1884, when he sold out to Summerset & Arnold, who published it until January 1, 1894, when Mr. Foster re-purchased it and has run it ever since. In the interval between 1884 and 1894 Mr. Foster was engaged in selling gas engines and machinery, having his headquarters one year in Cleveland. The Bulletin is now both a daily and a semi-weekly, the daily having been established in 1883 and the semi-weekly January 1, 1894. It is republican in politics, and is opposed to monopolies of all kinds. He was for nineteen years at the head of the fire department of Van Wert, and for twelve years was president of the Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Firemen's association. During his presidency of this association the world's record was reduced to twenty-nine and a half seconds, which has not yet been lowered.

Mr. Foster was married October 10, 1860, to Miss Martha Ann Caples, a daughter of Gen. B. L. Caples and Catherine Norton, his wife. Gen. Caples in the early day took great interest in the local militia, and commanded a division in what is known in the history of Ohio as the "Toledo War"—a controversy between Ohio and Michigan in reference to the boundary between the two states. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have had eleven children, as follows: Kate, who died at the age of six; Mary, a teacher in the Van Wert public schools; Mattie; Hattie, who died at the age of two years; Hal, who died at four; Linda; Caples, an assistant in the Bulletin office; Nellie; an infant, deceased; Glenn, and Jay H. Mr. Foster is one of the most experienced and successful newspaper men in northwestern Ohio, is fully abreast of the times in all respects, and desires nothing more than to make the Bulletin a power for good in the land.

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JAMES McGOWEN, a respected farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the state of New York, was born in Ontario county, that state, May 12, 1822, and is of Irish descent through his paternal grandfather.

William McGowen, the father of James, our subject, was born in Pittsburg, Pa., was a stone-mason by trade, and when a young man went to Ontario county, N. Y., where he became the third husband of Mrs. Nancy Hannah. The first husband of this lady was Samuel Richardson, who was killed in the war of 1812 at Black Rock, N. Y., the father of three children: Mary, Meams and William; to her second husband, William Hannah, who died one year after marriage, she bore no children, but by Mr. McGowen she became the mother of eight, viz: Caroline, Rachael, James, George, Robert, Harriet and Henrietta (twins) and Henry. The father, William McGowen, was a strong well-proportioned man, of 190 pounds, with double thumbs, and died in Ontario county, N. Y., at the age of sixty-six years.

James McGowen, our subject, received a very good common-school education and was brought up a carpenter in Canadaigua, Ontario county, N. Y., where he married, September 25, 1846, Miss Catherine McCandless, who was born July 19, 1824, a daughter of William and Margaret (Anderson) McCandless, their union resulting in the birth of nine children, viz: Andrew, Orson, Mary, Charles, Edmund, William, Allen and Albert and Alice, twins. William McCandless, father of Mrs. McGowen, came from Scotland, was a wagon-maker and was the father, by his first wife, of three children—Catherine, Elizabeth and William; by his second marriage he became the father of six children—Alexander, Isabel, Margaret, Mary, Jane and Louis. Alexander was killed in the Civil war. William, the eldest son, died at his home in Florida. Mr. McCandless was himself a captain in the state militia and died at an advanced age, a member of the Presbyterian church.

After marriage, Mr. McGowen came to Ohio and bought a small farm in Licking county, which he cleared up, in the meanwhile following his trade of carpenter. In 1850 or 1851 he sold his place and went to Jasper county, Ill., but soon returned to Licking county, Ohio, where he resided until March, 1853, when he came to Van Wert county and traded an old team of horses, a wagon and old harness, for his present farm of forty acres in Washington township—the consideration of the exchange being $200. The land was, of course, all in the wilderness, but Mr. McGowen succeeded in converting it into a profitable farm, and a comfortable home, well drained, well tilled and handsomely improved. In the beginning his farm was overrun with deer, wild turkeys, bear and wild hogs that had sprung from the domestic scrofa that had escaped from the earlier settlers and sought a home under his umbrageous forest trees, but he has lived to see the forests disappear and the game vanish from sight, and arable and productive fields of grain and domestic animals take their place.

Mr. McGowen enlisted, August 27, 1861, at Delphos, Ohio, in company I, Thirty-second volunteer infantry, and was honorably discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn., in September, 1864. He fought at McDowell, Va., Greenbrier, Cheat Mountain and Alleghany, and was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry; was paroled and sent to Camp Douglas, Ill., where he was detained four months, and then exchanged; he rejoined his regiment and took an active part in the engagements at Champion Hills, Baker's Creek, Jackson, Miss., Vicksburg, and was on the Atlanta campaign, in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, and again in front of Atlanta. He was never seriously injured but was shot in the left wrist by a buckshot, and also had his back injured by being run over at Harper's Ferry by a squadron of Union cavalry and knocked senseless. Mr. McGowen also had three brothers in the war, who served in New York regiments.

Mrs. McGowen is a member of the United Brethren church, and in politics Mr. McGowen is a democrat. He has held the office of supervisor, township trustee and school director, is an excellent grammarian and champion speller, and in his early days was able to "spell down" all his competitors in the old-fashioned spelling contests. He is a typical pioneer, of magnificent physique, and he and his sons can together lift 4,000 pounds. All his children have been given good educations, and one—Albert—is now a school-teacher in Van Wert county. Mr. McGowen has a neat and productive farm of forty acres, and has presented his wife with forty acres adjoining. He is of a kindly and genial disposition, is honorable in his every act, and few men in Van Wert county enjoy the warm friendship of so large a circle of acquaintance as he.

* * *

ISMA H. MALICK, the able ex-county surveyor of Van Wert county, Ohio, and a thoroughly competent civil engineer, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, November 26, 1846, a son of Uriah and Chloe (Powell) Malick, and was one year of age when taken by his parents to Hardin county, where they resided two years and then removed to Mercer county, which they made their home until 1854, when they came to Van Wert county and settled on a farm, where Isma H. was reared until December 9, 1861, when he enlisted in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was assigned to Sherman's brigade and served through all its transmutations until it was changed to the First division. He participated in the engagements at Shiloh and Corinth in May, 1862; then the regiment went to Memphis, and there was placed in hospital on account of typhoid fever, where he remained for some time and in fall, 1863, he rejoined his regiment and remained with it until the close of the war in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and all through the Atlanta campaign, until his honorable discharge at Louisville, Ky., August 22, 1865, when he returned to his home, and on April 9, 1866, went to Nebraska to found a home on the frontier, and on June 26, 1866, entered 160 acres of land in Fillmore county, on which he made his home until June 29, 1871, when he returned to Van Wert county, Ohio, and engaged in surveying until 1878, when he went to Bloomington, Franklin county, Nebr., where, in partnership with his brother, he conducted a drug business until September, 1881, when he again returned to Van Wert county and was employed in civil engineering until his appointment as county surveyor, in January, 1895, to fill a vacancy for eight months.

Mr. Malick was united in marriage December 28, 1878, at Kearney, Nebr., with Clara L. Goff, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, who was called away August 9, 1881. Mr. Malick was next married in Van Wert, October 9, 1883, to Mrs. Laura E. Allison, who was born in Maryland June 10, 1849, and who was by her first marriage the mother of two children, Maud and Grace. To Mr. Malick has been born, by his second wife, one child —Virgie E. Mrs. Malick is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics Mr. Malick is a democrat; he is also a member of G. A. R., a knight templar Mason, and a Knight of Pythias, and as a recompense for his war services is receiving a liberal pension. He is exceeding popular among his fellow-citizens and is regarded as one of the most experienced surveyors and practical civil engineers in the county of Van Wert.

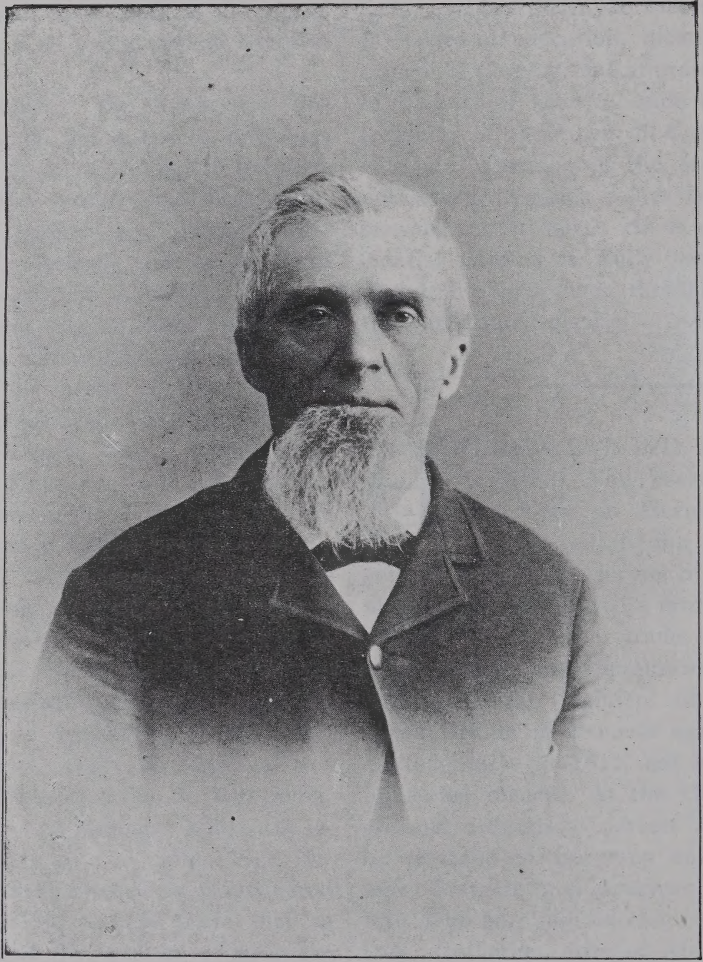
* * *

ELIJAH P. McNEAL, of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, now a business man of Convoy, and an ex-soldier, was born in Union county, Ohio, November 21, 1840, a son of John and Elizabeth (Irwin) McNeal, of Scotch-Irish extraction. John McNeal was born in Pennslyvania and was a son of Archibald, who came from the north of Ireland. John was a young man when his father, Archibald, moved to Ross county, Ohio, and here John married Miss Irwin, who bore him eleven children, viz: James, Sarah, Mary, Christian, Catherine, Daniel, Elijah P., William, Irene, John and Ellen. Of these children four sons, all that were old enough, served in the late war, viz: James, who was slightly wounded; Daniel, slightly wounded; William, also wounded, and Elijah P., whose war record is given further on. John McNeal was one of the original abolitionists, and was a farmer of Monroe county, Ohio, whence he came to Van Wert county in 1874, and here died at the age of seventy-eight years, a member of the Metodist Episcopal church.

Elijah P. McNeal, the subject of this sketch, enlisted at the age of twenty-one years in Pike county, Ohio, in company I, Sixty-third Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, or during the war, under Capt. James Taggart and Col. John W. Sprague, and served until honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., in July, 1865, the war having come to an end. He took an active and valiant part in the siege of Corinth and the battle at that point; at Luka, Parker's Cross Roads, and in the Atlanta campaign; at Resaca, Dallas, Pumpkinvine Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, and also on the march from Atlanta to the eastern coast. He was in the conflicts at Savannah, Buford, Columbia, and in all the innumerable skirmishes pertaing to this long march, which culminated in the grand review at Washington, D. C., May 23–24, 1865. From the national capitol Mr. McNeal's regimeut was sent to Louisville, Ky., where it was disbanded, as intimated above. October 31, 1867, Mr. McNeal was married in Union county, Ohio, to Miss Senia, daughter of Philip and Margaret Miller, the result being the birth of one child—Flora D. In 1875 Mr. McNeal located in Convoy and engaged in general mercantile trade, then in the manufacturer of tile, and, in 1894, in the lumber business, in partnership with L. W. Lorber, under the firm name of Lorber & McNeal, and down to the present time the firm has met with most flattering success. After his settlement in Convoy, Mr. McNeal lost his wife, and by his second marriage, with Miss Angie Knox, he is the father of one child—John K. Mr. McNeal is a member of the G. A. R. post, No. 236, of Convoy, in which he has held all the offices with the exception of commander. He is also a Mason and a non-affiliating Odd Fellow; in politics he is a republican, and has filled the offices of member of the board of education, member of the town ceuncil of Convoy, and at present is a member of the bord of health, beside having served as treasurer of the town of Convoy. With his wife he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has been class-leader, steward and trustee. He is one of the substantial citizens of Tully township, and his fortune has been made through his own industry, thrift and sagacity.

* * *

ANDREW LYBOLD, farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Germany, April 30, 1837, a son of John and Mary (Margereth) Lybold, the former of whom was born about 1792, was reared a farmer and was also apprenticed to the trade of shoemaking. While serving this apprenticeship he was sent with a Hessian regiment of soldiers to aid Great Britain in her war against the United United States in 1812, and was a non-commissioned officer. At the close of that disgraceful attempt to subvert American liberty he returned to Germany and there married Mary Margereth, a daughter of Link Margereth, who bore him six children, named as follows: Catherine, wife of Abraham Hurst, of Germany; Mary, wife of Albert Lybold, of Hardin county, Ohio; Catharine, wife of Reuben Kemmerer, of Kenton, Hardin county; Nicholas, deceased; Margaret, wife of Dr. Durbin, also of Kenton, and Andrew, the subject of this sketch. After his marriage, John Lybold settled on a farm in his native land,



Andrew Lybold

Angeline E. Lybold

where he died at the advanced age of eighty-eight years.

Andrew Lybold attended school in Germany from six years of age until fourteen, and then, with his sister Margaret, came to the United States, to escape military duty, and for awhile stopped with his sister in Hardin county, Ohio, where for a time he attended school and worked on a farm. In 1857 he went to Marion county Ohio, where for four years he worked as a farm hand for one employer, Robert Hopkins. October 21, 1861, he enlisted in company B, under Capt. James Brown, Fifty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, and soon reached the rank of first lieutenant of company D. He served through the campaigns of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, and took part in the sanguinary battles of Shiloh, Stone River, Perryville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge. At Chickamauga he was wounded, September 20, 1863, by a rifle ball in the left hip, and was treated in the field hospital and in the hospitals at Stevenson, Ala., and Nashville, Tenn. On recovering, he rejoined his command at Chattanooga, and with it took part in the engagements at Rocky Faced Ridge, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain (where he was again struck by a rifle ball), Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Spring Hill, Franklin, Nashville, and a number of minor conflicts. He next campaigned in Tennessee, Alabama and Texas, and was mustered out at Victoria, in the latter state, having been honorably discharged December 3, 1865. He then returned to his old position with Mr. Hopkins, and, October 22, 1866, married Miss Angeline Devinney who was born in Logan county, Ohio, in 1845, a daughter of Charles and Susan (Thomas) Devinney, the union being blessed with one child—William L.

Charles Devinney, the father of Mrs. Lybold, was born in New Jersey, in 1800, and was of French extraction; he was reared a farmer and was an early pioneer of Logan county, and to his marriage with Susan Thomas were born eight children, viz; Phebe J., wife of John Freer, of Fort Wayne, Ind ; Elizabeth, wife of Alexander Henry, of Logan county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Daniel Harvey, of Allen county; Rachael, wife of David Cole, of Marseilles, Ohio; Lydia, wife of Enoch Eatherton, of Kansas; John, of Muncie, Ind., deceased; Maria, wife of George Cochran, of Middleburg, Ohio, and Angeline, now Mrs. Lybold.

After his marriage, Mr. Lybold rented a farm in Hardin county, on which he resided for three years, and then, in 1866 purchased a piece of wild land in Union township, Van Wert county. On this, in 1870, he built a house of logs, and cleared away the forest from seventy acres, all of which are now in an excellent state of cultivation and exhibit the work of an experienced agriculturist. His log cabin has been supplemented by a modern frame dwelling, and the place has been so improved that it compares favorably with any other farm in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Lybold are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Lybold is a member of Convoy post, No. 236, G. A. R. He has been a devoted lover of his adopted country, is a successful farmer and in every respect a deserving citizen. He is a republican in politics and for six years, from 1885, served most acceptably as infirmary director.

William L. Lybold, son of our subject, was born in Hardin county August 12, 1867, and was reared to his present calling—that of agriculture. April 29, 1891, he married Minnie Coil, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Parrot, of Mercer county, Ohio. Mrs. Minnie C. Lybold was born December 3, 1870, and was a posthumous child, left to the care of her widowed mother. She has blessed her husband with two children, Edith and Ethel, and, with him, is a devoted member of the Church of God. In politics William Lybold is a republican. He has his residence on the old homestead in Union township, and, like his parents, enjoys the respect of all who know him or know them.

* * *

JOHN McMANUS, a skillful machinist, working for the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company in Van Wert, was born May 7, 1849. He is a son of Thomas McManus, who was born in 1802, in Galway county, Ireland, the largest, and, next to county Mayo, the most populous, of the counties of the province of Connaught, in the west of the Emerald Isle.

While yet quite young Thomas McManus learned the trade of stone-mason, at which he worked during his entire life. He was a man of intelligence, skill and industry, and accumulated a comfortable fortune, and at the time of his death, in 1862, left his family well provided for, so far as this world's goods are concerned. In 1848 he married Miss Winnie Fox, who was a native of the same county with himself. To this marriage there were born three children, viz: Martin, Mary and John, the first two of whom died while yet young. The mother of these children died in 1855. Both parents were members of the Catholic church, and were good people, performing their duties to their family and to their church in a most prompt and commendable manner and spirit.

John McManus, the subject of this sketch, is the only member of the family that lived to mature years. Upon coming to the United States he landed at Portland, Me., and soon afterward made his way to Columbus, Ohio, where he met and married Mrs. Katie Cary whose maiden name was Katie Carroll. After remaining in Columbus about two years, he removed to Convoy, Van Wert county, where he remained until 1870, when he removed his family to Van Wert, where he has since resided. For nine years afterward he worked on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad as section hand; then, for seven years, was engaged in the gas factory. Later he went to work on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad as section boss, having under him a gang of seven men. Still later he acquired the trade of machinist, and has ever since been employed in the capacity of a machinist by the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company, giving them entire satisfaction in his work. John and Katie McManus are the parents of two children, viz: Willie, who was born August 11, 1872, is a boiler-maker by trade, and is a very industrious and honest young man, and Mary, who was born February 26, 1873. She is a very bright, intelligent and charming young lady, and is a member of the Catholic church.

Katie Carroll, wife of John McManus, was born in Ireland, August 16, 1837. She is a daughter of Michael Carroll, who was born in Ireland, and in his native country followed farming all his life. He was born in 1815 and died in 1875. He married Mary Carey, of Ireland, by whom he had the following children: Bridget, Thomas, Mary, Helen, Michael, Katie and Jane. All are dead except Michael and Katie. All were married but two, Mary and Helen. The mother of these children died in Ireland in 1867. Both parents and all the children were members of the Catholic church. Mr. Carroll was a man of broad views and liberal thought. He was always ready to assist those in need, and many a man owes his start in life to his kind and generous help. Katie Carroll came to the United States in 1864, crossing the ocean in an old sailing vessel, named the Jane H. Gilton, and was seven weeks on the sea. When she landed in

Castle Garden, N. Y., she had never before seen a negro. In New London, Conn., she was married to a sea captain named Thomas Cary, who was afterward lost at sea. She then married Mr. McManus and is now living with him in Van Wert.

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JAMES J. McMILLEN, a retired farmer and leading citizen of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, son of James W. and Mary (Leach) McMillen, was born in Somerset county, Pa., December 23, 1827. The father was also a native of Somerset county, Pa., and a son of William McMillen. The father of William McMillen was a native of Ireland, who settled in Pennsylvania. William McMillen received a common school education and learned the shoemaker's trade. He also was born in Somerset county, Pa. His wife, a Miss McKnight before marriage, was also a native of Ireland and when a child came with her parents to Somerset county, Pa. They were the parents of six children; viz.: James W.; John, who in his youth went south; William, who was killed by the bite of a dog; Jane, wife of Zachriah White, of Somerset county, Pa.; Nancy, wife of John Stanton; and a daughter, who died in her twentieth year. Dennis McKnight, father of Mrs. McMillen, was a corporal in the American army during the Revolution, was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and served to the end of the war.

James W. McMillen was born December 22, 1794, was reared a farmer and learned the shoemaker's trade from his father. He pursued his trade, however, only so far as to provide shoes for his own family. To his marriage with Mary Leach were born the following children: Martha, wife of John Mumaugh of Cowden, Ill.; William, deceased in infancy; John, also deceased in infancy; Joseph L., a merchant and miller of Owaneco, Ill.; Jane, widow of Abraham East, a farmer of Washington township, Van Wert, county, Ohio; James J., the subject of this sketch; Sydney A., deeeased in childhood; Ephriam, broom manufacturer of Defiance, Ohio; Eli, of Cowden, Ill.; Miranda, deceased wife of George Clutter, also deceased. Mary (Leach) McMillen was born in 1796, in Pennsylvania, and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1830 James W. McMillen emigrated from Somerset county, Pa., to Knox county, Ohio, making the trip in a wagon, in which he brought his family and household goods. He entered a tract of 200 acres of government land, and established his young family in a rented house in Brownsville, while he cleared a space and built a house of logs on his land. For twelve years he was identified with the agricultural interests of that county. He then disposed of his Knox county farm and moved to Allen county, where he purchased a farm on which he lived the remainder of his life, dying in March, 1880, having lost his wife on March 27, 1878. Politically, he was a stanch supporter of the democracy. He united with the United Brethern church, in early life, but later joined the Methodist Episcopal church. Associated with his father he assisted in building the famous first national pike between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. He was a man of fine physique, possessed unusual force of character, was kind and benevolent in his practices, upright and honorable in his dealings, and a leader of men in the community in which he lived.

James J. McMillen was educated in the common schools of Knox and Allen counties, then taught in a little log school-house, furnished with puncheon benches and slab floor. He also engaged in teaching in Conrad district, Marion township, Allen county, Ohio, where he taught two terms. In 1852 he spent one term in Delaware university, Delaware, Ohio, after which he again engaged in teaching. With the money thus earned he attended a select school at Allentown, Ohio. September 7, 1854, he was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Gilliland, daughter of James G. and Margaret (Lawson) Gilliland. To their union ten children were born, viz: Joseph Warren, a prominent farmer and produce dealer of Union township; Alice, widow of M. D. Mann, and living with her two children in Van Wert; Phebe, who died in infancy; Alonzo B., a prominent lawyer of Albuquerque, N. M.; Ida, wife of Thomas Pollock, who lives near Middlepoint, Ohio; Charles S., farmer and hay dealer of Woodburn, Ind.; Walter, who died in childhood; twin brothers, Albert and Delbert, of Van Wert county, Ohio, and Hattie, the wife of Edward Carlo of Van Wert. The reader is here invited to peruse the history of the Gilliland family, to be found in another part of this volume.

In 1852, Mr. McMillen engaged in general merchandising at Elida, Ohio, to which he added, in 1856, a grain and produce business. The following year he sold his store, and gave his entire attention to the buying and selling of grain, in which he was quite successful. In 1858 he purchased sixty acres of land in Allen county and began farming and dealing in stock. This he continued until 1860, when he moved to his present home, in Ridge township. He has cleared his farm from the woods, improved it with a neat residence and substantial farm buildings, and everywhere it bears the marks of his careful management and cultivation. In December, 1894, accompanied by his wife, he made a tour of the great west, visiting his sons in Illinois and New Mexico, and the incidents and observations of western life, written by him and published at the time in the Van Wert Times, show him to be a man of keen perception and careful thought. He is not a member of any church, though broad in his charity and liberal in his support of every public good. He was for years a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, Lima lodge, No. 205, and is held in high esteem by its members. He is also a member of Ridge grange, P. of H., and has done much to advance the agricultural interests of the community in which he lives. Politically he supports the democratic party, and wields a strong influence in the ranks of that party. In his political associations he is above suspicion, and courts victory only by fair means, never buying or selling a vote. He has been honored by the office of township clerk, though he dislikes to have his name before the public. Both he and his wife engaged in teaching in their youth, and every child, with one exception, followed their example. In the record of this family there has been but one death in sixty-two years. No man stands higher in the confidence and esteem of his neighbors than Mr. McMillen, and all his works have been crowned with success.

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JOSEPH WARREN McMILLEN, grain dealer and shipper of Van Wert, Ohio, and farmer of Union township, was born in Elida, Allen county, Ohio, July 15, 1855, a son of James J. and Harriet (Gilliland) McMillen. The family came to Van Wert county and settled in Ridge township when our subject was but five years old, and here he grew to manhood and was educated. He assisted on the home farm until twenty-one years of age, and was then for four years engaged in teaching school in York and Ridge townships: resuming agriculture, for five years he farmed in Ridge township, and then purchased a farm of 240 acres in Union township in section No. 16, which is cleared and well improved, and underdrained thoroughly by some 60,000 rods of tiling—his chief product being hay. In 1885, in company with his father, he began buying and shipping hay in large quantities, and this partnership lasted two years, since when our subject has been doing business on his individual account. In 1894 he handled about 600 carloads of straw and hay, beside other products. He buys grain at Cavett in considerable quantities, and shipped eighty carload of shelled corn between October, 1894, and close of the year. He employs four balers, who scour the country for hay, buy it up and bale it on the spot, as they take with them the proper machinery. His office in Van Wert is on North Walnut street, near the Pennsylvania railway line, where, during the proper season, he gives due attention to the buying and shipping of grain, hay and straw.

The marriage of Mr. McMillen took place in Van Wert, April 15, 1879, to Jennie Wilmore, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, and is the daughter of J. Wilmore. This union has been blessed with the birth of six children, named Dale, Bernice, Nellie, Lewis, Ralph and Ferris. The parents are both members of the Presbyterian church, to the tenets of which they strictly adhere. Fraternally Mr. McMillen is a chapter Mason, and in politics he is a stanch democrat, but not a partisan for the sake of office, as he finds a business life to be more profitable than office seeking. He is upright in all his business transactions, is liberal and useful as a citizen, and in his social relations is all that could be desired.

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JOHN MARK, a prosperous farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a hunter, is a son of Allen L. and Frances (Kirkpatrick) Mark, and was born in Allen county, Ohio, January 8, 1857. Allen L., the father, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, January 8, 1824, and was a son of Peter Mark, a native of Germany, who married Mary Magdalene Lagore, a native of France, who became the mother of twelve children, of whom three—Abner, of Missouri, Manigum, of Iowa, and Mathew W., of Fayette county, Ohio—are the only survivors, the father of our subject, having been the youngest of the twelve.

Peter Mark, grandfather of our subject, was a farmer and a very early settler of Fayette county. Allen L., his son, was reared a farmer in Fayette county, and August 17, 1845, married Frances Kirkpatrick, who was born in the county named December 2, 1826, daughter of John, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1790, and Elizabeth (Bush) Kirkpatrick, who was born in Virginia in 1806. To Allen L. and wife were born nine children, viz: Jane, wife of Archibald Findlay, a farmer of Auglaize county; Simmons, who died at Savannah, Ga., while in the army; Moab, of Oklahoma; Andrew, of Jackson Centre, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Pierce Wright; John, our subject; Joseph, of York township; and Marcus and Merriott, twins, of Jennings township. John Kirkpatrick came down the Ohio river on a flat-boat in 1795 with his parents; after he grew to manhood he entered a tract of land in Fayette county, as already indicated, and there died in the faith of the Presbyterian church, while his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

After his marriage, Allen L. Mark located in Allen county, and in 1851 entered 120 acres of land, which he cleared and improved, and in 1862 returned to Fayette county, where he resided one year, and then came to Jennings township, Van Wert county, where he farmed until his death, March 12, 1887. He was a republican in politics, and very popular, serving his fellow-citizens as township treasurer for a number of years, and also as township clerk and as justice of the peace; he was also very prominent in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a local preacher and of which his widow is still a faithful member. This lady now makes her home with her son John, our subject, in Jennings township, where about four years ago she built their present handsome dwelling. In 1889 she moved to Spencerville, Allen county, where she passed two years, and then returned to Van Wert county. The only sister of Mrs. Mark—Hannah—is the wife of Matthew Mark, of Fayette county, Ohio.

John Mark, the subject proper of this sketch, was reared to farming and also received his education in Allen and Van Wert counties. He has never married, but has always made his home with his parents, manifesting the same filial affection that he is now bestowing upon his mother. Mr. Mark takes a deep interest in hunting, is well-known among the sportsmen of his locality, and the past five consecutive winters has passed several months in Wisconsin and Michigan, engaged in the pursuit of game. He is, however, a farmer by profession. In politics he is a stanch and active republican, and takes a decided interest in the success of his party; he is not a member of any religious denomination, but is liberal in his financial contributions to all. A genial friend and neighbor, and a public-spirited citizen, he is highly respected by the community in which he lives.

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FREDERICK MARKLEY, a substantial farmer of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born March 11, 1835, in York county, Pa., of German stock. Samuel Markley, his father, was also a native of York county, was left an orphan in childhood, was a wheelwright by trade, and married, in York county, Marillas Bowers, the union resulting in the birth of five children—John, Frederick, Henry, Samuel and Elizabeth, all of whom reached maturity. The father, after marriage, lived on the Bowers farm until his demise in the faith of the Lutheran church, and in politics was a republican. Two of his sons, Frederick and Samuel, served in a Pennsylvania regiment during the Civil war, and both were honorably discharged—but this glorious record the father never lived to be cognizant of, as his death occurred in 1861, at the age of about fifty-six years.

Frederick Markley, whose name introduces this biography, was taught the house-carpentering trade, but, inspired by the patriotic sentiment prevalent in his early day manhood, enlisted in defense of the flag of his native land, and was enrolled at Carlisle, Pa., October 16, 1862 to serve nine months, receiving an honorable discharge at Gettysburg, July 28, 1863, and after a short sojourn on the home farm he re-enlisted—this time in company C, One Hundred and First Pennsylvania volunteer infantry—was enrolled in March, 1864, and was again honorably discharged at New Berne, N. C., June 25, 1865—the war having closed. Following is a list of the chief engagements in which he took an active part: January 30, 1863, Deserted House, near Suffolk, Va.; April 14, 1863, skirmishes on Jonestown road, near Suffolk; May 14, 1863, Beaver Dam, near Franklin, Va.; May 16, 1863 Carsville, and afterward, in skirmishes, winding up in North Carolina and Roanoke, Va.

Directly after the war Mr. Markley located in Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in wagon-making in Kalida, for a short time, where his marriage took place, February 10, 1867, to Albigail Goodman, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and a daughter of Jesse Goodman, of English descent. Mr. Goodman was a substantial farmer of Union township, owned 120 acres of land, and died at about seventy years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Markley, after marriage, lived a year in Kalida and then two years in Van Wert city, then traded his town property for forty acres south of Van Wert, and in 1878 came to his present farm, then comprising eighty acres, all in the woods. In the interval, February 27, 1872, his wife died on the first farm, the mother of three children: Aaron C., who resides in Lima, Ohio; Albert, on the home farm, and Flora, who died at the age of three years.

January 30, 1873, Mr. Markley married, at Middlepoint, Van Wert county, Mrs. Elizabeth Mullen, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, September 26, 1843, and was a widow of Thomas Mullen. This lady bore the maiden name of Longwell—daughter of George and Mary A. (Sheets) Longwell. George Longwell was born in Ohio, of Irish parentage, was married in Delaware county, Ohio, and became the father of ten children, viz.: Henrietta, Lecretia, Elizabeth, Kate, Henry, Catherine, Martha, Albert, Mary E., and Charles and Lucy, twins. Mr. Longwell came to Van Wert county in 1851 and settled on Dog creek, Jackson township, in the wild woods, with his nearest neighbors two miles distant to the south, and no settlement at the north except in the extreme edge of the township. This old pioneer had one son, Henry, who served three years in an Ohio regiment during the late Civil war, and his own death took place on the farm at the age of about seventy-eight years. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Markley have been born four children, viz.: Samuel H., Mary E., Louise J. and Isom. Mr. Markley, aided by his faithful wife and children, cleared up as comfortable a home as there is in the township, and, being a thoroughly practical farmer, is now reaping a golden harvest that compensates him for his past years of toil and hardships. In politics Mr. Markley is a republican; Mr. Markley is a consistent member of the Lutheran church, and his wife of the Methodist congregation. As a soldier our subject has done his share for his country bravely and faithfully, and as a citizen and neighbor he performs his duty intelligently and well, winning the respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

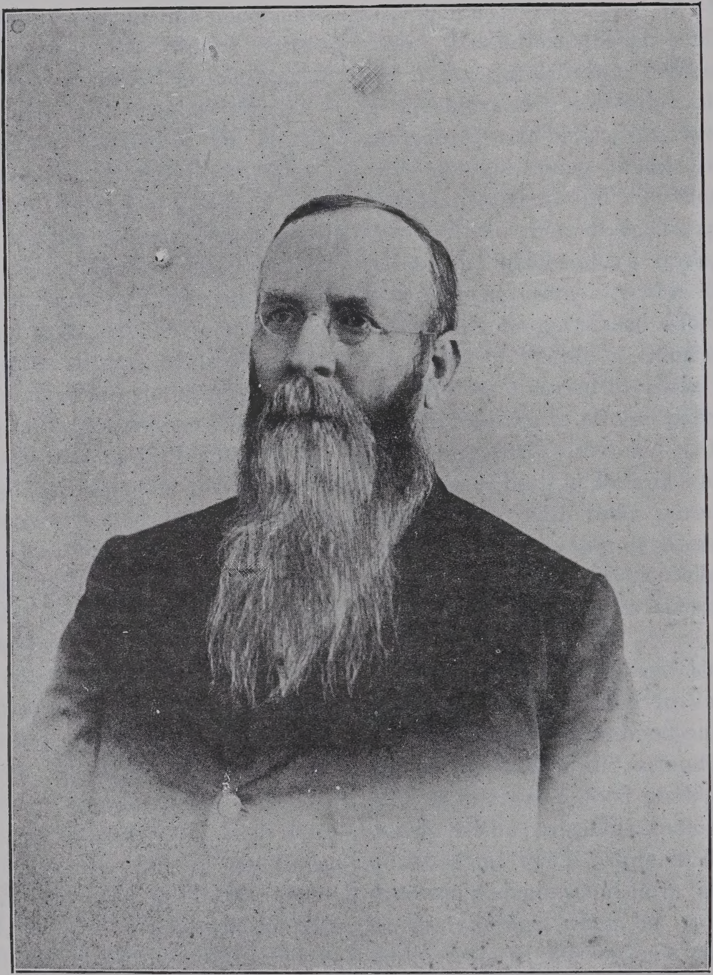
* * *

RICHARD H. MARTIN, a successful and progressive farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a son of Robert and Nancy (Dowell) Martin, was born in West Virginia, September 14, 1844. Robert Martin, the father, was a native of old Virginia, born October 17, 1807, of Irish parents, who were early settlers in the Shenandoah valley. In the year 1828 he helped build the Delaware & Hudson canal; then later rafted down the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers; then helped to lay the first railroad track (it being of wood) for a steam engine running from Harper's Ferry to Winchester, a distance of thirty-three miles, it being among the first railroad enterprises of this country, under J. Q. Adams' administration, and yet he has lived to see the time of near 150,000 miles of railroad under President Cleveland's administration. In 1844 the family removed from the valley to Pleasant county, W. Va., where Robert was employed as a flatboatman, making trips to New Orleans with produce, but later retiring to a farm. In 1855 he moved to Guyandotte, Va., and the following year to Gallatin county, Ill., where he lived on a farm until 1861, when he came to Ohio. He had floated his family down the river to Shawneetown, Ill., in 1855, but his return trip, in 1861, was in a wagon drawn by oxen. The family now camped out at night by the roadside, often sleeping on the ground, and in thirty-two days reached Highland county, Ohio, when Robert worked for nine months as a farm hand; he next rented a farm in Greene county and cultivated it until 1866, when he went back by wagon to Gallatin county, Ill., but returned the following year to Ohio and settled in Van Wert county, where he has since lived, with the exception of three years spent in Paulding county. He has long since passed the allotted three score and ten, and now makes his home with his son. Mrs. Nancy Martin was born in Virginia in 1818, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Dowell, of old South Carolina descent. She was married to Mr. Martin in 1837 and became the mother of the following children; Robert, deceased; Charles L., of Kansas; Richard H., our subject; Daniel J., of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county; John H., of Union township; Sarah L., deceased, and an infant that died unnamed. The mother of this family died in the autumn of 1859 in Gallatin county, Ill., where her remains now rest.

Richard H. Martin, the subject of this brief biography, from the time of his birth until sixteen years of age, accompanied his father in his varied and transitory migrations, and was thus deprived of the advantage of a systematic education, but was nevertheless supplied with a fund of practical knowledge by the impact of nomadic incidents. He worked as a farm hand until 1872 when he was united in marriage with Miss Maggie E. Rittenhouse, born December 3, 1850, a daughter of M. M. and Christena (Meely) Rittenhouse, whose biography appears on another page. To this marriage of Mr. and Martin have been born six children, viz: Dora B., wife of Asa Grist, of Iowa; Burt L., Oscar E., S. Stella; Curtis M. and Zanna Z. P. Mr. Martin and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics he is a democrat. In 1871 he purchased a farm of twenty acres in Union township, and to this he soon added another twenty-acre tract, and in 1894 purchased his present home. He is a self-made man in all respects, and is highly esteemed by his neighbors and friends.

ALEXANDER R. McCOY is a native of Madison county, Ohio, born October 8, 1835. His parents were Alexander and Eliza (Gillispie) McCoy. Alexander McCoy, Sr., was born in Greenbrier county, Va. (now W. Va.), July 27, 1800. His father, Joseph McCoy, was a soldier in the war of 1812. When twelve years of age Alexander, the father of Alexander R., emigrated, with his parents, westward and located in Ohio, living in the counties of Ross, Fayette, Madison and Van Wert in succession. When fifteen years of age he apprenticed himself to the blacksmith's trade, which he followed eleven years. At this time, his health failing him, he purchased a farm and lived the remainder of his life a tiller of the soil. In 1825 he was married to Eliza Gillispie, a native of New York, whose parents were John and Margaret (Gunning) Gillispie, both of whom were born in Ireland and emigrated to this country with their parents when quite young. To the union of Alexander and Eliza McCoy were born eleven children, nine sons and two daughters (see sketch of Moses H. McCoy).

When four years of age Alexander McCoy, with his parents, moved to Van Wert county, and was reared to manhood on the farm, working for his father and attending the common schools; he was a good student, and so assiduously did he pursue his studies that he became qualified to teach while still a youth. He followed pedagogy and farm labor until twenty-six years of age, when he laid aside the plow and ferrule at his nation's call and enlisted, August 5, 1862; was elected corporal in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, Col. Langworthy commanding, later Col. P. T. Swain. He received an honorable discharge in July, 1865, and returned home, wearing a sergeant's stripes. Early in the service he contracted a malady known as vari-



A. R. McCoy

MRS. A. R. McCOY.

A. R. McElroy

cose veins, superinduced by excessive marching, and which confined him in the hospital at McMinnville six months. He was thereby prevented from engaging in the many battles of his regiment. Still, he saw active service, chiefly in the army of the Cumberland, under Gen. Sherman. He was in the whole of the Atlanta campaign, which, historical students will remember, was a protracted battle of three months' duration; also, the battle of Nashville—two days. Notwithstanding his defect in walking, caused by above-mentioned disease, he has a good record as a fighting soldier. This patriotism seems to have been a family heritage, as four other brothers defended the Union during that darkest of hours when the "Dogs of war" were let loose.

On his return to Van Wert county, in 1865, after the war, Mr. McCoy resumed his profession of teaching, with which he combined carpenter work, having also learned that trade at odd times, and stave joining with the Eagle Stave factory, of which he was a part owner. In 1874 he opened a grocery store in east Van Wert, which he operated eleven years, and sold to William Collett in 1885. After two years of farm life he re-entered the grocery business in Van Wert in the room opposite the Pioneer drug store, and which he now occupies.

October 1, 1868, the marriage of Mr. McCoy to Mary Ann Anderson was celebrated. She was born near Findlay, Ohio, December 25, 1848. Her parents were John and Elizabeth Anderson and paternal grandparents were John, Sr. and Louise (Cross) Anderson; her maternal grandparents were Sanford and Cynthia (McClimans) Dorman. When one year old Mary A. Anderson moved with her parents to Wayne county, Ohio. When eight years of age her parents died and she made her home with William Anderson, in Van Wert, up to the time of her marriage, in 1868. To the union of Alexander R. and Mary A. McCoy were born six children—four boys and two girls, all of whom are living: Nettie I., born October 2, 1869, educated in Van Wert, unmarried; Charles, born April 3, 1873, a clerk in his father's store; Minnie C., born August 8, 1875, graduated in 1895 in music at Angola, and has taken up professional music teaching, in which she is acknowledged by all to be a fine instructress; Horace A., born in 1878; Estella, born in 1881, and Clara, born in 1884. The last three are attending the public schools of Van Wert.

In religion Mr. McCoy has a leaning toward Methodism, but is not a member of any denomination. He is a stanch republican, having voted for the first candidate of that party for the presidency—John C. Fremont—and also for all succeeding candidates up to the present time. He has never sought nor held office except that of justice of the peace of Ridge township, which office he resigned soon after qualifying. As a pioneer, Mr. McCoy is a typical one, as he has been a resident of Van Wert county since 1839—fifty six years. He has seen the county develop from a howling and uninviting wilderness into one of the most beautiful and productive agricultural districts extant, studded with mumerous bustling and thriving municipalities; he has seen Van Wert city in all its successive stages of hamlet, village, town and city; forsooth, he has grown up and kept pace with the county, never snrrendering the integrity and honesty of purpose that has characterized his whole life.

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GEORGE H. MARSH, manufacturer and capitalist of Van Wert, Ohio, was born December 23, 1833, in Farmington, Conn., a son of George and Caroline (Gilbert) Marsh. The grandfather, James Marsh, was born in the aforesaid state, of Scotch-English parentage, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-nine years. George Marsh, father of the subject, was reared on a farm in Connecticut and in early life learned the trade of clock-making, and for a number of years peddled clocks in a pannier throughout the New England States and Canada; he is said to have made the first brass clock in the United States, and after following the business for some time in partnership with an uncle, William L. Gilbert, disposed of his interest to that gentleman, who afterwards became the largest manufacturer of clocks in New England.

George Marsh remained in Connecticut until 1833, in the spring of which year he came to Ohio, and engaged in land speculating, in the southern part of the state, but returned to his native state the same year, remaining there until the spring of 1835, at which time he again came to the Buckeye state, locating at Athens, where he resumed speculating of various kinds, principally in real estate. He next went to Dayton and engaged in the manufacture of clocks, but after the destruction of his establishment by fire, in 1841, removed to Illinois, locating in Bond county, where, until 1843, he followed stock farming, then returned to New England. His next move was to Van Wert county, Ohio, where in connection with other parties he had previously purchased large tracts of real estate; also had become interested in lands in the counties of Mercer and Paulding, and in partnership with James W. Riley and Mr. Aughenbaugh, located in the cities of Van Wert, Paulding and Celina. Mr. Marsh removed his family to the town of Van Wert in 1847, and resided on the site now occupied by the Marsh House on Main street. Here he lived until 1848, when he moved to southern Ohio, where he had large landed interests, and his death occurred in the city of Marshfield in the year 1862. Mr. Marsh married, in Litchfield, Conn., Caroline Gilbert, by whom he had five children: James, deceased; a second son of the name of James, also deceased; Henriette, wife of Robert Gilliland of Van Wert; George H., subject of this biography, and Benjamin F. at this time deputy in the state treasurer's office of Connecticut. The mother of these children departed this life in 1848.

George H. Marsh, the immediate subject of this sketch, was twelve years old when his parents moved to Van Wert county, where he received his elementary education in the common schools. Subsequently he attended school in Connecticut, and spent some time in college at Athens, Ohio, and at the early age of sixteen became assistant to the corps of engineers which had in charge the surveying of the Marietta & Cincinnati railroad, which position he had for several months. Later he worked for some time in the clock manufactory establishment of his uncle in Connecticut, thence went to Athens, Ohio, where he attended college, and then came to Van Wert, where, until his twentieth year, he was engaged as clerk with a mercantile firm.

On attaining his majority Mr. Marsh became clerk to the master mechanic of what is now the P., Ft. W. & C. R. R., at Crestline, and in 1855 entered the railroad shops as machinist, and was thus engaged until the removal of the shops to Fort Wayne, where he continued in the same capacity about one year. For a limited period thereafter he was employed in a cotton warehouse in Louisiana, but, returning to Van Wert, engaged in the livery business, which he carried on in connection with farming, stock-dealing and various kinds of speculation until 1871, in January of which year he became manager of the Eagle Stave works. Mr. Marsh here acted as general manager about two years, and then became proprietor, after which he enlarged the capacity of the factory and within a few years became the largest producer of staves in the United States, a distinction which he still enjoys. In addition to his manufacturing establishment at Van Wert he is interested in stave works in Belmore, Latta and Geneva, and in the Leeson Cooperage works at Scott, Ohio, all of which are more or less operated under his personal direction, the yearly output exceeding 50,000,000 staves, besides a vast amount of cooperage and other material.

Mr. Marsh succeeded Col. Marble, of Van Wert, in the banking business, and at this time is interested in fifteen national banks in various parts of Ohio and other states, besides being prominently identified with the Lima Locomotive & Machine Co., of which he is president; the Lima Steel works; the wholesale boot and shoe house of Ainsworth, Wickenheiser & Co., Toledo, Ohio, and other enterprises, all of which have proved financially successful. He is also largely interested in real estate, owning several thousand acres of valuable land in Van Wert, Paulding and other counties of northern Ohio, besides large tracts in the southern part of the state and in Illinois.

With all his eminent ability as a business man and financier, Mr. Marsh is entirely free from ostentation. He is a man of very decided convictions, with the courage and ability to maintain them, and though of strong character is distinguished for his cordiality and has many warm personal friends in both business and social circles. Mr. Marsh is a remarkably well-preserved man, possessed of splendid physique and pleasing address, in fact is one of those well-rounded, symmetrically developed characters who, in the course of a long and successful life, leave their mark upon the times and the communities in which they dwell. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, and his name appears upon the charter of the Blue lodge of Van Wert.

Mr. Marsh was married November 26, 1862, to Miss Hilinda Vance, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 13, 1844. To this marriage one child has been born, Katie, wife of Arthur I. Clymer, of Van Wert. Mrs. Marsh is a member of the First Presbyterian church, also a member for six years of the county board of visitors (charity) for the Eastern Star, of which she is secretary.

Elias Vance, deceased, father of Mrs. George H. (Vance) Marsh, was born in Sparta, Sussex county, N. J., April 12, 1805, and was the son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Morrow) Vance, natives respectively of Scotland and Ireland. Josiah and Elizabeth Vance reared a family of six children, viz: Charles R., Phoebe, Elias, Mary, Hilinda and Nancy, all deceased. After the father's death Mrs. Vance entered into rhe marriage relation with Enoch Miller by whom she had one son, Daniel S., deceased; the mother departed this life about the year 1830.

Elias Vance was reared to manhood in Geneseo, N. Y., and began life for himself as a merchant, carrying on a dry-goods trade in the aforesaid town until 1825, at which time he became a resident of Ohio, locating in the city of Columbus. Subsequently he removed to Millersport and Salem, Ohio; at Millersport, on the 20th of November, 1839, he was united in marriage to Caroline Miller, daughter of Matthias and Amy (Crittenden) Miller, both parents natives of Virginia. Mrs. Vance was born in Millersport in the year 1821, and bore her husband the following children: Charles, a well-known druggist of Rockford, Ohio; Hilinda, wife of George H. Marsh, of Van Wert; John, deceased; and Sophia, who for seventeen years has been one of the most popular and successful teachers in the Van Wert city schools.

Mr. Vance became a resident of Van Wert county in 1852, from which year until his death he was prominently identified with the commercial interests of the city of Van Wert. He was in every respect a representative business man, and his success was the result of superior intelligence, directed and controlled by wise forethought, and was such as to gain him a handsome estate, consisting of 850 acres of valuable land in one body, and valuable property adjacent to and within the city limits of Van Wert. With affairs of business and every-day life, Mr. Vance's actions were governed by a high sense of honor and in his death the county of Van Wert lost one of its most highly respected citizens. Mrs. Vance subsequently married William S. Ainsworth, by whom she had one child—a son, Dr. H. S. Ainsworth, a well-known dental surgeon of Van Wert. Since the death of her second husband, Mrs Ainsworth has made her home with her son, who now looks after her interests in her declining years.

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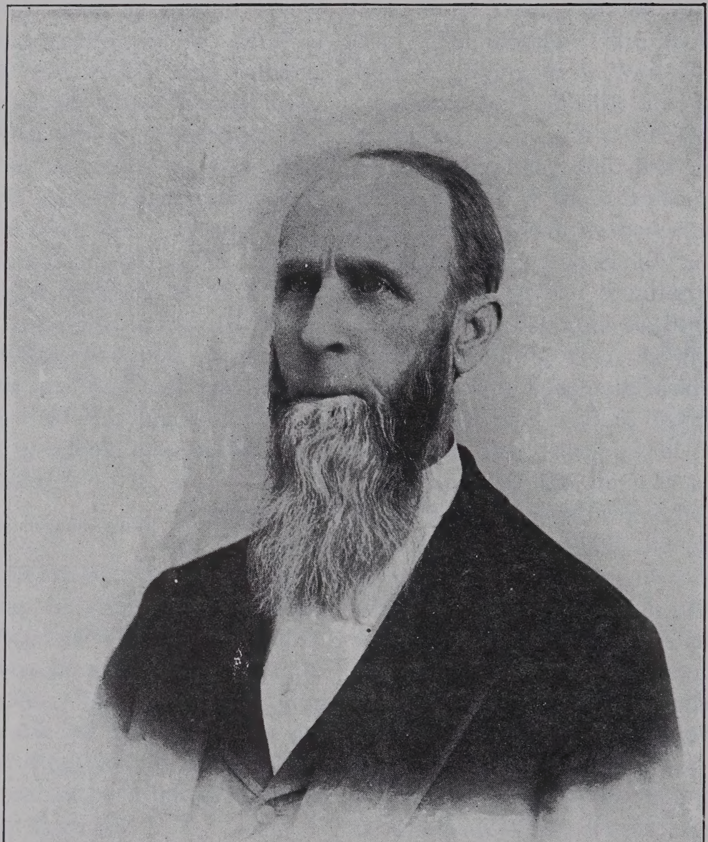
ELI D. MATHEW, who is conspicuous among the successful agriculturists of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, July 19, 1830. His grandfather was John Mathew, a native of Virginia and a descendant of an old English-German family of that state, whose ancestors came to America early in the present century.

Jonah Mathew, the subject's father, also a native of Virginia, was born in 1802 and was brought to Ohio when quite young, his parents having been among the pioneers of Clinton county. He grew to manhood amid the rugged scenes of pioneer life, assisted his father in the work of the farm, and when he could be spared attended the indifferent schools of those days, acquiring thereby a fair education. He resided in Clinton county until 1847, and in the meantime, about ths year 1825, was united in marrage with Sarah Stokesberry, daughter of David Stokesberry, and to this union were born ten children, viz: John, Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers, Rachel, Eli D., Mrs. Eliza J. Lawhead, Mrs. Emily Wilson, Mrs. Mary Young, James, Martha and William. The mother of the above children was born in Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1803, and came to Ohio with her parents in early childhood. She was an active member of the Christian church, and died in the county of her adoption at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Jonah Mathew was for many years a leading citizen and greatly aided in the early development of the counties where he lived. In 1847 he emigrated to Illinois, locating in Jefferson county, where he purchased a farm, upon which he lived until his death in the year 1866. He was zealous in church matters, supported the principles of the democratic party, and left the impress of his character upon the people with whom he commingled.

Eli D. Mathew laid the foundation of his education in a little log school-house in Clinton county and assisted his father on the farm during the major part of his minority. When a young man he learned the miller's trade, at which he became quite proficient, and followed the calling as proprietor for a period of fifteen years, at the end of which time, in 1866, he disposed of his mill and purchased a farm in Van Wert county. He at once moved to his place and proceeded to improve the same, making additions from time to time, until now he has one of the best cultivated farms in Pleasant township. He owns good buildings and other improvements in keeping therewith, and by excellent management has made agriculture a marked success, and is now classed with the substantial and well-to-do citizens of the township of which he has been for so many years a resident.

In 1854 Mr. Mathew and Martha Rogers, of



W. H. McCoy

Clinton county, were united in the bonds of wedlock, a union blessed with the birth of the following children: Sanford, who lives on the home place; Tabitha, deceased; Sarah, wife of Clarence Balyeat; Frank and Jonah. Mrs. Mathew was born in 1832, belonged to the Friends' church, and in her domestic relations was a faithful wife, loving mother, and kind and considerate neighbor; the death of this excellent woman occurred in May, 1894.

In the year 1862 Mr. Mathew entered the army, enlisting in company D, Eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, for nine months' service, at the end of which time he returned home and resumed milling, in which he had been engaged, as mentioned above. Subsequently, in 1864, he re-entered the service as a member of company K, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Ohio infantry, which formed a part of the army of the Potomac, and took part in the hard-fought battle of Monocacy, Md., beside other engagements, in all of which he acquitted himself as a brave and gallant defender of the flag. At the close of the war he returned to his business in Clinton county and there remained until his removal to the county of Van Wert in the year referred to above. Mr. Mathew is a consistent member of the Society of Friends and belongs to that large and respectable class of men whose success has been achieved by their own efforts, and to whom the county is greatly indebted for much of its prosperity. Politically he is a republican, and has intelligent opinions on all questions of the day. He has been honored by the citizens of his township with several official positions, the duties of which he ever discharged in a manner highly satisfactory to all concerned.

Sanford Mathew, son of Eli D., was born in the year 1855, in Clinton county, Ohio, received his education in the common schools, and on arriving at the years of maturity chose the noble calling of agriculture for his life work. He was married, in 1882, to Mary E. Sidle, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Hedges) Sidle, and is the father of five children, whose names are as follows: Martha M., Chauncy L., Albert E., Nellie L. and Samuel R. Mrs. Mathew was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Mathew is one of the progressive men of his township and well deserves mention in this volume for his sterling worth and public spirit.

MOSES H. McCOY, one of the oldest and most substantial farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and one of the leading and most popular citizens, is a native of Fayette county, born November 8, 1828, and is a son of Alexander and Eliza (Gillispie) McCoy—the former a native of Virginia, born July 27, 1800, and the latter a native of New York state, born March 27, 1809. Alexander McCoy was a blacksmith and followed his trade until some years after his marriage, when he purchased some land in Madison county, Ohio, but shortly afterward sold and came thence to Van Wert county, in 1839, where he had entered 300 acres in Ridge township about four years previously, and on this farm he resided until 1868, when he moved near Van Wert, where his death occurred in October, 1891. His widow, now eighty-six years of age, resides with her son Joseph, in Ridge township. Alexander and Eliza McCoy were the parents of eleven children, who were born in the following order: Samuel, who died in early manhood; M. H., the subject of this sketch; David, a member of the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, who died in the service in 1861; John, who died in 1883, leaving a widow at Van Wert; Alexander, who was a soldier in the Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry and is now doing business as a grocer in Van Wert; William, who disappeared from home in middle life, and has never since been heard of; Margaret Jane, deceased wife of Judge John E. Richey, of Lima, Ohio; Joseph, who was a soldier in the Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry and now resides in Ridge township; Charles, a resident of Wichita, Kans.; Elmira, widow of Isaac Weible, of Van Wert, and Franklin, also a resident of Van Wert. The parents of this family were reared in the Presbyterian faith, but later united with the Methodist Episcopal church.

M. H. McCoy, our subject, was reared on the home farm, was well inducted in the lessons of agricultural life, and attended the subscription schools of his early boyhood, acquiring a very good education. December 24, 1851, he married Elmira F. Gilliland, daughter of James Gordon and Margaret (Lawson) Gilliland. (See sketch of Gilliland family.) Immediately after his marriage Mr. McCoy settled on his present beautiful farm, of which ninety-one acres were earned by day's and month's work, and eighty acres additional donated by by the father of his bride, making in all 171 acres. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy have since reared a family of three children, viz: T. S., a railroad surveyor of Wichita, Kans., and married to Maria Adams; Florence, wife of John J. Humphreys, of the wholesale firm of Humphreys & Hughes, Van Wert, and G. G., a dentist of Delphos, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy stand very high in their social relations to the people of their township and county. They and their family are all members of the Presbyterian church, and both the sons are graduates of the Michigan university at Ann Hrbor. Fraternally Mr. McCoy is an Odd Fellow, and as a republican he has served in almost every elective office his township affords, and once served, by appointment, an unexpired term as director of the infirmary. His sterling traits of character, well-known honesty and integrity, have served to endear him to his neighbors and fellow-citizens, all of whom recognize in him one of the very best citizens of the township, and one whose life reflects great credit upon himself and the community.

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JOSEPH MAY, capitalist of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Bensheim, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, and was born January 28, 1844, a son of George and Anna Marie (Gamble) May—the former of whom was born in the same province in 1807, was there married in 1829, and lost his wife in January, 1872. He conducted a bakery and restaurant, was a popular and successful caterer, and died March 25, 1876, the father of five children, viz: Adam, Elizabeth, Margaret, Henry J. and Joseph, our subject. Both parents died in the faith of the Catholic church.

Joseph May attended the public schools of his native town for seven years, and then attended college three years. He learned the baker's trade under his father, with whom he remained until his twenty-first year, and then bade farewell to parents September 28, 1865, and set sail for America, on the Borussia, via Hamburg, September 30, 1865, and landed in New York, October 20, 1865; he sojourned in that city four weeks, and thence came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was engaged with his brother, Adam, in the bakery business for two years; then went to Cincinnati, remained there until 1868, and then came to Van Wert, where he followed his trade for one year; he next went to Bluffton, Ind., where he was engaged in business on his own account until September, 1872, when he again came to Van Wert, Ohio, where he opened a restaurant, which he conducted with profit until 1891, when he withdrew from the business and entered upon the brokerage and real estate business. In the meantime, April 6, 1876, he made a visit to Germany to see his father, but on his arrival home was dumbfounded at the sorrowful intelligence that his father had died about a month previously, the date being given above. He felt like returning to America immediately, but was delayed until September 15. Mr. May is now one of the wealthy and substantial citizens of Van Wert, and owns a subdivision of eighteen acres adjoining the city on the east, beside several brick business blocks in the city proper, on Main, Jackson and Court streets, eight valuable residences and his own beautiful dwelling on South Washington street, while in Union township, Van Wert county, he owns 160 acres of choice farm land; he is also a stockholder and director in the Van Wert Natural Gas company, and a stockholder and director in the Van Wert National bank and director in the Van Wert Building and Loan association. Fraternally he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, the National Union and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. May was most auspiciously married, April 19, 1870, in Van Wert, to Miss Mary E. Miller, who was born Nevember 8, 1852, and this marriage has been rendered the more blissful by the birth of eight children, viz: Lillie (deceased), Hattie, Ida, Frank, Flnora, Florence, Arthur and Earl. The parents are both devout members of the Catholic church, and manifest in their daily walk through life the sincerity of their belief in its teachings. The family are universally respected. and it will readily be seen that Mr. May has been "the architect of his own fortune," and his thrift, industry and good management afford an example well worth the imitation of younger aspirants to wealth and the esteem of their fellow-men.

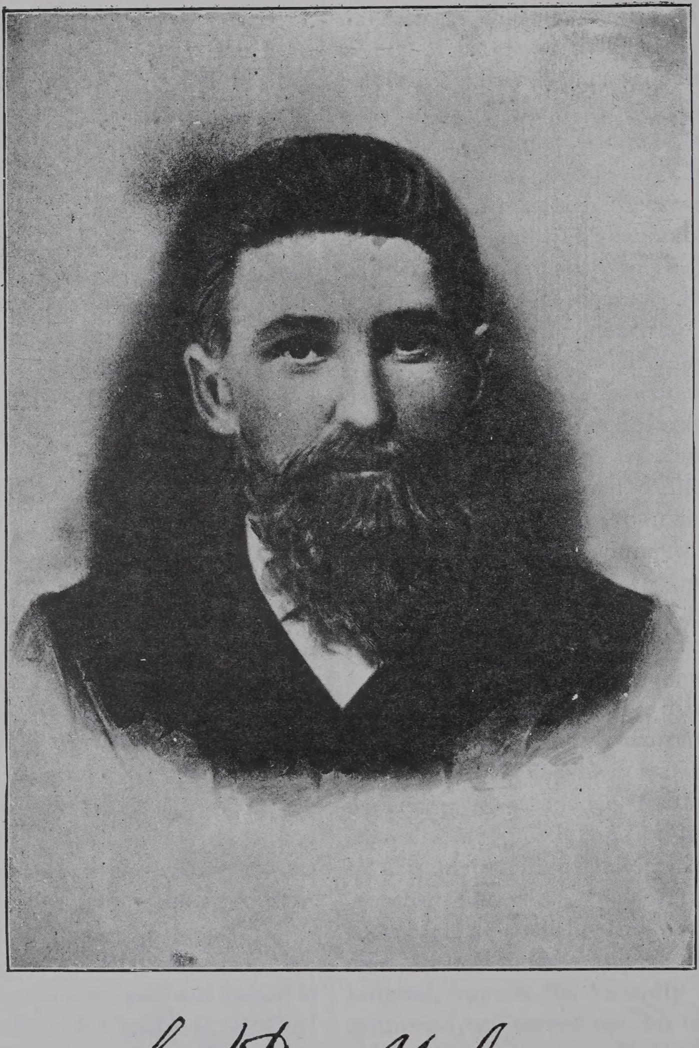
ISAIAH P. MAY, one of the present trustees of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a leading farmer, is a son of William May, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 24, 1817, of Pennsylvania-German descent. William May was reared a farmer and a carpenter, and married Sophia Rummel, who was born August 28, 1825, a daughter of George Rummel, and to this union were born ten children, viz: Moses, born April 8, 1844, died a soldier in the Civil war; Abialine, born November 2, 1845; Emroy, born April 23, 1850, now deceased; Louisa, born July 31, 1852; Charles, born July 15, 1855; Isaiah P., born August 12, 1859; Oliver, born April 29, 1863; Parmelia, born March 16, 1866, and two that died infants. William May moved from Ohio to Adams county, Ind., in 1846, and entered 160 acres in the woods, which, with the assistance of his sons, he cleared up and converted into a pleasant farm. He became popular and useful, and as a democrat served as township assessor, even at the age of seventy-seven years, although he has invariably declined to accept nomination for county office. Mrs. May is a member of the Lutheran church and all the family are highly respected in the community in which they live.

Isaiah P. May was born on his father's farm in Adams county, Ind., was fairly educated, and at the age of twenty-six years, March 15, 1885, married Matilda Kever, daughter of Aaron and Sarah A. (Clem) Kever, and to Mr. and Mrs. May two children have been born—Walter and Sarah M. A year after his marriage Mr. May bought his present farm of forty acres, to which he has since added twenty-two and one-half of the old May homestead across the state line, containing the home building. In politics he is a democrat and is well known to the people of Tully township, whom he has served one year as township trustee with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. His veracity is unimpeachable and his ability unquestioned.

* * *

MRS. MARY E. McCOY, relict of Charles H. McCoy, and daughter of John and Sarah (Chenowith) Franklin, was born in Allen county, Ohio, August 3, in the year 1845. The father of John was born in New York state in February, 1809, was named Thomas, and died in Allen county, Ohio, about 1848. It is probable that John Franklin came to Ohio with his parents, and was reared among the early settlers of Allen county. Here he married Sarah Chenowith about 1828, and to his marriage were born ten children: Rueben C., of Monroeville, Ind.; William T., who served in the Civil war; Hannah A., deceased; John H., deceased; Amos, killed in the army; Sarah E., deceased; Nancy C., wife of A. Snyder, of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. C. H. McCoy; James A., of Allen county, and Joseph I., who died in infancy. The mother of the family was called away June 23, 1873. John Franklin, the father, was at one time a large land owner and a successful farmer of Allen county, owning a part of the land on which the city of Lima now stands. He took no active part in politics, but supported the principles of the republican party; he and his wife were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which he lived and died, February 7, 1875.

Mrs. McCoy grew to womanhood in the country home of her parents and was united in marriage, April 9, 1861, to Charles H. McCoy, and to this felicitous union nine children were born in the following order: Joseph, deceased, Henry W., Sarah C., Jopn N., Elijah C., Frank H., Jesse L., Lulu M. (deceased in childhood) and Reuben A. The father of this family, Charles H. McCoy, was a son of Elijah and Sarah (West) McCoy. Elijah was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1812, of sterling Irish parentage; he was a pioneer of Allen county, Ohio, became one of its substantial farmers, and there died in 1872. Sarah (West) McCoy was a lady of many virtues, beloved by friends and acquaintances whereever known. She was the mother of four children, viz: Caroline, deceased wife of Joseph Boggs; Andrew, deceased; Charles H., deceased, and Amanda J., deceased wife of Nelson Stephenson. This aimable and loving mother was called away in 1847. Charles H. was born in Allen county, Ohio, March 16, 1841. Being early deprived of a mother's care, he lived among relatives and friends, but manfully struggled to repay them for furnishing him a living. At the age of sixteen he went to Champaign county and for some time worked on a farm, then returned to Allen county, and, after his marriage, here purchased a farm, on which he lived eighteen months and then sold out; he then purchased the present home of the family in Van Wert county, in 1872, but continued to lived in Allen county, on rented land, until 1889, when he came to his farm in Van Wert county, and here made his residence until his death, which occurred November 16, 1893. Mr. McCoy had had some army experience; he responded to the first call for troops in May, 1861, and enlisted in company A, Twentieth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three months, but soon, however, was attacked with measles, which, with exposure, brought on a serious illness, and he was sent to the hospital, but on his recovery he rejoined his command and served out his term; in 1862 he enlisted in company D, One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio state troops, and went to the defense of Washington, and for these services he was granted a pension of $6 per month. In politics, Mr. McCoy was a republican, and



C. W. Mcvoy

Mrs Mary E McCoy

in religion he was, as his widow now is, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was an affectionate and kind husband, an indulgent father, a firm friend and an honorable man, and died an honored and respected member of the community in which he had lived so many years.

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DR. CHARLES A. MELSHEIMER, deceased, and late efficient treasurer of Van Wert city and Pleasant township, was born in Stark county, Ohio, January 8, 1826, a son of Henry E. and Mary (Kimmell) Melsheimer. The father of Henry E. Melsheimer was a great favorite among the nobility of Europe and was a very highly educated man, having written several volumes on entomology, which were very much valued. His son, Henry E., father of this subject, was born in Germany and early in life came to America and located in York county, Pa., and there engaged in the saddlery business until 1816, when he came to Ohio, located in Canton, and continued in the saddlery trade until 1820, when he became a minister in the Lutheran church, in which church he continued to labor until his death, which occurred February 29, 1864. He had married, in Hanover, Pa., Mary Kimmell, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and by this union four children were born, viz: Edwin, deceased; Timothy, a printer, of Indianapolis, Ind.; Malinda, wife of E. M. Slough, of Indianapolis; Charles Augustus, our subject.

Charles A. Melsheimer, was reared to manhood in Stark county, Ohio, and there received his education in Canton. He read medicine under Dr. L. M. Whiting for four years; then began the practice of medicine in New Corydon, Ind., where he remained three years; then removed to Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, where he remained six years, then, in 1860, when he quit the practice, he opened a drug store in Van Wert, where, in 1864, he built his business block, the room being 22x75 feet, which he occupied until his death. He was married in Milwaukee, Wis., April 27, 1852, to Miss Eliza Ann Hawk, a native of Pennsylvania. By this union five children were born, viz: Wallace W., Laura F., Etta A., Ellis E. and Leon. Dr. Melsheimer was a member of the Lutheran church, and was an Odd Fellow. In 1884, he was elected city treasurer; in 1876 was elected township treasurer; in 1869 he was elected treasurer of the Van Wert Agricultural society, which position he held until the spring of 1894. He was a candidate for representative in 1877, but was defeated. He was a stanch republican and a good, honored citizen, well respected by all who knew him. His lamented death occurred on the 21st day of January, 1895, and the funeral obsequies were held at the Lutheran church on the afternoon of the 24th day of January, under the imposing auspices of the I. O. O. F.

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WALLACE W. MELSHEIMER, an accomplished druggist and expert pharmaceutist of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Willshire, Van Wert county, January 29, 1855, the eldest son of Dr. C. A. Melsheimer, late city treasurer, whose biography appears above, was but five years of age when his parents located in the city of Van Wert, in the public schools of which city he received his education, attending them until sixteen years of age, rendering assistance to his father, in the meantime, in the drug store, from the age of ten years. On quitting school he entered this store permanently, and, under his father, received a practical education in pharmacy, and in 1876 became a partner in the business. June 19, 1884, Mr. Melsheimer was happily united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Ada May Moltz, a daughter of G. W. and Mary (Hall) Moltz, and born in Richland county, Ohio, April 17, 1858. To this union have been born three children, viz: Ethel, Anna (deceased) and Eva. Mr. Melsheimer has been treasurer of the National Union ever since its organization, and he and wife are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church.

Leon Melsheimer, youngest son of Dr. C. A. Melsheimer, was born in the city of Van Wert, August 10, 1869. He attended the city schools until sixteen years of age, when he began learning telegraphy at the depot of the P., Ft. W. & C. railroad, studying one year, and then took charge of the city telegraph office, which for nine years he conducted in his father's store, where, during intervals in the telegraph business, he also rendered assistance in the drug business. His marriage took place May 16, 1892, in Van Wert, to Miss Nettie Campbell, who was born in Van Wert September 27, 1870, a daughter of Jacob and Belle (Englereight) Campbell. Mr. and Mrs. Melsheimer are members the Lutheran church and are highly thought of by a large circle of friends.

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ELLIS E. MELSHEIMER, a prosperous young farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in the city of Van Wert, July 22, 1862, a son of Dr. Charles A. Melsheimer, whose biography is given above. Ellis E. was educated in the schools of Van Wert city, and at the age of eighteen years entered the office of the P., Ft. W. & C. railroad company to learn telegraphy, and was so apt a pupil that he was retained in the employ of the company for six years. His next engagement with the Western Union Telegraph company, was at Chicago, where he remained a year and a half, and then was employed by the Postal Telegraph company at Bryan, Ohio, with which he remained until 1889. He then took a course in the Bryant & Stratton Commercial college at Chicago, whence he went to Georgetown, Ky., where he had charge of the office of the Cincinnati Southern railroad, whence he was transferred to the office at Sadieville, Ky.; from that point he was sent to Sherwood, Ohio, and, after two years of faithful service, was placed in the office at Canton, Ohio, where he remained one year. Although an expert at telegraphy, he preferred the peaceful and health-giving vocation of the husbandman, and in the fall of 1894 purchased forty acres of land in section No. 33, in Union township, Van Wert county, upon which he moved in November in the same year, and still makes it his happy home.

The marriage of Mr. Melsheimer took place at Logansport, Ind., October 20, 1886, to Miss Flora A. Neff, who was born in Champaign, Ill., in 1870, a daughter of Alfred J. Neff, by which marriage there has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Melsheimer one child—Charles A. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics the father is a republican. Mr. Melsheimer has been as prosperous as an agriculturist as he was successful as a telegrapher, and enjoys the respect of all who know him. He is progressive and skillful, and is very well up to the times in the management of his well tilled farm.

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ALEXANDER MENTZER, Jr., of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Alexander Mentzer, Sr., whose biography will be found as an apendix to this sketch. Our subject was born on his father's farm January 19, 1852, and was there reared. April 28, 1887, he married Hattie Miller, who was born November 13, 1860, a daughter of Smith and Calisto

(Bronson) Miller, who were old settlers of Van Wert county. The Miller family were of Pennsylvania descent and the Bronsons came from New England. William Miller, grandfather of Mrs. Mentzer, came from Fayette county, Ohio, in 1835, and died in February, 1894, at the age of eighty-eight years. His children were ten in number, and were named Smith, Martha, Sarah, Mary A., Samuel, Calvin, Elizabeth, Nancy, John N., and Simeon. After his marriage, Alexander Mentzer, Jr., began farming on land he had bought in 1879, which then comprised ninety-two acres, but which he has since increased to 160 acres, and this tract, which is now his home, he has brought under a most excellent state of cultivation, having cleared all from the woods, with the excption of forty acres only. Mr. and Mrs. Mentzer are the happy parents of two children—Marian and Leila M., who are being reared within the pale of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the mother has been a member since she was sixteen years of age. In politics Mr. Mentzer is a democrat, and under the auspices of that party has served as trustee of his township two terms, and also two terms as assessor. Fraternally, Mr. Mentzer is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and of the P. of H. He is a man of undoubted business talent, and has been a member of the school board since 1890.

Alexander Mentzer, Sr., a pioneer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and the father of the gentleman whose name heads this brief sketch, as given in the preceding paragraph, was formerly a farmer of great repute in Tully township and well deserves the reputation he has gained as a practical farmer. He sprang from an old colonial family of Pennsylvania, and descended from Conrad Mentzer, of Swiss origin, who settled in Pennsylvania about the year 1724. Conrad had one son, Michael, who married Ann Maria; and to their marriage were born seven sons and seven daughters. Prior to the Revolution, Michael moved to Washington county, Md., where he died at a very advanced age. George Mentzer, son of Michael, and the father of Alexander, Sr., was born in Lancaster county, Pa., April 24, 1766, and was a boy when his father moved to Maryland. He learned the trade of tailor and for seven years worked as a journeyman at Hagerstown. He married Susannah Hoover, who bore eleven children, named Mary, Nancy, Susan, Elizabeth, John, Christine, Sarah, George, Samuel, an unnamed infant, deceased, and Alexander. In 1814, the parents of this family moved to Columbiana county, Ohio, where the father bought a half section of land, on which he lived until 1832, when he moved to Crawford county, bought 160 acres, and there passed the remainder of his days, dying in 1838, at the age of seventy-two years—a member of the Lutheran church. His widow lived to be eighty years old, a member of the Dunkard church. Alexander Mentzer, Sr., was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, March 31, 1819, and was reared a farmer. At the age of thirteen years he accompanied his father to Crawford county, and October 8, 1843, married Elizabeth Roop, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Roop, who were old settlers of Crawford county, Ohio, and to this union were born four children—Susannah, Joseph, Elizabeth, and John. Both parents died in Crawford county, members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Mentzer settled in Tully township, Van Wert county, on October 8, 1846, on the land which Mr. Roop—his wife's father—had entered, and which covered 160 acres in the wild woods, but which Mr. Mentzer afterward converted into a beautiful farm, and increased to 800 acres, of which he gave 400 to his children, and later sold 160 acres. To Alexander Mentzer and his wife were born seven children, named Rebecca, Sarah Susanah, Peter R., Alexander, Mary (deceased), George deceased, and Samuel deceased. The mother of this family died November 5, 1857, and the father was next married, June 24, 1858, to Miss Eliza Reed, who died June 24, 1864, leaving no children; the next marriage was with Mrs. McClure, April 3, 1866, to which union was born one child—living—Millie. Mr. Mentzer, now seventy-six years old, is retired from active work. He is a democrat, has been justice of the peace, commissioner three terms and has served in numerous township offices. He is a Mason and is most highly honored by his fellow-citizens.

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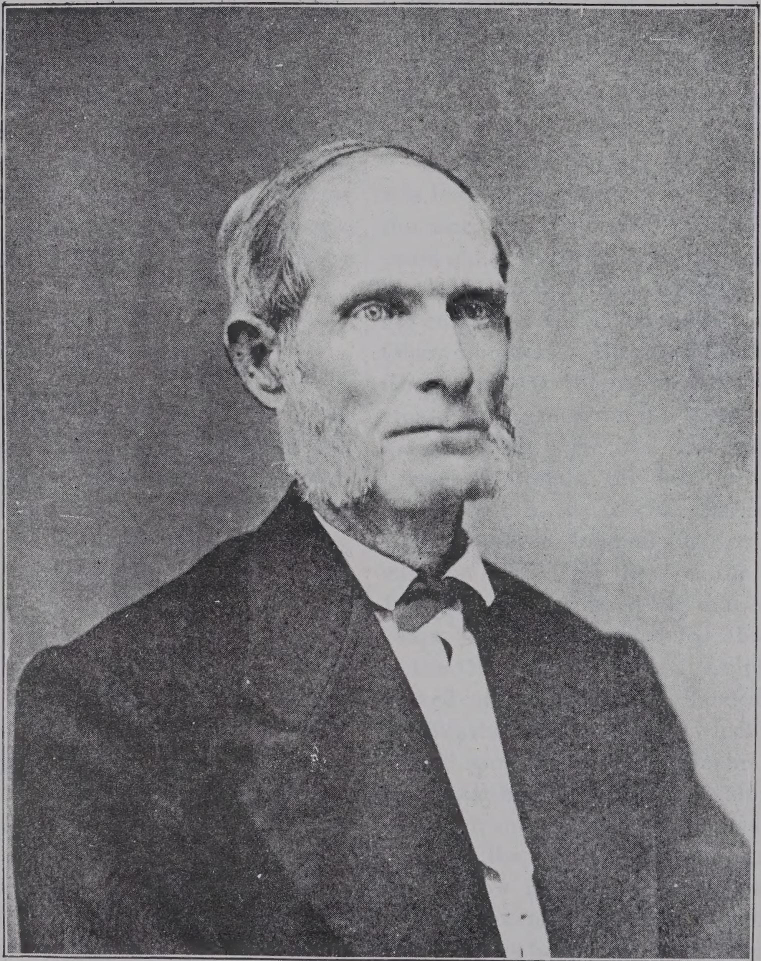
GEORGE MILLER, one of the oldest citizens of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, but now deceased, was a native of Saxony, Germany, born in 1816. He came over to America when a young man, and for a number of years worked on public works in Virginia, Maryland and other states. He was married in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1845, to Susan Rader. In about 1847 he purchased forty acres of land from the government in section No. 13, Washington township, Van Wert county, and moved upon it; the country was at that time but sparsely settled and was mostly woods, with few roads. From time to time he added to his original purchase until he owned altogether 112 acres, and had owned sixty acres more, which he sold to his son Henry. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller ten children were born, as follows: Henry, Charley, Ferd, John, Louis, Tilla, Edward, Mary and Gust, all living, and one daughter who died in childhood. April 17, 1895, Mr. Miller and wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and the day was celebrated with a family gathering and a big supper, on which happy occasion all the children but two were present.

When Mr. Miller settled in Van Wert county there was nothing of Delphos but a few canal shanties. It was then known as Section Ten, so Mr. Miller has lived to see what was once a dense forest cleared and turned into as fine a farming country as can be found in the state, and saw Delphos grow from a few log houses into a thriving little city.

Henry Miller, eldest son of George Miller, was born on April 27, 1846. He remained on the farm with his parents until he was eighteen years old, and then left home. In May, 1864, he went into the Union army as a soldier, joining company A, One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio volunteers. He was mustered in at Camp Chase and with the regiment was on duty principally at Washington, D. C., and in the Shenandoah valley. He was mustered out at Camp Chase, Columbus, the last of August, 1864, having been in the 100-day service. After the war he began railroading, first on the Pennsylvania in Ohio, and then on the Big Four in Indiana, and continued on that for over nine years. He then worked for about five years in the Ohio Wheel works at Delphos, and then moved upon sixty acres of land in section No. 12, Washington township, which he had purchased some time before from his father. The land was then all wild and unimproved, but he cleared it up. Since then he has added to his land by the purchase of sixty acres in section No. 1, now having altogether 120 acres. In 1889 he erected a large barn, 40x60 feet, which is one of the best in the township.

Henry Miller was married November 10, 1872, to Ida Wurzburg, who was born in Saxony, Germany, May 9, 1852, and is the daughter of August Wurzburg. Her parents did not come to America, both having died in the old country before she came over, she being eighteen years old when she crossed the ocean. To Mr.



THOS. SLEEN McKIM,

DECEASED.

and Mrs. Miller three children have been born, two sons and one daughter: Arthur, born July 20, 1874; Oscar, born November 12, 1876; Laura, born March 25, 1883. Mr. Miller and family are members of the Lutheran church, and are highly respected by all. George Miller departed this life November 18, 1895, a member of the Lutheran church, of which his widow is still a devout communicant.

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THOMAS STEEN McKIM, deceased, a native of Ross county, Ohio, was born April 17, 1818. His parents, Thomas and Jane (Steen) McKim, were born and married in Ireland, where the father was a farmer. In 1810 these parents came to America, located in New York state, but later came to Ross county, Ohio, and finally settled in Wabash county, Ind., where they passed the remainder of their lives on a farm. Of their eight children our subject was the sixth in order of birth, and was ten or twelve years of age when his parents removed form Ross county, Ohio, where he had been a water carrier on the old canal running through that section. He was reared to manhood in Wabash county, Ind., and was there educated in the common schools. He early learned the tinner's trade, and at this he worked throughout Indiana and Ohio until his locating in Willshire, Ohio, where he engaged in general merchandising until 1855, when he made his permanent home in the city of Van Wert, where he erected the store building now occupied by Seelburg & Co., corner of Main and North Washington streets, and re-embarked in general mercantile trade. Although he had had three partners in this business, the firms were ever known as T. S. McKim & Son. He continued in trade until 1890, when he retired to a life of ease and privacy. He was also largely interested in the Van Wert tannery and many other local interests, and being a man of indomitable enterprise and enlarged patroitism, was energetic in his promotion of the railroad interests of the city. He was a royal arch Mason, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics a republican. Ever affable and gentlemanly, he won friends everywhere, his liberality and generous disposition being subjects of universal comment. His death, which occurred June 10, 1892, cast a shade of sorrow over the entire community and was deeply deplored.

The marriage of Mr. McKim was solemnized in Mercer county, Ohio, September 20, 1851, with Miss Elizabeth Barks, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 24, 1822, a daughter of Solomon and Jane (Shault) Barks, natives of Virginia, but at the time of this marriage residents of Ohio. They were the parents of seven children, of whom only two survive. To the union of Mr. McKim and Elizabeth Barks were born three children, viz: Emma, wife of G. W. McGavren, one of the prominent physicians of Van Wert; Joseph L., deceased, and Luella Maud. Mrs. McKim is a devout believer of the Methodist Episcopal faith and is a leading member of the congregation attending First M. E. church; she is also a member of the W. C. T. U. and of the Missionary society, and is regarded as one of the most charitable and aimable ladies of the city of Van Wert.

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GEORGE MERICLE, a pioneer of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of German descent primarily, but comes from an old New York family more directly. His grandfather, John Mericle, was a native of the Empire state and a pioneer of Fairfield county, Ohio, where he cleared up a good farm from the woods and reared the following children: Solomon, John, Emanuel, Abe, Polly, Katie, Sallie, Lydia and Betsey.

Solomon Mericle, father of George, our subject, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in February, 1808, and married Catherine Blosser, daughter of George and Rebecca (Garrison) Blosser, to which union were born the following children: Sallie, Mary, George, Rose Ann, Isaac, Margaret, John, Catherine, Solomon and Lydia. Solomon Mericle resided on 160 acres of land in Hocking county until 1865, when he moved to Allen county and settled six miles east of Delphos, where he passed the remainder of his days. His son, Solomon, served in the Fourteenth Ohio volunteer infantry during the late war, and he also had two other sons in the service—George and John. He died a sincere Christian.

George Mericle, the subject proper of this sketch, was born in Hocking county, Ohio, March 14, 1833, and was married in the same county, September 25, 1855, to Miss Barbara Beery, who was born in Fairfield county, May 18, 1838, a daughter of Peter and Margaret (Pulce) Beery. Peter Beery was of German descent and was a son of Joseph, who was a native of Rockingham county, Va., and was the father of Jacob, Samuel, Joseph, Peter, Franz and Barbara, and died on his farm before the outbreak of the Civil war. Peter Beery, the father of Mrs. Mericle, was born in Rockingham county, Va., January 11, 1807, was married in that county to Margaret Pulce, and by that union became the father of eight children, viz: Elizabeth A., Sarah, Henry, Barbara, Abraham, Mary, Peter and Margaret. After making two or three moves at intervals of two years each, Mr. Beery finally settled on a farm of 400 acres in Hocking county, Ohio, but has since sold all but 190 acres of the home farm. He later bought 300 acres in Jackson township, Van Wert county, and on eighty acres of this George Mericle makes his home. Mr. Beery was a most enterprising citizen and was always prominent in the various counties in which he lived, settled up or administered several estates, and at one time was the owner of over 700 acres of land. He had two sons in the late Civil war—Capt. Henry and Sergt. Abraham, both in Ohio regiments.

After marriage Mr. Mericle located in Fairfield county, Ohio, and for a season worked for his uncle, John Mericle, then moved to Hocking county and worked for his father-in-law, Peter Beery, in a saw-mill for three years. In the fall of 1860 he came to Van Wert county and settled on eighty acres in the woods his father-in-law had given him, where he cleared up a farm. March 13, 1865, Mr. Mericle enlisted at Van Wert, Ohio, in company F, One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was discharged at the close of the war, having served in Virginia and Delaware. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mericle have been born five children, named as follows: Margaret, Isaiah, Sarah, Noah and Minerva—all born in Van Wert county with the exception of Margaret, who is a native of Fairfield county, and Isaiah, a native of Hocking county. While her husband was in the war, Mrs. Mericle did her own farming, with the exception of plowing—thus showing herself to be a worthy daughter of her illustrious father. She lived on fifteen acres and tilled five acres of corn, producing the best crop in the neighborhood—the season being a dry one. Mr. Mericle is now the owner of 120 acres, and is in quite comfortable circumstances. He and wife are members of United Brethren church, and in politics he is a republican. He is a highly respected citizen and an excellent farmer, holds the esteem of the entire community, and ranks second to no one in his enterprise and active interest in the progress of his township and county.

JOHN C. MILLER, deceased.—Few men in Van Wert county were more widely and favorably known than the late John C. Miller, whose death occurred on the 12th day of June, 1882. Mr. Miller's parents, George and Hannah (Chilcote) Miller, were both natives of Kentucky, but their marriage took place in Crawford county, Ohio, where they lived on a farm until the father's death, after which Mrs. Miller came to Van Wert county and resided with her children until called from the scene of her earthly labors in 1865. George and Hannah Miller reared a large family, eleven children in all, the subject of this sketch being sixth in order of birth.

John C. Miller was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 22, 1826, was reared to manhood on a farm in his native county and state, and on the 17th day of September, 1849, entered into the marriage relation with Miss Sarah C. Schenck. · Mrs. Miller was born in Maryland June 3, 1835, daughter of David and Lydia (Meyers) Schenck; she bore him the following children: Lydia A., deceased; Rebecca, deceased; Mary E., deceased; David F.; Nancy J., wife of L. W. Balyeat; Daniel J., who resides on the home farm; John, deceased; William; deceased; Susan, deceased; May, deceased; Charles, deceased; and Ida, who resides in Van Wert. Soon after his marriage Mr. Miller moved to Van Wert county, locating in Willshire township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, on which he resided until his removal, in 1876, to a farm in Pleasant township, where he resided until his death at the date previously mentioned.

Mr. Miller was a successful farmer and made additions to his place from time to time until he became the possessor of 160 acres of land, which, under his management, was brought to a high state of cultivation and was supplied with good buildings and other conveniences. He accumulated a handsome competence, was noted as one of the leading agriculturists of the county, and in addition to tilling the soil he achieved quite a reputation as a skillful veterinary surgeon. In his church relations he belonged to the United Brethren denomination, and in politics was a republican. His widow remained on the home farm until 1893, at which time she moved to Van Wert and has made that city her home ever since; she is also a member of the United Brethren church, and is highly esteemed by a large circle of friends in both city and county.

David F. Miller, the eldest son and fourth child born to John C. Miller and wife, is one of the young and very progressive farmers of Pleasant township. He was born in Willshire township October 15, 1857, and was reared to manhood upon the farm, and chose farming for his life work. He was educated in the common schools and made commendable progress for the advantages at hand, and to the training received while in the school-room, he prudently added, from time to time, that knowledge which came within his reach. Mr. Miller is still an attentive reader and keeps well posted on all topics of the day, and also takes a deep interest in matters educational. Mr. Miller was early taught habits of industry and economy, which traits have followed him closely up to the present time, and by his energy and good management has succeeded in making himself and family a good home; he was one of the poor boys that started out in life empty handed, though, with a strong determination to succeed, has progressed from a day laborer to be owner of a good farm, which is the result of his own skillful management and wise forethought. His farm, which is located in Pleasant township, shows the care of a true husbandman, and he has all the comforts of the agriculturist at hand and enjoys the many blessings derived therefrom. In politics Mr. Miller is a stanch republican, at all times ready to voice his sentiments, and lend a helping hand to the success of his party; he is recognized as one of the young and progressive farmers of his township and he and his wife are highly respected where known.

In 1882 Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Hannah C. Miller, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Miller; this lady was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in the year 1859, and this union has been blessed by the birth of four children, viz: Sarah E., David F., Bessie M. and Charles E.

Benjamin Miller, the father of Mrs. David F. Miller, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 20, 1825, where he was reared to manhood among the pioneers of that county. He was married, July 8, 1855, to Elizabeth Carris, who was also a native of Crawford county, Ohio, and was born in 1832; they became the parents of the following children: James E., Hannah C., Philip C., John F., Maria S., Mary C., Almedia and Almira (twin sisters), Rebecca J. and George. About the year 1865, Mr. Miller moved with his family to Kosciusko county, Ind., where he died February 6, 1876, and his wife, January 8, 1876; they were both prominent and influential members of the United Brethern church.

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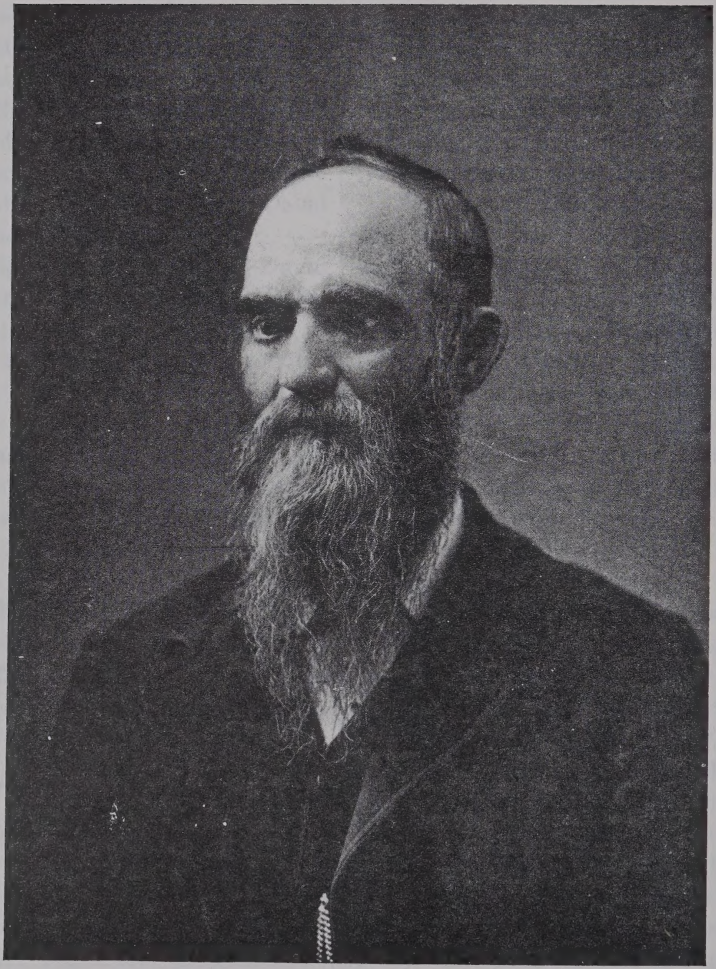
G W. McGAVREN, M. D.—It has assuredly not been uninteresting to observe, in the series of biographical sketches appearing in these pages, the varying nationality, origin and early environment of those men who have made their way to positions of prominence and success. We have an American type in the past; we shall have a distinctively American character in the future, but, for the parents, amalgamation of the varied elements is going on, and the ultimate result is yet remote. In endeavoring to note the progress and development of any section there is an absolute, scientific, necessity for biography; for individual accomplishment represents, in the composite sense, all that effects the general accomplishment. The subject of this sketch is one whose ancestral history has been conspicuously linked with that of the Buckeye state since the early pioneer days, and is one that bears record of distinguished and noble lives of accomplishments far transcending the mediocre.

Dr. McGavren is a man of high professional attainments and is recognized as one of the leading medical practitioners of the city of Van Wert, where he retains a representative practice. In his life work he has followed in the footsteps of his honored father, Dr. Hugh C. McGavren, who was one of the pioneer physicians of Van Wert and a man of noble character and deepest humanity—one whose name is prized by all whose memory recalls his kindly deeds and and his abiding sympathy for all those who are "afflicted in mind, body or estate."

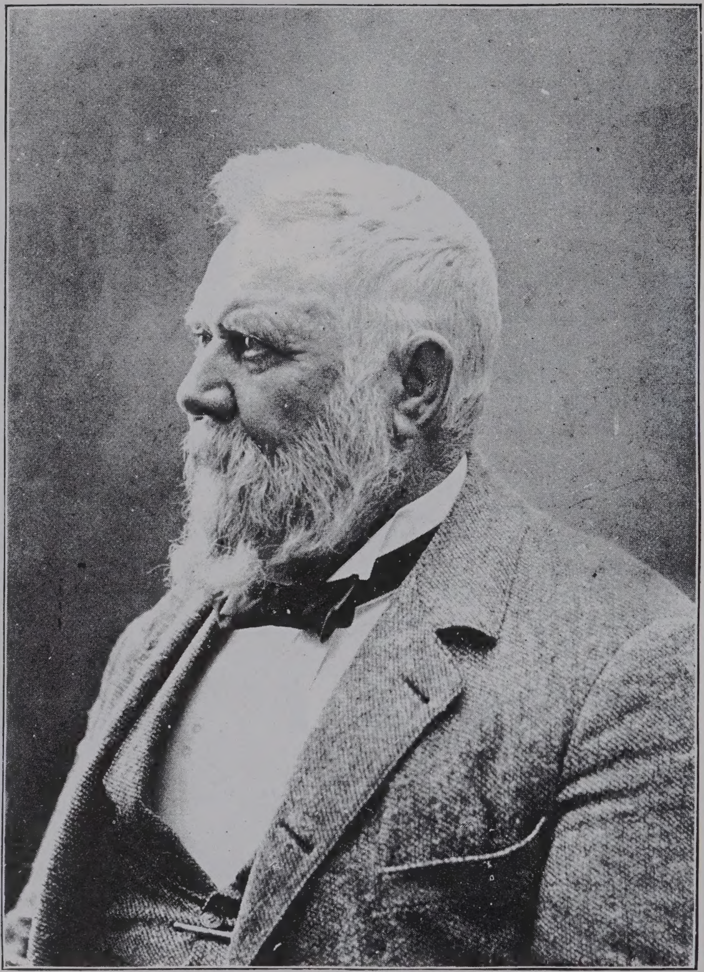
Dr. Hugh C. McGavren was born in Indiana county, Pa., July 30, 1824, and in 1828 he accompanied his parents on their removal to the frontier wilds of Ohio; they settled in Columbiana county, where they remained until 1834, when they removed to Hardin county, where the parents took up their permanent abode—that section being yet a portion of the Northwest territory, but the father died in the year 1853, and after his demise his widow removed to Iowa, where she passed the residue of her life, entering into eternal rest at the venerable age of eighty-three years.

From his boyhood Hugh C. McGavren had been animated by a desire to become a physician, and this desire was not one of inaction, for after completing his preliminary studies in the common schools, he began the work of preparing himself for his chosen vocation,



HUGH C McGAVREN, M. D.

DECEASED.



A. P. J. Snyder

entering upon the study of medicine, in Wyandot county, in the year 1845. His efforts were directed with that earnest zeal and devotion which presaged success, and his vigorous vitality and resolute nature enabled him to surmount obstacles that would have proved insuperable to a man of less individual strength. Dr. McGavren removed from Wyandot county, in 1853, in company with his brother Andrew, but did not enter upon the practice of his profession until the succeeding year, when he formed a partnership with Dr. Blecker. In 1856 he located in Shane's Crossing—now Rockford, Mercer county, and eleven years later took up his abode in Van Wert, where he passed the remainder of his life, having devoted himself with unvarying earnestness to his profession, never failing to heed the call of those in distress, and gaining a marked prestige throughout the country, the while retaining the confidence and affection of those to whom he ministered so unreservedly. In the consummation of the public interest he was one of the foremost promoters, and maintained a lively interest in all that touched the growth and development of the city and county of his residence. In this connection it is interesting to note the fact that the McGavren family has been one represented in an almost phenomenal way in the ranks of the medical profession. In 1866 there were sixty-five physicians of the name of McGavren, all related, engaged in the practice of medicine, and scattered throughout the various states of the Union. Of the six brothers of Dr. McGavren, three were anthropological physicians, and two veterinary.

In the year 1847, July 4, Dr. Hugh C. McGavren was united in marriage with Miss Martha J. Linderman, a native of Chambersburg, Pa., and they became the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy, the survivors being Mary C., wife of Dr. H. H. Holbrook, of Defiance, Ohio; Dr. George W., the immediate subject of this review, and Olive, wife of W. G. Streit, of Van Wert. The death of the honored father of our subject occurred on February 27, 1891, and a community mourned the loss of a noble man, whose life had been one of signal usefulness. His widow resided on North Washington street, Van Wert city, until her death, early in 1896.

George W. McGavren was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, January 20, 1851, and was reared in Van Wert and at Rockford, Ohio. He received his preliminary education in the public schools and then entered the office of his father and devoted himself to a thorough course of reading in the science of medicine, and later matriculated in the Eclectic Medical institute at Cincinnati, where he graduated in 1873. He took a post-graduate course at the Fort Wayne Medical college, and there graduated in 1877. His ambition from the start was to gain the most perfect knowledge in regard to his profession, and he has ever kept pace with the advances made in the sciences of medicine and surgery. In 1884-5 he took a special post-graduate course at the Polyclinic, in New York. Dr. McGavren entered upon the active practice of his profession in Van Wert in May, 1873, being associated with his father. He has since continued here and has gained a prestige which maintains the high standard held by his father, and he enjoys a distinctive popularity and the confidence and respect of the community.

In 1875 Dr. McGavren was united in marriage to Miss Florence W., daughter of A. W. Baker, and her death occurred on July 30, of the same year. Our subject's second marriage was consummated April 19, 1877, when he wedded Miss Emma G., daughter of T. S. McKim, one of the early pioneers of Van Wert. The doctor and Mrs. McGavren are the parents of one daughter, Nellie W., who was born March 12, 1879. In politics the doctor exercises his franchise in support of the republican party, and fraternally is prominently identified with the Masonic order, being a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 218; Van Wert Chapter, No. 71, and Ivanhoe commandery, No. 30, also of this city, and of Ohio Sovereign consistory and Mystic Shrine. In this noble order the doctor has advanced to the thirty-second degree in the Scottish rite. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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SAMUEL MILLER, one of the leading stock buyers of Van Wert, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, January 31, 1828. He is a son of Robert Miller, who was also a native of Fayette county, who was reared on a farm and who came to Van Wert county in 1842, settling in Pleasant township, where he purchased a farm. In politics Robert Miller was a democrat, in religion he was a Methodist, and in character he was upright and honorable. In disposition he was kindly and charitable, liberal with his means and ready to assist those in need. He lived on his farm in Pleasant township until his death. He married Miss Nancy Hill, of Fayette county, Ohio, by whom he had nine children, viz: James, Hinton, Samuel, David, Andrew, Elizabeth, Delilah, George and John. Four of these children are dead, viz: Hinton, David, Delilah and Andrew. The rest are all married.

Samuel Miller, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, educated in the common schools, and later began the business of buying and selling stock. This was in Van Wert county, as he was but thirteen years of age when he came here with his parents in 1842. After being in the stock business for some years he engaged in the livery business, changing back, however, after some years, to the stock buying business.

On the third of December, 1849, he was married to Miss Eliza Tumbleson, by whom he became the father of the following children: Nancy Jane, born May 13, 1856; James W., born December 4, 1857; Etta M., born December 14, 1859; Flora, born February 4, 1862; Susan, born April 13, 1864; Charles, born June 1, 1866; Hattie M., born November 23, 1868; Minnie G., born August 19, 1872; Clyde O., born October 6, 1874; and Fred, born January 11, 1879. Of these, Nancy J., Etta M., and Flora are deceased.

The wife of James W. Miller, the eldest son of Samuel Miller, died July 2, 1894. Previous to her marriage she was Mollie Mercer, of Celina, Mercer county, Ohio. She was the mother of three children, viz: Norma, Nellie and Fern. James W. Miller is at present superintendent of the telephone exchange in Van Wert. Charles, the second son of Samuel Miller, is a member of the dry-goods firm of Miller & Gipe; Miss Minnie G. is clerking in this store; Clyde O. is a lineman for the telephone company; Susan and Fred are both at home; Hattie M. is the wife of Oswell Billman, a young business man of Van Wert.

Miss Eliza Tumbleson, the wife of Samuel Miller, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, April 24, 1836. Her father, John Tumbleson, was born in 1801, was reared on the farm and was a farmer all his life. He died in 1868. He married Miss Susan Bowers, of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, by whom he had the following children: James, Joseph, Jonathan, Daniel, Flora, Eliza, Franklin, George, Thomas, and one who died in infancy. Daniel also is dead, and Thomas enlisted in the army of the Union during the late Civil war, and died from exposure. The rest are living, are married and are heads of families of their own. Mrs. Tumbleson, the mother of these children, died in 1885, at the home of her daughter, Eliza, in Van Wert.

John Tumbleson was in his early life a whig, but after the organization of the republican party, became a republican. He was a member of the United Brethren church, and assisted largely to erect the church of that denomination in Pleasant township, Van Wert county. He was a liberal contributor to all public enterprisers of merit, which were in his opinion calculated to promote the good of the community in which he lived. His daughter, Eliza, who married Mr. Miller, resided with her parents until she was eighteen years of age, when she was married. She and her husband are now living in Van Wert, and are among the most prominent people of the place.

Samuel Miller was one of the county commissioners two terms and was in office when the court house was in course of erection, and Mr. Tumbleson served as a judge.

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D R. MILLER, an old resident and prominent farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, November 27, 1832, a son of John and Sarah (Graham) Miller, the former of whom was a native of Ross county, Ohio, born about 1802, was of Irish descent on the maternal side, and in 1842 became a resident of Van Wert county, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred about the year 1878. He had married, about 1828, Sarah Graham, daughter of James and Hannah Graham, both natives of Ohio. James Graham was a teamster of the war of 1812, in which war David Miller, an elder brother of John Miller, also served as a soldier. The younger brothers of John Miller were named Robert, William and Samuel. Sarah (Graham) Miller was born about 1815 and died about 1860, the mother of eight children, viz: Mrs. Charlotte Miller, deceased; James, a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio; Ellen, the wife of James Miller, of Van Wert county; D. R., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Emma Rockhold, of Union township; Elijah, of Van Wert; Mrs. Mary A. Hoak, of Allen county, Ohio, and Robert, who died in infancy.

D. R. Miller, our subject, was brought by his parents to Van Wert county in 1842 and was here educated in the common schools of Pleasant township. After quitting his father's farm he worked out by the month until his marriage, in 1859, to Miss Mary S. Hight, daughter of Stephen and Katie (Kennedy) Hight, who in early life came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, and first located in Wayne county, afterward moving to Mercer county, where Stephen Hight, died in 1861, a member of the Presbyterian church and in politics a democrat. Miss Mary S. Hight was born in Mercer county, April 10, 1838, and has borne her husband eight children, as follows; Stephen, millman of Van Wert, Ohio; Frank, a resident of Saint Louis, Mo.; Grant, employed by a telephone company in Van Wert, Ohio; two infants, deceased; Fred, a school-teacher in Pleasant township; Jacob, a farmer at home, and Katie, also at home. In 1862, our subject bought a farm in Pleasant township, cleared it from the woods, and made his home thereon for nineteen years, and then bought his present place, just west of the city of Van Wert, remodeled the dwelling and placed the lands under the best possible condition of cultivation. Mr. Miller served four months in the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunter infantry during the late war, and is a stanch adherent of the republican party, having served as constable—which office he resigned after his return from the army. Mr. Miller at one time gave some attention to the raising of live stock, but now devotes himself entirely to general farming. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman, a public-spirited citizen, and an excellent and kind-hearted neighbor.

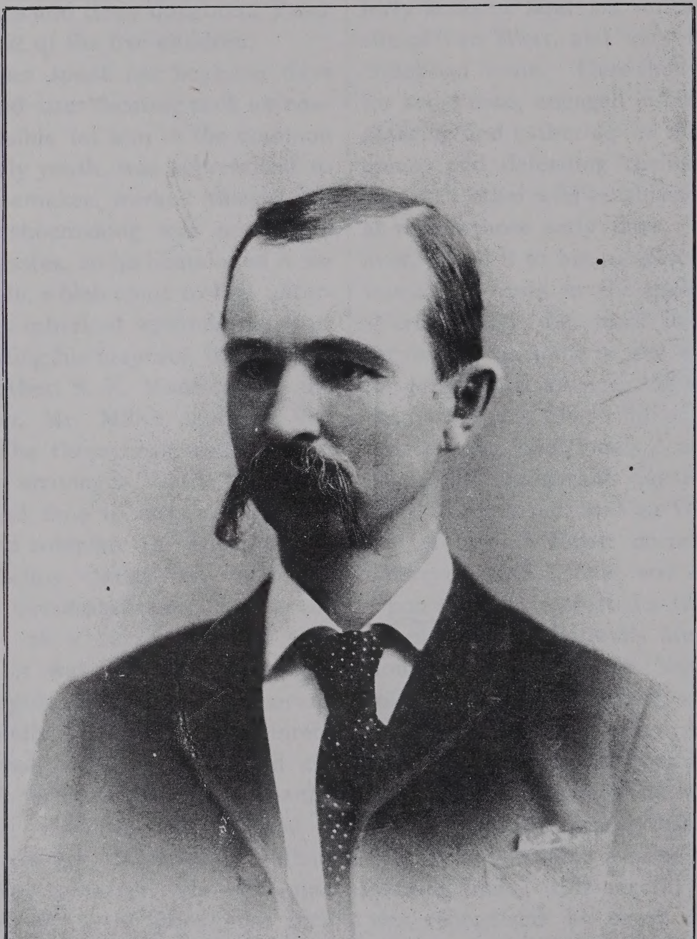
PETER H. MILLER, deceased, whose ancestry were of German extraction, was born in Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio, March 11, 1837. He was a son of John and Susan Miller, who were the parents of two sons and three daughters, Peter H. being the eldest of the five children.

Peter H. Miller spent his boyhood days upon the farm, and after securing such an education as was possible for him in the common schools of his early youth, was apprenticed to the trade of shoemaker, worked thereat for some time, but shoemaking was not at all according to his tastes, so he abandoned it for the carpenter trade, which came to him naturally, he having an inherited aptitude therefor. Previous to attaining his majority, in company with his half-brother, S. R. Moneysmith, and a neighbor's son, Mr. Miller came to Van Wert county. The three boys were all carpenters, and after arriving in Van Wert county young Miller found time to attend school for some time, and to complete the education he had begun, as before stated, not under the most auspicious circumstances. His natural ability, however, as a carpenter, was soon recognized, and it was not long before he became a very popular mechanic. For several years he successfully followed the carpenter's and builder's trade, and thereby laid the foundation for his fortune in Van Wert county.

September 13, 1860, he was married to Miss Sarah J. Lybarger, daughter of William and Abigail (Lake) Lybarger, who was married in 1839, and who were among the early pioneers of Van Wert county, settling on their present farm in 1848. This farm is located in Ridge township, and to it they removed from Knox county, Ohio. Mrs. Abigail Lybarger, after living a happy married life of fifty-five years, went to her long home August 28, 1894. Mr. Lybarger still survives, and is enjoying the evening of his days, conscious of a life well spent and in remembrance of many deeds of kindness done.

Soon after their marriage Mr. Miller and his wife began their married life in true pioneer style, in the woods. His first purchase was of forty acres of land six miles southeast of the site of Van Wert, and very near Mrs. Miller's childhood home. Here they lived in the woods for some time, engaged in clearing up the land, planting and gathering in their crops, hunting game, and defending themselves from bears and such other wild beasts as roamed the woods at will in those early days. Mr. Miller, however, found it to his interest to work more or less at his trade in the growing town of Van Wert, going to his work in the morning, returning to his home in the evening, thus leaving Mrs. Miller alone in the woods through the day. For her this kind of life became very monotouous and lonely, and to relieve her from the unpleasant consequences thereof, Mr. Miller moved to Van Wert, locating on a lot at the southwest corner of Water and Cherry streets. This was in August, 1866. Upon this lot he erected a frame house, which for many years made his family a comfortable home. Mr. Miller soon began working in the foundry as pattern maker, and remained thus engaged for fifteen years. Afterward he took up the carpenter and builder's trade, on his own account, at which he worked the rest of his life, and for some years during the latter part of his life ran a turning lathe in Spangler's planing mill. For several years Mr. Miller was recognized by every one as the finest wood-worker in Van Wert. He was also a careful and honest business man, quickly gained public confidence, and prospered from the very start.

The first property purchased by him in Van Wert is now the home of his most estimable widow. Later he purchased other property in that town, and also eighty acres of land six



C. F. Manship

miles southest of the city. Still later he became a stockholder in the Van Wert County bank, by the failure of which he lost a considerable sum of money. He was also a stockholder in the Van Wert Woolen mill. He was always a very enterprising man, progressive and industrious. He was the soul of honor and his word was as readily taken as his note. Ever ready to assist any laudable enterprise, he always took an active interest in the growth and prosperity of the town in which he lived. While not a member of any church, yet he leaned toward the doctrines of the Lutheran, and always favored the education of the young.

Fraternally Mr. Miller was an Odd Fellow, and was a member of the Royal Arcanum lodge, No. 196, of Van Wert. In everything he undertook or favored he was a great enthusiast, and was a man of great strength and endurance. He likewise was found of relaxation, and spent many autumns hunting in the woods of northern Michigan. His health was always exceptionally good until within about fifteen months of his death, which was caused by cancer of the throat, from which he suffered greatly, dying February 6, 1885. Politically he was a stanch republican and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860. In politics he occasionally took an active part, serving as a member of the town council and as a member of the board of education. By his marriage to Miss Lybarger he became the father of two children, viz: Olive L., born June 24, 1862, and now the wife of C. H. Noell; and Clara, who was born October 3, 1864, and died June 23, 1873.

Mrs. Sarah J. Miller, widow of the subject of this sketch, was born near Mount Vernon, Ohio, August 16, 1842. She was one of a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters, she being the second child and the eldest daughter. When she was about six years of age her parents removed from Knox county to Van Wert county, locating in the woods, as has been stated, six miles southeast of Van Wert. Here she grew to womanhood, and attended the first school in Ridge township. Early in life she was taught all the industries then thought peculiarly fitted for women to pursue, mostly, of course, household duties, such as spinning and weaving cloth for clothing for the family. Soon after locating in Van Wert Mrs. Miller joined the Presbyterian church, of which she is still a most worthy member.

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CHARLES F. MANSHIP, the efficient city clerk of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Caroline county, Md., May 21, 1856, a son of Elijah A. and Priscilla (Wright) Manship. The grandfather of our subject, Thomas Manship, was a slave holder and was largely engaged in planting all his life; he was the father of two children, Mary E. and Elijah A., and was quite prominent among the planters of the Potomac valley. Elijah A. Manship, also a native of Caroline county, Md., was there reared to manhood, and was there married in 1853, and was engaged in farming and handling groceries until 1858, when he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and located in Ridge township, where he was prosperously engaged in farming until 1864, when he was killed in a railroad accident. To himself and wife had been born five children, viz: William T., Charles F., Frank W., Sarah E. and Alban A. The father of this family was a republican in politics and was an energetic man and respected citizen, and a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His widow, in 1870, was married to Daniel Norman, a groceryman of Middlepoint, Van Wert county, and has borne him one child—named May.

Charles F. Manship, as will be seen, was but two years of age when he was brought to Van Wert county and but eight years old when his father met with his sad fate; he continued to reside with his mother, however, until he reached his twelfth year, when he began clerking in Middlepoint for D. F. Cook, with whom he continued thirteen years, becoming a thorough business man; he then engaged in grain dealing in Middlepoint until 1886, when he was elected county clerk, which position he acceptably filled for three years, and soon afterward (1890) was elected city clerk of Van Wert and clerk of Pleasant township, Mr. Manship being in politics a stanch republican, and this combined office he still most efficiently fills. Mr. Manship was first married in Middlepoint, October 17, 1877, to Miss Celia Morehead, and to this union were born four children, viz: Archie W., Daisy A., Frank and Carrie F. The mother died March 3, 1890, and the second marriage of Mr. Manship took place in Van Wert, June 21, 1893, the bride being Miss Etta A. Webster, of this city, who has borne one child, Harold W. Mr. Manship deserves much credit for the energy he has exhibited throughout his business life, the more particularly so, when it is borne in mind that at the early age of eight he was crippled by rheumatism in the hip. He has acquired considerable valuable property in Van Wert by his industry, and is an honored member of the I. O. O. F. and the I. O. R. M., and is respected by the entire community.

**JOHN ANDREW MOEBUS** was born April 24, 1823, and died June 30, 1883. His father, John A. Moebus, was born and reared on a farm in Germany, and in his native country successfully followed farming until, with his family, he emigrated to the United States. He married Miss Margaret Strauss, also a native of Germany, by whom he had the following children: John Andrew, the subject proper of this sketch; Ceorge, Frederick, Christian, William, Leonard, Margaret, Rosanna, Caroline and Frederika.

John Andrew Moebus, our subject, was the first born of the children above named. Four of these still survive. He, having received a good education, continued to live at home assisting his father on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he enlisted in the German army. After serving six years as corporal, he was promoted to a sergeancy, and his time having expired, he came, with the entire family, father, mother and ten children, to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania. Two of these ten are now living in Altoona and two in Huntingdon, that state, and are prominently engaged in business. As stated above, his mother's maiden name was Strauss, and several of her brothers are today among the prominent and wealthy business men of Baltimore, Md. John A. Moebus, the father of this family, was killed in a coal mine in Pennsylvania. His youngest son, Leonard, was a soldier in the army of the Union during the Rebellion, was in the battle of Gettysburg, and died at Harper's Ferry, Va.

John Andrew Moebus, our subject, the eldest son, after coming to America, was employed for several years as foreman over a gang of men engaged in bridge building. Then he became proprietor of a hotel. Then, going to Fort Wayne, Ind., he embarked in business as a merchant, remaining for some years and marrying Anna Margaret Preis. From Fort Wayne he removed to Van Wert, Ohio, where he was engaged in various kinds of business enterprises until his death. Among other enterprises, he established the first ice cream parlor in Van Wert. At first he met with unusual and most gratifying success; but later, through speculation and too great liberality, he lost the greater portion of his property, and when he died he left his family in moderate circumstances only. Throughout his entire life he was honest and upright in his business transactions. He was in business in Van Wert twenty-five years, and at the time of his death, notwithstanding his misfortunes, he did not owe any man a debt, large or small. He was a man of great public spirit, and always contributed liberally toward enterprises calculated to promote the prosperity of the city of Van Wert. He was also a friend of the poor, and many a poor man thanks him for assistance in making his start in life and in business. In 1881 he subscribed very liberally to the stock of the Narrow Gauge railroad, now the C., J. & M., and so far neither he nor his family has realized anything from the subscription.

Politically he was a democrat and was true to his convictions of right. In religious views he was a Lutheran, and with other German friends he was instrumental in founding Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran church in Van Wert. He was a member of this church throughout the rest of his life, and contributed liberally toward its support. Soon after coming to Van Wert he joined the Masonic lodge, and remained a member until his death. Wnen he died he was buried with Masonic ceremonials and honors, and laid to rest in Woodland cemetery.

Anna Margaret Preis, wife of John Andrew Moebus, was born in Bavaria, Germany, July 8, 1832. Her father, George Simon Preis, was a native of Germany, was a carpenter by trade and successfully followed that calling. He married Eva Maria Bealer, a native of Germany, by whom he became the father of seven children, viz: Anna Margaret, Minnie, Caroline, Christine, George, William and Fritz. Anna Margaret, the eldest of the seven, has but one sister living in America, although six of the seven are still living. That sister is Minnie, married to Samuel Lotter, a business man of Willshire, Van Wert county, where she is now residing. Her youngest brother, William, is the editor of a paper in Germany. He served as a soldier during the war of 1866 against Prussia, as a corporal, and in the war of 1869-71 against France, as sergeant, achieving great distinction and honors in his military career. William had the advantage of having a grandfather who occupied a high position in the court of Germany, in which he remained until his death, at the age of seventy. The eldest son of this grandfather was a learned and distinguished astronomer, but died young.

In her youth Anna Margaret Preis was an unusually fine singer. At the age of nine she joined a singing choir called the "Sangverein," with which he was connected for years, and of which she was the leader when she was fifteen years old. When she was twenty years old she came alone to the United States in a sailing vessel, steamships not having come much into use at that time. The voyage lasted six weeks, and during that time she experienced a terribly severe storm at sea, which was so dreadful that no pen could adequately describe it. Arriving in New York she was employed there as trimmer in a millinery store for some time, and going thence to Fort Wayne, Ind., she there became acquainted with and married John Andrew Moebus, the subject of this sketch. To this marriage there were born six children, viz: George A., Minnie M., Emma C., Andrew W., Charles A. and Louis F., three of whom are still living—Emma C., Andrew W. and Louis F. These children, being gifted with a natural talent for music, have spent many happy hours together, playing and singing the choicest and best instrumental pieces and songs, making their own lives pleasant and conferring a like pleasure on friends who at any time call to hear them.

Minnie M. Moebus died in Van Wert May 3, 1867, at the age of three. George A. Moebus was born in Van Wert December 25, 1860; married May 30, 1883, and died April 16, 1890. He was a well educated young man, having taken a thorough business course in a commercial college, and being an expert penman. He was a democrat and quite prominent in political affairs, but in the latter years of his life he devoted more of his attention to business. He was highly esteemed by every one, and was unusually popular. At his death he left three children—Charles, George and Thomas. Andrew W. Moebus was born April 15, 1867, and is an industrious and honest young man. At present he is clerking in Webster & Young's grocery store, is prominent in social circles as well as in musical societies, and is a member of the Maccabees. Louis F. Moebus was born June 11, 1874, has been a successful agent for several years and is a young man of excellent character. Both Andrew W. and Louis F. Moebus have natural musical talent, which they have developed without the aid of instruction, and they are among the leading musicians of Van Wert. Both are members of Heistand's band. Louis an "euphonium" soloist and both have been the leaders in orchestra music in Van Wert for several years past. Charles A. Moebus was born August 2, 1869, and was nineteen years old at the time of his death. He was very quiet in disposition, was much beloved by all, and his future appeared bright and promising. He was a natural mechanic and acquired the art of wood carving without the aid of a teacher. To do this work well and with correct taste was his main ambition in life, and it is altogether probable that if he had lived he would have acquired distinction in his line. He was also an accomplished musician, having acquired this art, too, without instruction. Being very small and of a delicate constitution, the boys nick-named him "Babe," and by this name he was generally known. One of his physical peculiarities was that of having six fingers on each hand, of which he was very proud. He died November 7, 1890, greatly mourned by all for his genial and generous disposition. Emma C. Moebus was born November 13, 1864, and is an excellent and highly accomplished young lady.

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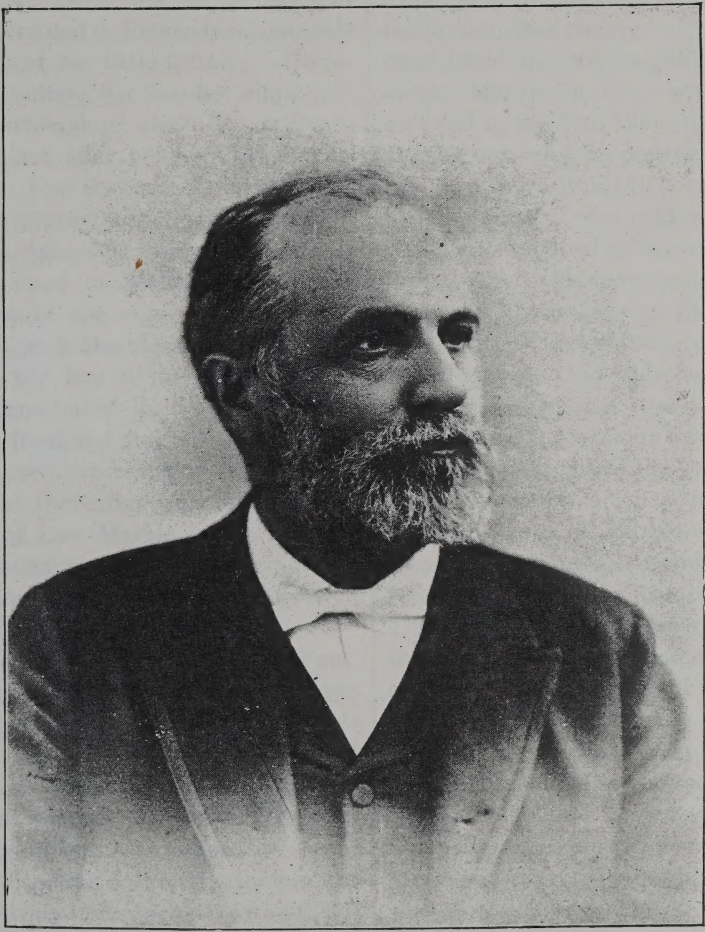
COL. J. M. C. MARBLE, of Van Wert city, was intimately connected with the history and development of this section of Ohio, during a residence of about forty years. His father, Ebenezer, and his grandfather, Eleazar Marble, were descendants of Eleazar Marrable, who became a resident of Boston early in the seventeenth century. His mother, Hannah, was the daughter of John Carey and the grand-daughter John Carey, Sr., whose father, Eleazar Carey, emigrated with the Connecticut settlers from Orange county, New York, to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania in 1770. John Carey, Sr., was a soldier of the Revolution, and owner of a considerable landed estate, known as Careytown, now included in the city of Wilkesbarre, in the Wyoming valley. The families of his grandfather, Carey, and grandmother, Marble, were Methodists.

John Miner Carey Marble was born July 27, 1833, in the village of Windom, then in Luzerne county. His father dying the followlowing year, his mother, thereafter, made her home with her grandfather, John Carey, Sr., until his death in 1844, at the age of eighty-nine years. In November, 1846, Mrs. Marble with her son emigrated to Ohio, whither her widowed mother, long since married to Jacob Rimer, had preceded her. At the age of thirteen John was employed in the store of



John M Gamble

Thomas Coulter, of Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio. In 1848 he entered the service of Bope & Lye, general merchants of Delphos, Ohio, then known as Section 10. The firm dissolved later, and in the division of the force John was to go with Mr. Bope, but at the desire of his mother he returned to Pennsylvania to collect the remnant of her little fortune. On returning, Mr. Coulter, his former employer, offered him a partnership, which he accepted, but Kalida did not offer much of a field for enterprise. Mr. Lye also sought his service, offering him a partnership when he should come of age. Accepting this offer, he returned to the store in Section 10, and at twenty-one years of age was made a member of the firm of Lye & Marble. At first, as was natural, he was the boy of the establishment, but when the firm found itself in deep water he came to the front and assumed the responsibility for the merchandise part of the business, which was thereafter conducted under the firm name of Lye, Marble & Co. Having the entire confidence of his partners and of prominent eastern houses, the business grew in credit and profit.

Upon the passage of the national bank act, Mr. Marble disposed of his mercantile interests and organized the First National bank of Delphos—the first bank organized under said act in this part of northwestern Ohio. He became its cashier, succeeding later to the presidency. He was for years prominently identified with the business interests of Delphos, having been actively instrumental, with others, in securing to the town the Dolphos Union Stave company and the Ohio Wheel company. In 1874 he removed to Van Wert, Ohio, taking the presidency of the First National bank. He paid $3,000 for the lots upon which the First Methodist Episcopal church now stands, and had them deeded to the church. In 1878 he revived the project of building a railroad through the western tier of counties in Ohio, on the line of the old Cincinnati & Mackinaw, and to his energy and persistence is due the existence of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad of to-day. In 1878, also, Col. Marble disposed of his interests in the First National bank, and after an interval of a few months, established the private banking house of Emerson, Marble & Co., which in 1883 was changed to the Van Wert National bank, Col. Marble becoming its president. Owing to failing health of a member of his family this banking interest was sold, and henceforth his residence was divided between Ohio and California. Under his management, between 1885 and 1888, the mileage of the C., J. & M. railroad, was increased from ninety-eight to 346 miles, and the road had the unique reputation of being the one new road to have paid interest on its bonds without default.

At the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, the organization of the Ohio national guard was effected. Col. Marble was assigned to the command of the Allen county regiment, and retained this command to the close of the war. This regiment, having been consolidated with the Hocking county regiment, and numbered as the One Hundred and Fifty-first regiment, Ohio national guard, was mustered into the Federal service, ordered to the department of Washington, and stationed at Washington, during the summer of 1864. Col. Marble was first assigned to the command of Forts Sumter, Simmons, Stevens and Mansfield. Later he was given command of the second brigade, Haskins division, Twenty-second army corps; and Forts Reno and Kearney, and batteries Smead, Cameron, Parrott and Vermont. It was the fortune of this brigade, while under his command, to assist in repelling the attack of Gen. Early upon the defenses of the national capital and retard his advance until the arrival of the Sixth army corps.

Col. Marble was married, in 1861, to Miss Mary L. Coleman, the second daughter of Dr. Guilford D. Coleman, and of Myrilla Skinner, his wife. She died in 1865, leaving one son—Guilford L. Marble. In May, 1870, he was married to Elizabeth Emerson, eldest daughter of Dr. Charles Emerson, and Margaret Bayman, his wife. Two sons and one daughter were born to them—John Emerson, Elizabeth Dana and William Carey. Since October, 1888, Col. Marble has maintained his residence in Los Angeles, Cal., and has been president of the National bank of California, at Los Angeles, since October, 1889.

GUILFORD LIONEL MARBLE, son of Col. John M. C. and Mary L. Marble, is recognized as one of the representative members of the bar of Van Wert county and as one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens of Van Wert, where he remains to represent the name of his honored father. Mr. Marble was born in Delphos, Allen county, Ohio, September 27, 1862, receiving his preliminary education in the public schools. Thereafter he was able to secure most excellent scholastic advantages, being a student in turn at the college of New Jersey, Princeton, N. J.; the Ohio Wesleyan university, at Delaware, Ohio, and the university of Wooster, Ohio. Having determined to devote his attention to the legal profession, he began his technical preparations in 1880, when he entered the office of J. K. O'Neal, at Lebanon, Ohio. Shortly after he entered the office of Irvine, Brice (Senator Brice) & Hackedorn, at Lima, Ohio, under whose effective preceptorship he continued his studies until his admission to the bar, when, the firm was reorganized and he became a member of the same, under the associate title of Hackedorn, Wheeler & Marble, and while a member of this distinguished legal firm established an enviable reputation.

Our subject's first important work in the line of his profession was a settlement of the affairs of the Lima Car works, the adjustment of the affairs of said corporation having been placed in his hands when it failed, in 1884. In 1885 Mr. Marble returned to Van Wert and became identified with the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, as general counsel of the company from 1886 until 1888. In 1885, also, he was made vice-president of the Edison Mutual Telegraph company, continuing in that connection until the company was absorbed by the Western Union Telegraph company. In 1890 Mr. Marble reorganized and re-established the Electric Light works at Van Wert, and has also considerable oil interests in Van Wert and Mercer counties, Ohio. He has ever maintained a lively interest in all that pertains to legitimate municipal improvements and to the conservation of public interests, being known as an alert and progressive young business man, whose counsel is to be relied upon as wise and duly conservative. In his political affiliations Mr. Marble is sufficiently well thought of by his party to have been made a delegate from his congressional district to the republican national convention, at Minneapolis, 1892.

Mr. Marble is a man of high professional attainments and strong intellectuality, while his personality is of that sort that has gained for him a distinctive popularity. He has been twice married; first, in December, 1887, to Miss Lenora Sherwood, by whom he had one daughter, Katherine, born April 8, 1891. In September, 1894, he was married to Cora M. DePuy, a highly accomplished young lady of Van Wert, and this union has been blessed by the birth of one son, named John McKinley, born December 13, 1895.

WILLIAM M. MILTENBERGER, of the firm of Miltenberger & Son, wholesale and retail dealers in wines and liquors, Main street, Van Wert, Ohio, was born on the Atlantic ocean, October 29, 1857, while his parents, Peter J. and Elizabeth Miltenberger, were on the voyage from Germany to America. Peter J. Miltenberger was born in Prussia, November 23, 1825, and the birth of his wife took place, in the same country, November 18, 1831. They became the parents of nine children, born in the following order: William M., our subject; Jacob, of Harrison township; Katie, wife of George Oglesbee, of Kansas City, Mo.; Lizzie, married to George Williamson, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Peter, of the same county; Adam, of Van Wert city; Martin and two younger children, deceased—all natives of Van Wert county, save our subject. Peter J. Miltenbeger and his wife, on their arrival in this country, settled at once (in 1857) in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, where the father followed farming until 1874, when he moved to the city of Van Wert with his family and engaged in merchandising, in which he continued alone until 1892, when his son, William M., became his partner. The father is now retired from active business, and is living on his handsome income. With his wife he is a member of the German church, and in politics he is a stanch democrat.

William M. Miltenberger was reared in Van Wert county and educated in its common schools. He made his home with his father until his marriage, May 14, 1880, with Miss Nettie Moyer, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1854. Upon marrying he settled in the city and was employed in a saw-mill until 1882, when he engaged in merchandising, which he followed, on his own account, until 1892, when, as stated above, he became a partner with his father, and is now the general manager for the firm. He is the owner of a fine farm of 160 acres, beside valuable city property, and has a large circle of acquaintances, among whom he is very popular. In politics he is a democrat.

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WILLIAM TAYLOR MITCHENER, county recorder, with his residence in Van Wert city, was born in New Lexington, Highland county, Ohio, February 20, 1850, a son of John and Eliza J. (Johnson) Mitchener, the former of whom was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1816, was a son of Benjamin and Ann (Brown) Mitchener. Benjamin, here mentioned, the grandfather of William Taylor Mitchener, was also born in Chester county, Pa., but back of him the antecedents of the Mitchener family cannot be traced, although it is known that Benjamin was of Scotch-Irish lineage, was reared a farmer in the county of his birth, was there married, and there he and wife died. In their religious connection the parents were Quakers, and the male members of the family were whigs in politics until the formation of the republican party, when they united with the latter. John Mitchener, son of Benjamin and father of William T. Mitchener, was reared on the home farm in Chester county, Pa., until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to Ohio and located in Highland county, where he married, and where he worked at cabinet-making and engaged in undertaking until 1863, when he enlisted in company M, Eighth Ohio cavalry, and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. He had the misfortune of being captured by the enemy during his term of service and of being confined in the rebel prisons of Libby and Belle Isle, but not for any great length of time. On his return to Ohio he settled at Staunton, Fayette county, where he has since lived in retirement.

Mrs. Eliza J. (Johnson) Mitchener is a native of Highland county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Jane B. (Dowden) Johnson, natives of Virginia, and to this union have been born the following children: Henry C., who was in the same regiment with his father, and died in Salisbury prison; William T., our subject; John H., of Staunton, Ohio; Sarah A., wife of Tasso Post, of Fayette county, Ohio; Phillip S., of Michigan; U. S. Grant, of Valparaiso, Ind., and Fannie, wife of Frank Weaver, decorator and contractor of Columbus, Ohio. The parents of this family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics John Mitchener is a republican; fraternally he is a Mason, and all the family are held in very high repute.

William Taylor Mitchener was reared to manhood in Fayette county, Ohio, was educated in the common schools, and remained with his parents until he reached twenty-eight years of age, when he was married in Staunton, Ohio, December 5, 1878, to Mrs. Harriet Sprinkle, a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Isabelle (Mark) Severs. After marriage, Mr. Mitchener located on a farm near Staunton, Ohio, on which he resided until 1885, when he moved to Van Wert county; in 1886 he became connected with the grange warehouse of Van Wert city, held the position of weighmaster until promoted to the superintendency, which position he held until 1892, a period of two and a half years. In the meantime, however, in 1885, he moved from Fayette county to Van Wert county, as above mentioned, and purchased eighty acres of land in Hoaglin township, which he cultivated until 1887. In 1893, he was selected by the republican party as their standard bearer, in June of the same year, in the struggle for the office of county recorder, and won a glorious victory at the polls the following fall—being elected by a majority of 238 votes, and taking possession of the office January 1, 1894. Mr. Mitchener also served as township clerk for five years while a resident of Fayette county, and has rendered other valuable services to his party. He is the owner of a fine residence on the corner of First and North Market streets, Van Wert, and is the father of three children, viz: Fred, Frank and Bertha. Fraternally he is a member of the National Union and of the Knights of Pythias, and his social position is on an equally high plane with his fraternal and political standing.

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JONAS MOLLENKOPF, a substantial and respected farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Crawford county, in the same state, September 28, 1834, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Mentzer) Mollenkopf. Jacob, the father, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1799, and was a son of a carpenter. He came to America in 1817, when about eighteen years of age, landed in Philadelphia, and for five years worked on a farm near that city. He then went to New Orleans, where he worked at blacksmithing a few months, and then came to Ohio and located in Columbiana county, was married in that county about 1826 or 1827, became a farmer, and in 1829 moved to Crawford county, entered eighty acres of land in the woods, cleared it up and added eighty acres more; this land he sold and purchased 160 acres of improved land, on which he passed the remainder of his days, dying in 1874. He was the father of eleven children, viz: One that died in infancy, the others being named Susan, George, Jonas, John, Mary, Franklin, Alexander, Jacob, Isaac and Abraham. All the Mollenkopfs of Van Wert county are descended from Jacob, or from George, his brother, who came to America some time after the former, bringing his wife, Maria. The nine children born to George and Maria, were named Mary, Frederica, Margaret, Charles, George, Jacob, Joseph and Sarah.

Jonas Mollenkopf, our subject, was reared a farmer, was educated in the common schools of Crawford county, and at the age of twenty-eight years, October, 30, 1862, married Frederica Meyers, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Crum) Meyers. He followed farming in Crawford county until 1876, then came to Van Wert county and bought 160 acres in Tully township, on which he lived until June, 1894, when he moved to his present place near Convoy, on which he has a substantial and beautiful modern residence. To Mr. and Mrs. Mollenkopf were born ten children, named as follows: Albert G., Edward J., Clinton W., John, and James (twins), Sarah, Ella, Miller, Wilson J. and one that died in infancy. Mrs. Mollenkopf passed from earth January 1, 1893, a sincere professor of the Presbyterian faith. Of the above named children, Albert married Rosa A. Webster, is the father of two children and is a carpenter of Convoy; Edward, a clerk in an uncle's hardware store, married Edith Webster, a sister of Rosa A., and has one child; William C., manager of the home farm, married Nettie Stephenson, and is the father of one child. The Mollenkopfs constitute one of the most substantial and respected families of Van Wert county, and Mr. Mollenkopf is strictly a self-made man, as far as success in business is concerned.

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JAMES MONTGOMERY, representative farmer and stock-raiser of Pleasant township and an ex official of Van Wert county, Ohio, is descended paternally from Irish ancestry, his grandfather, James Montgomery, having been born in the Emerald isle about the year 1765. Thinking that the new world afforded better opportunities for a young man than his native country, James Montgomery came to the United States in an early day and settled in Washington county, Pa., where for some time he operated a flouring-mill, being by trade a millwright. Subsequently, in 1808, he moved to Columbiana county, Ohio, and founded a home in the almost unbroken wilderness, and for several years thereafter acted well his part as a pioneer, surrounded by wild beasts and scarcely less wild men. He was a Presbyterian of the most orthodox type, lived the remainder of his life in the state and county of his adoption, and died at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

John Montgomery, son of the above and father of the subject of this biography, was born in Washington county in 1798, and was a lad of nine years when brought by his parents to the frontier home in Ohio. When a young man he engaged in the river trade, making a number of trips with produce boats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. He abandoned this business about the year 1825 and purchased a farm, upon which he lived until his death, in 1881. In 1825 he married Sarah Poe, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Hoy) Poe, and became the the father of the following children: Andrew (deceased), James, Nancy, Joseph (deceased) Eleanor (wife of John McCoy), Elizabeth (wife of William McCoy), Sarah J. (wife of George F. Huston), John M., and Rachel (wife of George Gaston). Mrs. Sarah Montgomery was born in Columbiana county in the year 1800; her father was a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Columbiana and Stark counties, Ohio, in the latter of which his death occurred about the year 1850. Mrs. Montgomery was a woman of deep piety and belonged to the Presbyterian church, in which her husband was for many years, a ruling elder.

James Montgomery, the leading events of whose life here follow, was born December 20, 1829, in Columbiana county, in the common schools of which he received a limited knowledge of the English branches, and later pursued his studies in a select school at the town of Calcutta. He received his first lessons in practical life on the farm, and remained with his father until 1854, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased his present place in Pleasant township, the land at that time being covered with a dense wildwood. In due time the forest giants fell beneath the sturdy strokes of his ax, and within a few years his labors were rewarded with a good farm, which has since become one of the most beautiful and valuable country homes in the county. This place had been entered by his father as early as the year 1838. In 1854 Mr. Montgomery was married to Ann Eliza Gilliland, daughter of Gordon and Margaret (Lawson) Gilliland, a union blessed with eight children: Josephine, deceased; John V., deceased; Mary, wife of Columbus Huston; Edgar; Sarah, wife of William Duprey; Andrew B., Oscar, and Joseph, who was killed by a stroke of lightning June 24, 1895.

Mr. Montgomery sustains the reputation of being one of Van Wert county's most honorable and respectable citizens, and at different times has been called to fill positions of respectability, and never proved unworthy of the trust reposed in him. In 1860 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, the duties of which he discharged faithfully and conscientiously for a period of four years, and in 1877 he was further honored by being elected treasurer of Van Wert county, which office he filled two terms to the entire satisfaction of the public. Later he acted in the capacity of deputy treasurer one year, and it is universally conceded that the county never had a more capable, painstaking and popular public servant. Mr. Montgomery subscribes to the creed of the Presbyterian church; his daily life has ever been in harmony with the faith he professes, and he contributes liberally of his means for the promotion of all moral and religious movements, having for their object the upbuilding of the community to a higher plane of living. In his business affairs, Mr. Montgomery has exercised excellent judgment, and while broad-minded and liberal, has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable fortune, owning a valuable farm of 326 acres within a short distance of Van Wert—a most beautiful and comfortable home, where genuine old-time hospitality is dispensed with a liberal hand; enterprising, progressive and popular with all, Mr. Montgomery may well feel proud of the place he occupies in the esteem of his fellow-citizens of Van Wert county.

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JAMES E. MONTGOMERY, the gentlemanly postmaster of the city of Van Wert, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, July 27, 1860, a son of James and Ann Eliza (Gilliland) Montgomery, of whom further mention is made within the covers of this volume. James E. Montgomery was reared to the ennobling vocation of agriculture in Pleasant township on his father's farm, and was educated in the common schools of his district, acquiring sufficient knowledge for the practical transaction of all business demands. At the age of eighteen he became an assistant to his father, who was then the county treasurer, and remained in the office until 1881, and was then united with his father in farming until 1891, when he came to the city of Van Wert and entered upon the duties of weighmaster in the grange warehouse, which position he filled until commissioned postmaster, January 27, 1894—his able deputy being C. H. Brown, and his general assistants Miss E. M. Scott and Miss Susie Haines—and the duties of this office were never before more satisfactorily preformed.

Mr. Montgomery was united in matrimony March 26, 1886, in the city of Van Wert, with Miss Clara Harnly, who was born in Van Wert county, April 21, 1862, a daughter of Levi and Millie (Morse) Harnly, and to this union were born three children, named Edna, James G., and Edgar M.—but Mr. Montgomery had the sad misfortune of losing his life partner April 14, 1892. She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was fondly attached to her home and family and greatly respected by her numerous friends, who sorrowfully deposited her earthly remains in the Woodlawn cemetery. Mr. Montgomery also has a host of friends who delight to do him honor. He is courteous and affable, of fine personal appearance, and quite prominent in city affairs in general.

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SAMUEL S. BURTSFIELD, an attorney of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Richland county, Ohio, October 25, 1861, and is a son of John and Matilda (Shoup) Burtsfield, now residents of Union township, Van Wert county, in which township they settled when our subject was eleven years of age, and where the latter was reared to manhood on the home farm and attended the country schools. In 1883 Samuel S. entered Wittenberg college of Springfield, Ohio, graduated in June, 1888, and at once entered upon the study of law under Saltzgaber & Glenn, with the former of whom he remained until he was admitted to the bar in 1890, since which time he has devoted his attention to the practice of law. Mr. Burtsfield, June 17, 1891, married Miss Eudora Thomas, a native of Maryland, born in 1869, and daughter of O. J. and Anna (Gray) Thomas, and this union has been rendered the more happy by the birth of a daughter—Mary Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. Burtsfield are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Burtsfield, as a lawyer, is recognized as competent and trustworthy.

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W S. G. MOORE, a retired farmer of Van Wert county, was born May 1, 1825. He is a son of Joseph W. Moore, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1786. Having a natural aptitude for the carpenter's trade, he began to work at that vocation at a very early age, and followed it successfully until 1830. He then bought a farm in Franklin county, Ohio, and became a farmer for the remainder of his life, also meeting with success in this calling. His death occurred November 16, 1862.

Joseph W. Moore was married three times —first, to Elizabeth McCutchen, of Pennsylvania, at Greensburg. To this marriage there were born two children, viz: James and William, both of whom are now deceased—William dying in infancy and James in 1878. The mother of these two children died in Pennsylvania in 1810. Mr. Moore was married, the second time, to Miss Elizabeth Jones, of Jefferson county, Pa., and by her he had one child, David, still living near Brookville, Jefferson county, Pa. Mr. Moore's second wife died in 1812, and he was married, the third time, to Miss Rhodie Grant, of Gettysburg, Pa. To this marriage there were born ten children, as follows: Jane, Joseph, Sarah, John, Elizabeth, William, Mary, Isaac, Catherine and Jane. Just one-half of these children are living, viz: John, William, Isaac, Catherine and Jane. The father of these children was a democrat in politics and served as justice of the peace in Franklin county, Ohio. He served in the war of 1812 as a brave, patriotic soldier. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was in every way an upright, honorable man.

W. S. G. Moore born in Franklin county, Ohio, and resided with his parents until the war of the Rebellion broke out. On May 1, 1864, he enlisted in company B, One Hundred and Thirty-third Ohio voluntary infantry, and and served under Gen. Franz Sigel. When he left home for the war he had no money to leave his wife for her support and that of the children, but supplied her as well as he could out of his soldier's pay. He was at the time thirty-nine years old, and he had a family of seven children. He was wounded at Buffalo Gap, Va., but would not stop fighting, continuing in the fight till the battle was over. He was also wounded in the battle of Petersburg, Va., and was digcharged August 18, 1864. He is now receiving a pension of $30 per month, and when his claim was granted he received $1,350 back pension. He is also suffering from a slight stroke of paralysis.

On August 9, 1843, he was married to Miss Amanda M. Butler, of Van Wert, Ohio, by whom he became the father of thirteen children, viz: Rosa, William F., Mary E., J. J., C. J., David, Charles, Amanda, Marion E., Alice E., Louis V., Isaac and A. W. Seven of these children are still living. Mr. Moore was in the early days a whig, but upon the organization of the republican party he became a republican, and has adhered thereto ever since. In religion he is a Methodist, and lives consistently with his profession.

Amanda M. Butler, wife of Mr. Moore, was born in 1830. Her father, James, was born in Culpeper county, Va., and followed farming for a livelihood all his life. He was married to Elizabeth Baumgardner, and to their marriage there were born ten children, viz: James, Nancy, Adrian, Amanda M., William H.; Elizabeth, Eliza, John, Washington and Mary. Amanda M. Butler, who married Mr. Moore, and who died in Van Wert, January 9, 1893, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, and was a member of the Friends' society. She was a modest, and good woman, wife and mother, respected by all who knew her, and her memory is revered by all. Mr. Moore, now living retired from active business life, has always been an honorable, upright man, and is held in high esteem by the community in which he lives. He has won for himself a name which he will bequeath to his posterity, and which they will doubtless transmit, which is an honor to himself, to his family and to mankind in general.

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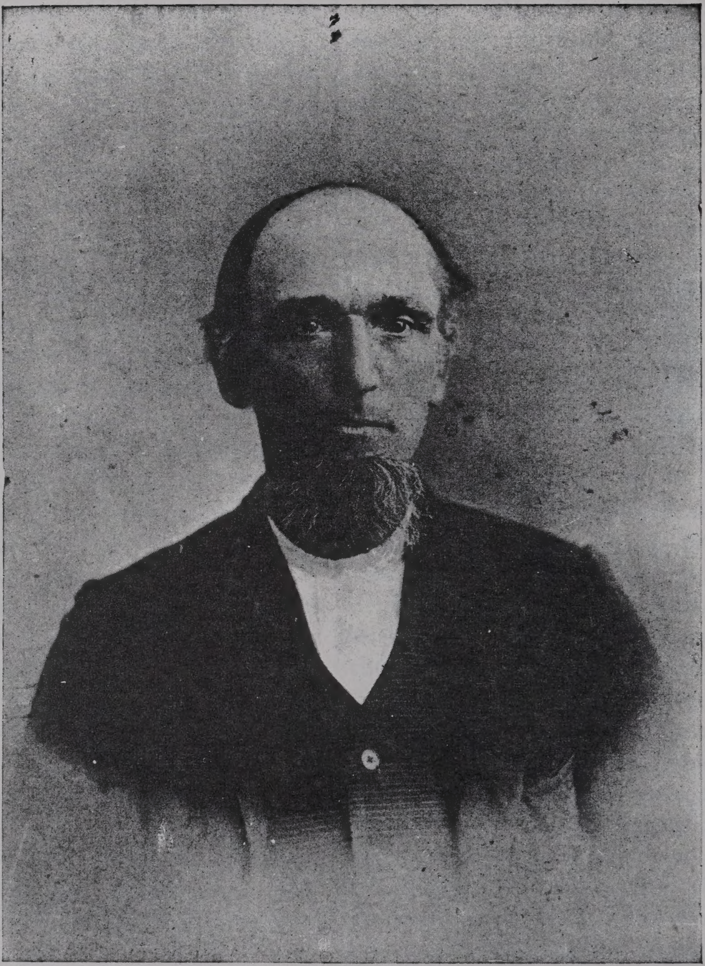
CHARLES J. MOORE was born near Columbus, Ohio, February 2, 1858. He is a son of W. S. G. Moore, whose biographical sketch also appears in full in this volume, to which the attention of the reader is invited.

Charles J. Moore was educated in the public schools, which, by the time he attended them, had become superior in buildings, apparatus and teachers to those of a generation before. Early in life he began to work at various branches of trade and industry, remaining with his father until he arrived at his majority, at which time he began on his own account, working at what was his principal trade, that of brick-molder, though he was unusually handy with tools of all kinds, and, being of a very ingenious turn of mind, he could have succeeded and has succeeded in other lines.

On June 7, 1884, he was married to Miss Ida Bucher, of Van Wert, and of German descent. After his marriage he still continued to work at his trade for a considerable time, until he was appointed car inspector on the Cin-



Gottlieb Mohr

Sarah A. Mohr

cinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, at which he was engaged two years. At the end of this time he began draying in the city of Van Wert, and he has continued at this line of work ever since. In politics Mr. Moore is a republican, and in religious faith he is a Lutheran. He is a member of five different fraternal lodges, viz: The I. O. R. M., K. of P., National Union, Rathbone and Pocahontas.

Ida Bucher, wife of Mr. Moore, was born July 25, 1865. Her father, Peter Bucher, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., July 3, 1801, and was of German ancestry. He was reared on a farm and followed agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred July 24, 1880. He married Miss Lighter, of Richland county, Ohio, by whom he had eight children, viz: Amos, Eliza, John, Harriet, Henry, Joseph, Mary and one that died in infancy. Mary and Harriet married and have since died. All those who are living are also married. The mother of these children died in 1843, and in 1852 Mr. Bucher married Miss Sophia Fiddler, of Adams county, Pa., by whom he had nine children, viz: Samuel L., Margaret, Albert F., Lydia C., Adeline A., Oliver J., Alice S., Ida C. and Angeline A. Only three of these children are living, viz: Albert F., Lydia C. and Ida C., and all are married. The mother of these children died in Van Wert, Ohio, in 1886. She was of German descent and a member of the German Reform church. She was an excellent woman in every way and her loss was greatly felt by her family and a large circle of friends.

Miss Ida Bucher was born on a farm in Van Wert county and received her education in the country schools. When sixteen years of age she came to the city of Van Wert, and here met Mr. Moore, whom she married when she was eighteen years of age. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of the Rathbone Sisters, and also of Pocahontas lodge. She and her husband are the parents of one child, viz: Willie E., born in 1884. He is an unusually bright boy, is attending the Van Wert public schools, and is the pride and hope of his parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. Moore are excellent people, and are respected by all that know them.

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GOTTLIEB MOHR, a prominent and successful farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Sultzfield amt Eppinger, Baden, Germany, September 10, 1836. His grandfather, George Mohr, was born, passed his life, and died in Sultzfield. He owned and operated a small farm and married Elizabeth Hiltzelberger, by whom he had two sons, Frederick and Jonathan.

Frederick Mohr, father of the subject, was in many ways a remarkable man. He was born in Sultzfield in 1796 and was married to Catherine Kohn, who was born in 1801. She was a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Hagenberger) Kohn, the former of whom owned a good farm and shoe store. They reared nine children—three sons and six daughters. Frederick Mohr was a farmer and gave considerable attention to raising sheep. He served as justice of the peace eleven years. He was up to the end of that time a prosperous man, but when, in 1848, the revolution broke out in Germany, which drove so many German families to the United States, Frederick Mohr took sides with the people against the government; and, his cause being lost, his property was confiscated and he was reduced to poverty. In consequence he emigrated with his family to this country in the spring of 1849, his family consisting of eight members—himself and wife, five sons and one daughter. The sons were Charles, Frederick, Christian, Gottlieb and Jacob, and the daughter Catherine, she being the fourth child.

Mr. Mohr located first, in 1849, in Richland county, Ohio, but in 1850 removed to Van Wert county, where he entered eighty acres of land in sections Nos. 18 and 19, Hoaglin township. At that time there were but two roads cut through the woods north of Van Wert, and the settlers were few and far between. Milling had to be done in Willshire, Delphos or Mercer, two days at least being required to make the trip to mill and back. Mr. Mohr, upon arriving in Hoaglin township, located by mistake and erected a log cabin on the wrong land, and when this fact was pointed out to him it took him four days to get his land properly surveyed and to get his family upon it, there being no roads cut through, a distance of only three miles, and so he had to travel nine miles to get round to his own entry. Davis Johnson was at that time the county surveyor, and he lived near Willshire.

In 1854 a German preacher, named John Fox, a member of the Evangelical association, located in Van Wert, and preached for the early settlers. He formed a small class, which numbered among its members Frederick Mohr, Jacob Spieler, Charles Mohr, Jacob Leist and Elias Beamer and their respective wives. In 1862 Frederick Mohr bought an acre of land for a church site and a graveyard, for which the members of this small class paid $25. In 1864, the membership having become too large for accommodation in private houses, a frame church building was erected at a cost of $600. Up to this time services had been conducted in the German language, notwithstanding there were a few English-speaking members; but from 1864 to 1880 services were conducted in both German and English. By 1880 most of tho older German families had passed away, and as the younger generation preferred the English language, services in German were discontinued, which proved unsatisfactory to the German families; (by that time there were about seventy-five members) so that arrangements were made to build a new church, Lewis Lake, Sr., giving an acre of land for a site, on Hoaglin creek, upon which site a new church building was erected at a cost of $1,700, and since 1880, up to date, there are 160 members and a Sunday-school of ninety scholars. This membership is divided into two classes; the class-leaders are as follows: James Rumble, Henry Beamer, McClellan Hoaglin, Mathew Yoh; stewards and trustees are as follows: Charles Mohr, Sr., Gottleib Mohr, Bender M. Yoh, William Hoaglin; Sunday-school officers at present are as follows: Superintendent, James Rumble; assistant superintendent, Daniel Rider; secretary, Edward Rider; chorister, Henry Beamer; organist, Allie Mohr; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah A. Mohr; librarians, Roy Rogers and Oscar Kirney. Frederick Mohr died June 26, 1871, and his wife, Catherine, died October 6, 1869. Their greatest delight was to attend religious services, and to do good to their fellow-men. Their memory is still fondly cherished by their descendants and relatives.

Gottlieb Mohr worked for his father until he was eighteen years of age, when he was given his time, and began working for $10 per month. This he continued two years, at the end of which time he bought a team of horses, rented a piece of land in Liberty township, and was married in April, 1860, to Miss Sarah Snearly, of Allen county, Ind. He lived in Liberty township until the fall of 1863, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Hoaglin township, adjoining his father's farm, in section No. 18. He and his wife have had eleven children, three of whom, sons, have died. The eight that are living are as follows: George Edward, who married Mary Lindsay; Susie, wife of William Hoaglin; David, who married Ella Reid; Cassie, wife of George Foust; Lydia, wife of James Rumble; Allie, Hattie, and Walter, the last three living at home.

Mr. Mohr has been an unusually successful man, and now owns 331 acres of good land in Hoaglin township. He is looked upon by every one as an honorable man in all respects, and as one of the truly self-made men of the county. He has always been a hard-working, industrious man, and an excellent manager, and his farm bears evident indications of careful and judicious cultivation and improvement. Mr. and Mrs Mohr have been members of the Evangelical association ever since before marriage, and take an active interest in all church work, as do their children. As a republican Mr. Mohr has served as treasurer of Hoaglin township two terms. He is a thorough agriculturist, and built the second tile factory in the township, which he operated ten years, and has well under-drained his farm, which is the one of the main reasons for its being in such a high state of productiveness. Few men if any stand higher in the estimation of their neighbors and friends than does Gottlieb Mohr.

MORGAN H. MORGAN.—The subject of this biography is a leading farmer and business man of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is an ex-county official and one of the representative men. Mr. Morgan is a native Wales, where his birth occurred in the year 1835. His parents, Hugh and Mary (Jones) Morgan, came to the United States in June, 1849, bringing with them their children, viz: William, who grew to manhood and married a Miss Harris, both deceased; Morgan H.; Mary, deceased wife of Joseph Edwards; John, a well-known farmer of Jennings; Jane, deceased wife of D. T. Jones; Richard, who died at the age of nine years; and Malissa, whose death occurred at the age of thirteen. Hugh Morgan was a farmer and land owner in Jackson county, Ohio where he first settled and where he resided until the death of his wife.

Morgan H. Morgan, after coming to the United States, learned the trade of nail-making in Pittsburg, Pa., where he worked for a period of four years; thence went to Jackson county, Ohio, and learned carpentering, in which he acquired great efficiency, following the same about eleven years. In 1863 he came to the county of Van Wert, being induced to do so at the solicitation of his uncle, William M. Jones, a wealthy and influential stockholder of the Jefferson furnace, who purchased for him a tract of 190 acres of land in Jennings township. Mr. Jones also invested in real estate for the benefit of the subject's brothers, William and John, to whom he gave ninety-five and 160 acres, respectively. The aforesaid Mr. Jones had been connected with the Jefferson furnace for a period of twenty-five years, and after retiring from the same spent the remainder of his days with the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Morgan's first marriage was solemnized with Mary P. Davis, of Jackson county, who bore him two children: . Elizabeth, wife of E. W. Williams; and Mary Jane, wife of Morris Jones. Mrs. Morgan dying, Mr. Morgan afterward entered into the marriage relation with Mrs. Ann Jones, widow of David S. Jones, who lost his life in a mill explosion. By her first marriage Mrs. Morgan had three children, daughters, who found in Mr. Morgan a true guardian, and his children found in her kindness and consideration for their welfare much to compensate them for the loss of their own mother. The second Mrs. Morgan also died, and later Mr. Morgan again entered into the bonds of matrimony, choosing for his wife the widow of Richard Chapman.

Mr. Morgan has been quite successful in the accumulation of wealth, owning, at this time, 246 acres of land in one tract, besides other valuable real estate in town and country. He is a public-spirited man, has done much toward promoting the material interests of the township in which he resides, and was one of the principal movers in securing the narrow gauge railroad through Van Wert county, having been a member of the executive committee and one of the directors of said road. In partnership with Dr. Shaffer and D. W. Evans, Mr. Morgan contracted to construct twenty-six miles of the road, which section was completed under his supervision without his realizing any great profit from the undertaking. Since moving to the village of Venedocia, Mr. Morgan has been carrying on the undertaking business, in partnership with D. W. Williams, and for some years he has been interested in the Jefferson furnace; he is also identified with the Ohio Wheel works at Delphos. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan are members of the Welsh Presbyterian church, in which he has served as deacon for a period of thirteen years. He is secretary of the church at Venedocia and takes an active part in all moral and religious movements. He is an uncompromising enemy of the liquor traffic and politically is a supporter of the prohibition party.

Mr. Morgan's life has been one of great activity and usefulness, and his domestic relations, with the exception of sadness occasioned by the visitations of death, have been of a most happy nature. His social position and standing with the public have been commensurate with the flow of his domestic happiness, and he has been deserving of all that has been bestowed upon him financially or otherwise. He served as commissioner of Van Wert county three years, and proved to the public that the confidence they reposed in him was by no means misplaced. He is a man of sterling integrity, popular with all who meet him in business or other relations, and few people in the county occupy a warmer place in the estimation of the public than he.

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PROF. P. SCHUYLER MORGAN, principal of the Western Ohio Normal school and one of the leading educators of northwestern Ohio.—Rev. John P. Morgan, son of Peter Morgan and father of P. S. Morgan, was born in south Wales in 1830, was about eight years old when brought to America by his parents, and received a good education, He was married in Jackson county, Ohio, to Abishag Pryse, who was also born in the southern part of Wales, in 1833, a daughter of John and Rachael (Coslett) Pryse. This union was blessed by the birth of eight children in the following order: Rachael, Mary, P. Schuyler, John C., James P., Ammie, Elizabeth and Margaret—the first five in Jackson county and the latter three in Van Wert county, Ohio. John P. Morgan, through due course of preparatory study and in due course of time, was ordained a minister in the Calvinistic Methodist church, preached for many years in Jackson and Gallia counties, and in 1865 came to Van Vert county and settled in Venedocia, where he was given charge of three congregations—Horeb, Salem and Zion, all within the county of Van Wert—and here he continued in ministerial work until 1883, when impaired health compelled him to retire to private life in his home at Venedocia.

Prof. P. Schuyler Morgan was born in Jackson county, Ohio, October 5, 1865, and was brought to Van Wert county by his parents. He received the usual course of preparatory education in the district school, was graduated from the classical course of the Ohio Western Normal university at Ada, Ohio, in 1883, and in 1893 from the classical course of the university of Wooster, Ohio. During the intervals of his own study he taught in the common schools of Van Wert county and in the Western Ohio Normal school at Middlepoint, and after his final graduation, in 1893, became principal of Salem academy, Ross county, Ohio, a Presbyterian academy, which position he resigned in 1894, being elected as principal of the Western Ohio Normal school at Middlepoint, the position he is now so ably filling the second year.

Prof Morgan has infused new life into the Western Ohio Normal, improved the methods of instruction, increased the number of pupils and added to the curriculum, and has otherwise given many evidences of his skill as a disciplinarian and ability as an instructor. He has met with phenomenal success in preparing the students for the higher universities and in training them to become teachers in other schools. This institution was founded in 1885, the first principal being W. F. Hufford, and Prof Morgan being an assistant the first year, the latter being a thoroughly educated classical scholar.

The marriage of Prof. Morgan took place at Middlepoint, May 16, 1889, with Miss Agnes Foster, who was born January 1, 1860, in Middlepoint, a daughter of Simon and Sarah Foster, and this congenial union has been blessed by the birth of two children—Dewitt S. and Lelia A. Mrs. Morgan is a graduate of the Western Ohio Normal school, and has been a teacher of the Latin language since 1888, in the Western Ohio Normal. The school building is a new and commodious edifice of brick, well adapted for all the purposes for which it was constructed, and cost $17,000. The institution has been a blessing to the youth of northwestern Ohio and the adjoining counties of eastern Indiana, and Prof. Morgan, although still a young man, has accomplished a grand work in the successful manipulation of the advantages it affords. The professor and wife are both devoted members of the Lutheran church, and in politics the professor is a republican.

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RICHARD J. MORGAN, a rising young physician of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Van Wert county, August 10, 1866, and is a son of William H. and Esther (Harris) Morgan, both natives of south Wales who met after coming to the United States and were married in Pittsburg, Pa., whence they came to Ohio and located in Jackson county, where William H. engaged in coal mining until 1860, when the family came to Van Wert county, where the father purchased 172 acres of land in Jennings township and employed himself in farming until his death in April, 1881, being followed to the grave by his wife in September of the same year, both dying in the faith of the Welsh Presbyterian church, and being the parents of seven children, viz: Henry, a farmer of Van Wert county; William, a miller of Venedocia, this county; John, a railroad man of Columbus, Ohio; Hugh, deceased: Richard J., our subject; Lizzie, wife of William B. Evans, farmer of this county, and David H., dentist of Van Wert city. Four of this family are members of the celebrated Venedocia Welsh choir, of Jennings township, this county.

Richard J. Morgan was reared on the home farm in Jennings township and was educated at the Normal schools of Ada, Ohio, and Angola, Ind.; he entered the Jefferson Medical college of Philadelphia in 1887, graduated in 1890, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Van Wert, in partnership with Dr. McGavren, with whom he is still identified; in 1892 he took a polyclinic course in New York city, and now makes a speciality of the treatment of disorders of the eye and ear, in which he has gained a fine reputation and built up a lucrative practice. The doctor was married in Van Wert, September 26, 1893, to Dode M. Lynch, who was born in this city September 8, 1866, a daughter of A. and Margaret (Hammers) Lynch. The doctor is a Presbyterian in religion, is fraternally a Mason and a Knight of Pythias, and in politics a true repulican.

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REV. JAMES F. MOUNTS, of Van Wert, and a minister of the Central Ohio conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, was born in Marion county, Ohio, near Prospect, December 17, 1824. He is a son Humphrey and Sarah (Flemming) Mounts, of whom the former was born in Pennsylvania in 1794, was reared a farmer, and in his early manhood came to Ohio as a pioneer of Delaware county, where he was married. At the end of five years he moved to Marion, county, where he cleared up a farm of 160 acres, and lived on said farm until his death. To his prolific union with Sarah Flemming, a daughter of James Flemming, the following children were born in the following order: Nancy J., wife of Lyman Sherman; Jane, wife of Jerry Moore; Samuel; Mary A., wife of Thomas Davids; James F., subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of William Davis; Rachael, wife of William Conkright; Sarah, deceased wife of John Sells; Matthew, deceased, and three children that died in infancy. Humphrey Mounts was a soldier in the war of 1812, was a useful citizen, and died in Marion county, in 1862, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, a native of Pennsylvania, was brought to Ohio when a child, and lived to the ripe age of eighty-two years, she being a member of the Presbyterian church for sixty-five years.

James F. Mounts received his preparatory education in Marion county, Ohio, and then attended the Wesleyan university of Delaware, Ohio, for two years. Being then licensed to preach, he was appointed to Richwood circuit, in the fall of 1858, and after the expiration of his ministrations there received the following appointments: Celina, Van Wert, Delphos, Saint Mary's, Van Wert again, Marysville station, Bryan, Elida, again at Van Wert and Saint Mary's, Rockford, Convoy, once more Van Wert, Ohio City, and Dixon, in the order named. He was in the traveling connection thirty-eight years. As an example of what energy and determination, combined with a sincere interest in the work in hand and the object to be attained, will do for a young man, it may be recorded that Mr. Mounts was but eighteen years of age when his father presented him with a horse, which he at once sold for $45, applying the cash for the purpose of defraying his entrance-fees to college, and, to eke out his expenses while a student, he worked as a day laborer, shoveling dirt on the college grounds or as a harvest hand for the neighboring farmers. For eleven years, also, he was a very successful school-teacher, and concluded his labor in that vocation at Prospect, Ohio. He entered the ministry at the age of thirty-three years, and has never missed a conference and but few appointments on the day he was due, and from the age of eighteen years he has been a member of the church in which he has been so eminent as an eloquent and able expounder of its doctrines.

Rev. James F. Mounts was united in the holy bonds of matrimony in September, 1847, with Miss Ellen Landon, daughter of Darius and Mary Landon, the result of their union being five children—Mary, wife of David Myers, of Allen county, Ohio; Sarah Florence and Sarah F., who died in infancy; James E., a farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and Emma L., deceased wife of Bruse Oyler. Of these children James E. was born in Marion county, Ohio, in 1844, learned the trade of harness-maker, and at the age of twenty-one years married Mrs. Julia Jeannette, daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Beachler) Kunkle. Alex. Kunkle was born in Pennsylvania of German parentage. Sarah Beachler, his wife, was also a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio with her parents, who settled in Williams county when there was but one house within its limits. There the father erected a log house, cleared up a farm and followed his trade of carpenter until his death, having been a deacon in the Baptist church, of which his widow is also a member.

Rev. James F. Mounts has been a willing and faithful servant of the Master, and during his ministry has added to his church about 2,000 communicants, has united in marriage about 675 couples, and has preached about the last-named number of funeral sermons. The rising generation may indeed look upon him with pride and pleasure and call him "blessed."

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JAMES WALTER MORRIS, a prominent young confectioner and dealer in fine cigars, tobacco, etc., of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Champaign county, this state, April 5, 1865, and is a son of William and Mary Jane (Tway) Morris, now residents of Mechanicsburg, in the county just named. Our subject was brought up to his business at home, where he had every opportunity of learning the trade of baker and confectioner and all the mysteries connected with the making of the finest candies, and there followed this art until he was twenty-five years of age—or until 1890—in March of which year he came to Van Wert and established his present business, which comprises the manufacture and sale of confectionery of every description, including ice-cream, to which he has added the sale of the finer brands of cigars and tobacco. His pleasant address and obliging disposition have won a host of friends, and he has built up a remunerative and permanent trade. He was married in Champaign county, Ohio, June 12, 1890, to Miss Maud Barr, who was born in Mechanicsburg, Champaign county, Ohio, September 23, 1868, a daughter of C.C. Barr, a carriage manufacturer of that town, and to this union has been born one child—Marjorie B. Mr. and Mrs. Morris are members of the Presbyterian church and in politics Mr. Morris is a republican; fraternally he is an Odd Fellow. In his trade he makes a specialty of his delicious cream candies, and he also carries a large line of fine extracts.

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WILLIAM H. MOWREY, a substantial young farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, springs from Scotch-Irish and German stock. His grandfather, Henry Mowrey, was born in Pennsylvania and when a young man came to Ohio and located in Belmont county, married there, thence moved to Athens county, and thence to Hocking county, where he became the owner of 400 acres of land. He was a bugler in the Mexican war, and a picture of him, in his uniform, is still in the possession of the family. He died in Hocking county at the age of about sixty-six years—one of its most honored pioneers.

Andrew J. Mowrey, son of Henry, above mentioned and father of our subject, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in August, 1831, and was reared a farmer. He married Jane Lehman, who was born in Perry county, a daughter of Warren Lehman, a Pennsylvanian German, and this prolific union resulted in the birth of thirteen children, of whom eleven reached maturity, as follows: Henry P., William H., Samuel, Joshua, Thomas J., Benjamin, George, Mary, Clara, Emma and

Della. After marriage Mr. Mowrey located on a farm in Greene township, Hocking county, but in 1851-52 opened up another farm of eighty-four acres in the same township, on which he lived the remainder of his days, dying at the age of fifty-nine years. He was a soldier in the late Civil war, served three years in company H, Sixty-second Ohio infantry, took part in many severe battles, among them Pittsburg Landing, and one time was struck by a spent ball. His brother, James, was wounded in the first battle of Bull Run and lived but two weeks after his enlistment, and his brother, Henry, died from the effects of exposure while in the service. Andrew J. Mowrey was a democrat in politics, and he and wife were honored members of the United Brethren church.

William H. Mowrey, whose name opens this biography, was born in Greene township, Hocking county, Ohio, April 22, 1854, received a good education and was reared a farmer. He married, in his native county, Miss Julia A. Angle, who was born in Hocking county April 15, 1857, a daughter of Jacob and Julia (Graffis) Angle, the former of whom was of Holland descent and a native of Perry county, Ohio, but a pioneer of Hocking county. Mr. and Mrs. Angle had a family of seven children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and were named James, Mary E., Francis, Tilman, Julia A., Appolonia M. and Ira J. The parents were consistent members of the Presbyterian church, and in this faith the father died in Paulding county, Ohio, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Tom. In politics Mr. Angle was a democrat, and was greatly respected for his unswerving honesty, as well as his ceaseless industry.

For some years after marriage Mr. and and Mrs. Mowrey resided in Perry county, Ohio, where Mr. Mowrey followed the calling of a miner, to which calling he devoted ten years of his life; he them removed to Hocking county, where he made his home until 1884, when he came to Van Wert county and purchased his present farm of eighty-two acres in Washington township. This farm was at that time about half cleared, but he has made of it one of the best farms in the township and raised it to a state of wonderful fertility, producing from it, in 1894, 2,741 bushels of grain, beside other produce. To Mr. and Mrs. Mowery have been born eight children, all still living and named Alfred L., Porter E., Bertha M., Ethel A., Cora A., Sylvie B., William J. and Martha L. The parents are members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Mowrey is a democrat. He is a man of the strictest integrity and of the most untiring industry, and has reared his family in respectability, and he himself has the gratification of knowing that his course of life has met with the commendation of all his fellow-citizens.

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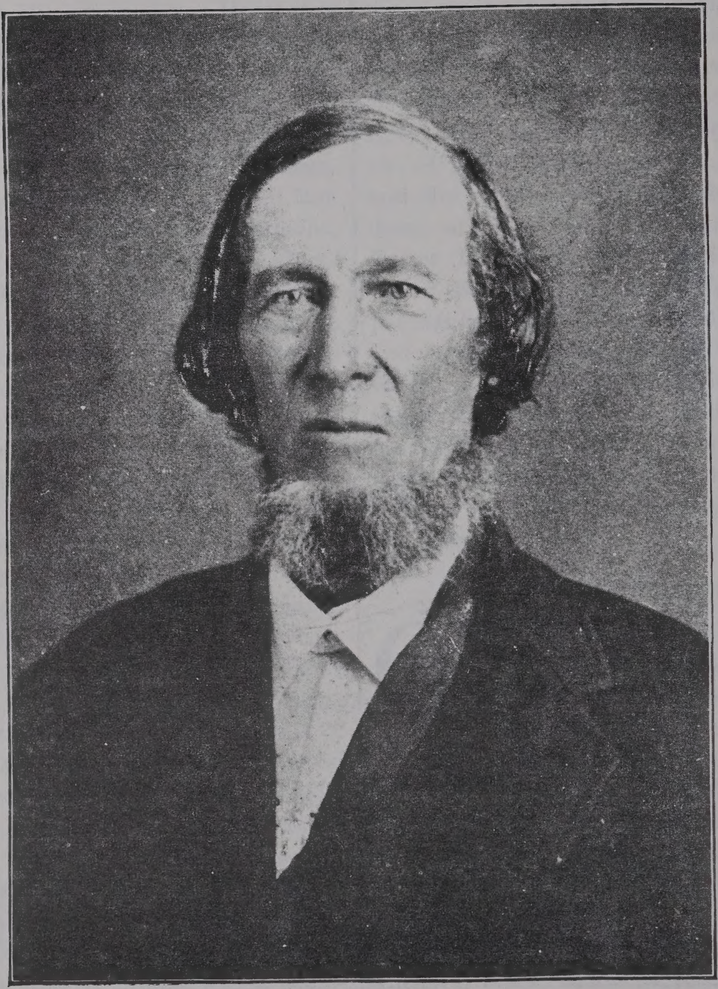
ELEANOR MORTON, a well known lady of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and who has passed the alloted life of three-score and ten, was born in north Wales, in the year 1818, daughter of Joseph and Jane (Thomas) Griffith. The father was born in the same county, in 1778, was there educated, and became a tiller of the soil. His marriage occurred in 1803, and he reared a family of fourteen children, of whom but three are living at this time, viz: Eleanor, Mary (widow of Joseph Morris), and Evan, of Putnam county, Ohio. In 1825, Mr. Griffith emigrated to the United States and purchased a tract of land in Butler county, Ohio, where he was among the earliest settlers. Subsequently, about 1837, he disposed of his interest in the above county and removed to



SAMUEL R. MORTON,
DECEASED.

the county of Allen, where he had previously entered a large of government land, from which, by dint of hard and exhaustive labor he in due time succeeded in developing a large and well cultivated farm. From the time of his removal to Allen county until his death he took an active interest in every thing that pertained to the country's development, and achieved some prominence, as a local politician, having been an enthusiastic supporter of the republican party. His religious creed was represented by the Congregationalist church, in which, for a number of years, he held the office of deacon, and his daily life corresponded with his daily profession. His death occurred August 28, 1854.

Mrs. Griffith, who was born in Wales in the year 1783, was also a consistent member of the Congregationalist church, and departed this life in 1846. The immediate subject of this sketch attended, during her youth, the common schools of Butler and Allen counties, and in 1840 was united in marriage with Samuel Simpson, son of Alexander and Cynthia (King) Simpson. This marriage was blessed with the birth of the following children: Cylanda J., wife of James S. Zimmerman, of Nebraska; Joseph A., of Paulding county, Ohio; Mrs. Josephine Kohn, deceased; and an infant that died unnamed.

Shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson removed to Licking county, Ohio, were they resided for a period of three years, Mr. Simpson, in the meantime, following his occupation of machinist and carpenter. In 1843 they removed to Hancock county, Ill., locating at the old town of Nauvoo, where, for some years, Mr. Simpson carried on a very successful business as contractor and builder. Subsequently he removed to Jacksonville, where he engaged in boat-building, and met his death in an explosion, on the 19th of August, 1848, at the age of thirty-seven years.

The following year Mrs. Simpson entered into the marriage relation with Samuel R. Morton, a native of Licking county, Ohio, a union resulting in the birth of four children, whose names are as follows: Lucius W., Alvin Alonzo, Edward, who died in youth, and an infant that died unnamed. Samuel R. Morton, as stated above, was born in the county of Licking, in 1819, and was the son of Isaac and Gula E. (Worder) Morton, early residents of Ohio. Mr. Morton was reared and educated in his native state, chose the pursuit of agriculture for his life work, and about the year 1835 emigrated to Illinois, where he resided until his return to the Buckeye state in 1853. Immediately after his removal to Ohio, he purchased the farm upon which Mrs. Morton now lives, and followed farming very successfully until his death, which occurred December 5, 1890. Previous to the war Mr. Morton was a democrat in politics, but being strongly opposed to the institution of slavery and secession, he changed his political views, and became a firm adherent of the republican party, to which he gave allegiance during the remainder of his life. He was several times honored by his fellow-citizens with official positions of local importance, but was not a partisan in the sense of seeking or desiring office. He was in every respect a self-made man, as such ranked with the leading citizens of his community and his death was considered a personal loss, not only by his family, but by the neighborhood as well.

Mrs. Morton, as already stated, has reached a ripe old age, and resides with her son on the old homestead, possessing, in a remarkable degree, her faculties both physical and mental; hers has indeed been a busy and useful life, and the influence of her example, and her many kindly deeds and words of encouragement, serve as an incentive to those just entering upon their career in life.

Lucius W. Morton, eldest son of Samuel R. and Eleanor Morton, was born in Hancock county, Ill., in 1850. When four years old he was brought by his parents to Van Wert, Ohio, received his educational training it the common schools, and grew to manhood on the farm, where he learned those lessons of industry and economy by which his life has been characterized. He adopted agriculture as his occupation, and has followed the same with success and financial profit, and is now recognized as one of the leading farmers and public-spirited citizens of the township in which he resides. In 1879 his marriage was solemnized with Malinda, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Heberling) Troup, to which union eight children have been born, viz: Emery O., Sydney V., Earl C., Mary O., Jessie R., Bessie C., Guy C. and Walter F. The mother of these children was born in Van Wert county in 1853.

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NICHOLAS MULLER, one of the oldest settlers of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Belgium November 6, 1833, and is the son of Carl and Susan (Huerts) Muller, parents of three children—Nicholas, Hellen and Katie. Mrs. Susan Muller died in Belgium, and Carl next married Mary Grinling, to which union were born three more children—John, Peter and Mary. In 1854 Mr. Muller came to America and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, on a forty-acre tract of land, where he shortly afterward died at the age of forty-two years, very much respected by his new-found friends and a sincere devotee of the Catholic church.

Nicholas Muller, our subject, received a good education in Belgium, and came to America in 1852 in a sailing vessel. He landed in the port of New York, whence he went to Buffalo, in the same state, where he was employed for two years, and in 1854 came to Seneca county, Ohio, to find that his father has preceded him and had died. For four years he made his home on the farm left by his father, and then came to Van Wert county and settled on his present farm of 120 acres in Jennings township, then all in the woods, and for which he paid $1,100 of his own hard earnings. He here erected a log cabin, and by dint of industry cleared up his farm, underwent all the hardships of pioneer life, and added to his land until he was owner of 360 acres, of which he has given his son, Charles, eighty acres. His marriage took place, in Seneca county, to Margaret Gremlinger, who was born in Belgium in 1832, a daughter of Louis and Catherine (Rading) Gremlinger. The father of this lady died in Belgium, leaving the following children, who later came to America with their mother; Susan, Thresa, Mary, Catherine, Margaret, Nicholas and Dominie; the mother of this family died in Tiffin, Ohio. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Muller was blessed with eight children, viz: Charles, Jacob, John, Joseph, Catherine, Mary, Louis and Peter.

Mr. Muller has his farm well fenced and drained and in a fine state of cultivation; it is improved with all the necessary out-buildings, which are substantial and commodious; his dwelling is a modern brick edifice, erected in 1880, and all the surroundings denote the prosperous and thrifty, skillful and intelligent farmer, that he is. He is a devout member of the Catholic church, and contributed liberally toward the erection of the first Catholic church in Landeck, of which he was for two years a member of the council. In politics he is a democrat, but has never been an office seeker. He is a self-made man, and well deserves the high respect in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen. He was bereaved by the death of his faithful wife February 14, 1892, but finds solace in the society of his loving children, who never fail to do all in their power to make happy the declining years of their honored sire.

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**JOHN MURPHY**, a successful farmer of Union township, and pioneer of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born near Wheeling, Va., in 1818, a son of John and Mary (Smith) Murphy.

John Murphy, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in Maryland in 1782, there grew to manhood, and in 1810 enlisted in the American army, in which he served four years, two of which were against the Brittish in the war of 1812, and in recognition of his service he received a soldier's land grant, which he subsequently located in Van Wert county, Ohio. After the close of the war he engaged in farming in Virginia until 1818, when he removed to Jefferson county, Ohio, where he remained until 1825; thence moved to Richland county, Ohio, where he lived until 1844, when, with his family, he moved to Van Wert county, Ohio, where he entered 200 acres of government land. On this Mr. Murphy built a small log cabin and began to clear off the forest and here made his home until his death, which occurred in 1865. His marriage occurred in Virginia, in 1812, with Miss Mary Smith, and to them were born five children, only two of whom are now living, viz: John, the subject of this mention, and James, a resident of Hoaglin township. Mrs. Murphy, the mother of this family, died in 1861, on the old homestead in Van Wert county. Mr. Murphy espoused the cause of the democratic party, but was tolerant and conservative in his views; he was one of that class of hardy pioneers to whom the country owes so much of its development and who need no other monument to tell the story of a life well spent.

John Murphy, the subject of this mention, was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the common schools of Harrison and Richland counties, Ohio. In 1844 he came with his father to Van Wert county, where he entered fifty acres of public land, which was afterward increased to eighty by a gift from his father. On this he built a comfortable log house, cleared away the forest and underdrained the land, and thus, by his own efforts and industry, brought it to its present state of cultivation.

In October, 1862, Mr. Murphy responded to his country's call and enlisted in company G, Twentieth Ohio volunteer infantry, with Capt. George Malick, under Gen. John A. Logan; he served with his regiment through Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, participating in the battles of Raymond, Missionary Ridge, Black River and siege of Vicksburg. He was honorably discharged in June, 1863, having faithfully and fearlessly discharged his duty as a soldier, for which service he receives a pension of $12 per month. Politically he has always sustained the principles of the democratic party, and was honored by that party as early as 1846 with the offices of both tax assessor and township trustee, holding the offices for two years each; in 1856 he held the office of constable.

In 1844 Mr. Murphy was united in marriage to Nancy A. Porter, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1820. To this union have been born the following children, viz: Elizabeth, wife of Miller T. Leitner; Samuel A.; Jane J., wife of John McGraw; James; Mary, wife of Isaac Faurot; Sabina, wife of John Mullen, of Van Wert; Luther Vernon and Sarah, who reside at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Murphy are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, he having been an active member for thirty-four years, also deacon for twelve years. Mr. Murphy's home bears the mark of his many years of hard labor and excellent management. He now enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him and well deserves representation in this volume.

CURTIS A. NASH, one of the most successful young farmers of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Muskingum county, January 4, 1852, a son of Henry and Susan (Osmond) Nash. Henry Nash, father of our subject, was born in Hocking county, Ohio, in 1817, a son of Chester Nash, who was born about 1784, of either English or Scotch parentage, and was a settler of Hocking county, where he conducted a farm until his death in 1829.

Henry Nash, son of Chester and father of Curtis A., at the age of twelve years lost his father, and as a consequence the care of his mother devolved upon himself. In 1830 he took the family under his charge to Zanesville, Muskingum county, where he worked as an engineer until 1862, in which year he purchased a farm of 200 acres in Brown township, Paulding county, Ohio, which farm he drew from a wilderness and made compare with any in the county. In 1883 he disposed of this farm and removed to Green Springs, Seneca county, where he made his home for five years, but employed his time in travel, selling drugs and medicines. March 1, 1843, Henry Nash was united in matrimony with Miss Susie Osmond, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Jones) Osmond, and to this union were born five children, viz: George W., deceased; Mary L. who died in childhood; Malinda P., who is the wife of Joseph Shirley, of Paulding county; Curtis A., the subject of this sketch, and David, who died in March, 1884. Mrs. Susan Nash was born at Milton, Pa., September 5, 1811, and necessarily was proud of her father, who was a patriot of the Revolution that led to the independence of the United States. Her death took place April 20, 1872, holding her faith in the redeeming doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her husband still survives, but has unfortunately been deprived of eyesight, although his faculties, in every other respect, are perfect.

Curtis A. Nash attended an academy at Zanesville, Ohio, until he was ten years of age, where he went with his parents to Paulding county, where he was reared to agriculture, under his father's instructions, until twenty-one years of age. He then had the management of the home farm until 1883, with the exception of one year passed in Delaware county. In the year last named, he settled in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and now owns an excellent farm of 100 acres, a mile and a half from Van Wert. The marriage of Mr. Nash took place in 1872, to Miss Anna Crego, daughter of Charles and Eliza (Clark) Crego, natives of Maryland, but, at the time of the marriage of their daughter, residents of Delaware county, Ohio. To the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Nash have been born four children, named Minnie B., Eva M., Lillian I. and Wilmie R., the last named of whom died in 1892. As has been said before in this sketch, Mr. Nash is one of the prominent young farmers of his township, in which calling he has succeeded his own expectations. He is a close observer, a free thinker, and broad minded in all that pertains to his calling, and one that is always ready to accept instruction as to the best methods that lead to the best results. He and wife are both interested in matters educational, and their aim is to instruct and give their children every advantage within reach, as well as to aid in the morals and religious training of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Nash are most favorably known and highly esteemed citizens.

MORGAN MUMAUGH, an old resident of Van Wert county, is now a successful farmer on the line between Paulding and Van Wert counties, in Blue Creek township, Paulding county. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 29, 1819, a son of William and Sarah (Reese) Mumaugh. The father, William, was born in Pennsylvania in 1794, of German descent, being a son of Conrad, who was the first of the family to come to America, locating, first, in Pennsylvania, then moving to Montgomery county, Ohio, and finally to Fairfield county, where his death took place about 1830. Of his four children, William was the eldest, was reared to farming, and received his education in a frontier log schoolhouse. In 1817 he married Sarah Reese, who was born in Virginia in 1796, a daughter of Morris and Caracy Reese, and to this union were born eleven children, viz: John R., Morgan (our subject), Mary, Caracy, George (deceased), William, Morris C., Lewis, Isaac, Sarah and David. An adopted daughter, Mary A. Hubbart, was also reared by these kind-hearted couple. Morris Reese, father of Mrs. Mumaugh, was also a native of the Old Dominion, was of English descent, and was born in 1757, and about the year 1800 came to Fairfield county, Ohio, carrying his two daughters—Sarah and Caracy—on horseback, in a sack or pouch, similar in shape to a pair of saddle-bags. He was father of twelve children in all—John, Hannah, Mary, Thomas, Morris, Sarah, Caracy, Anna, Isaac, Gertie, Mary (second) and Lewis.

Morgan Mumaugh, our subject, was educated in a rude log school-house in Fairfield county, situated three and a half miles from the home of his childhood, to reach which he walked through the woods morning and evening, but this education was supplemented by attending the common schools of Allen county. He was brought up a farmer, and also learned the carpenter's trade. In 1842 he married Miss Mary J. McClure, daughter of Samuel and Margaret McClure, and born in Allen county, in 1822, of which county Samuel McClure was one of the earliest settlers, coming from Kentucky. To the union of Morgan and Mary J. Mumaugh were born twelve children in the following order: Nathaniel M., who was killed in the battle of Dallas, Ga., in the late Civil war; Flora, wife of Amos Smith, of Fairfield county; Sarah E., wife of George Raymond, of Modoc, Ind.; William P., of Omaha, Nebr.; Margaret E., wife of William Crosby, of Michigan; Lopez J., deceased; Charles M., of Omaha, Nebr.; Mary A.; John E., deceased; Morgan J., deceased; Gracie, wife of Walter Hine, of Chicago, and Samuel R., of Omaha, Nebr. The mother of these children was an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church and a sincere Christian, and died, much lamented, in 1873. The second marriage of Mr. Mumaugh took place April 24, 1881, to Nancy L. Oday, widow of James Oday and daughter of William S. and Mrrgaret (Lewis) Beaty. Mrs. Mumaugh was born in Franklin county, Ohio, her father being a native of Virginia, born in 1808, and a son of William S. Beaty, a Revolutionary soldier, of Irish descent, who died in Iowa in 1858, in his eighty-fifth year. Mrs. Nancy L. Mumaugh was first married, in her eighteenth year, to Mr. Oday, by whom she became the mother of nine children: Alice M., William S., Sarah, Maggie, Edward, John, Rebecca, G. Leone and Elkanah.

After marriage, Morgan Mumaugh bought a farm in Allen county, on which he lived until 1850, when he sold his place and came to Van Wert and embarked in the grocery business, but three years later relinquished this and was connected with the P., Ft. W. & C. railroad for a year; he then engaged in teaming in Van Wert county and continued this four years; in 1881 he sold out his business in Van Wert and moved to his present home, which he has cleared and improved and made one of the best farms in the county. About 1883 ill health compelled him to relinquish active farm duties, and now, at three score and ten years, he can look back with complacency on his long and useful career. In politics he is a stanch republican, and is one of the most honored residents of his vicinity.

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MORGAN MUMAUGH, Jr., an accomplished artisan in brass and iron, is a son of William and Rebecca (Sprigner) Mumaugh, and was born in Lima, Allen county, Ohio, September 20, 1860. He was educated in the common schools of his native city, and there also learned the molder's trade, being now an expert and a master workman. April 19, 1882, he was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Gallagher, daughter of Michael and Bridget Gallagher, natives of Ireland and residents of Allen county. Three children have been born to this union, viz.: Willie, May and Harry. Mrs. Mumaugh was born in Allen county, September 3, 1861, and educated in the common schools of Lima, and has been a life-long member of the Catholic church. Mr. Mumaugh is a member of the iron-molders' union of Lima, and few young men of his years stand in a more favorable light.

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WILLIAM H. NICODEMUS, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in the state of Maryland November 20, 1832, and when but five years of age was brought to Ohio by his father, who settled in Knox county. Isaac Nicodemus, the father of our subject, was also a native of Maryland, born in 1802, and followed various pursuits. He married Deborah Cassel, and to this union were born children in the following order: Mary Ann, wife of John Rice; Caroline Virginia, married to Samuel Bolinger; Clementina, now Mrs. James Birney; William H., the subject of this sketch; Phillip, now deceased; Elizabeth, wife of George Orwiler; John; Neville and Sarah Jane, all three of whom died in childhood, and Susan, wife of James Bethard.

William H. Nicodemus, the subject of this sketch, has has passed the greater part of his life in agricultural pursuits, but for fifteen years was successfully in saw-milling, being thoroughly practical in both vocations. June 5, 1856, he was united in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Torrence, daughter of Matthew and Julia (Hess) Torrence, of Crawford county Ohio. There have been born two children to this union, John Wellington, who married Miss Satalia Clippinger, and William Edgar, who wedded Miss Nannie McIlwain and became the father of one child—Fauna Fern.

July 23, 1863, William H. Nicodemus enlisted in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until July 5, 1865, when he was honorably discharged, the greater part of his term having been passed as steward at the quarters assigned to rebel prisoners at Camp Chase, Ohio. His brother Phillip Nicodemus, was also a soldier in the Rebellion, doing gallant service for over four years in the Thirteenth Iowa volunteer infantry. In politics W.H. Nicodemus is an ardent republican, and in 1883 was elected justice of the peace, which position he held twelve consecutive years, and it may be added, to his credit and honor, that not a judgment rendered by him during this long incumbency was ever reversed by a higher court. In their religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Nicodemus are firm believers in the doctrines of the Methodist

Episcopal church, and they show, by their daily walk through life, the sincerity of their belief. Socially the family of Mr. Nicodemus enjoy the respect of the entire community, and their well conducted lives justify to the full the esteem in which they are personally held.

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THOMAS NOBLE, now a well-known and leading real estate dealer and broker of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, May 23, 1843, a son of John and Ruth (Dicen) Noble. The father of John Noble, also a native of Yorkshire, was born in 1811, and in early youth was apprenticed to wire-drawing, a trade which he followed in England until 1844, when, with twelve companions, he came to America and entered the employ of Robert Cocker, and subsequently was superintendent of a wire-mill at Peekskill, N. Y.; he then took charge of the wire-mill of Hayden & Co., in Columbus, Ohio, and here made the first wire from American iron. Remaining in Columbus until 1860, he returned to New York and engaged in the same branch of business until his death, in 1890. He had been married, in England, to Miss Ruth Dicen, who became the mother of the following children: Elizabeth, wife of J. C. Coats, stone-carver of Albany, N. Y.; Judith, wife of William Greenalch, of New York city; Thomas, subject of this biography; John W., building contractor of the city of New York; Richard, deceased, and William, builder and contractor of New York. The mother of this family died in 1878. Both parents, in their religious faith, were Presbyterians and in his political predilections the father was a republican. He held the esteem of all who knew him and left behind a comfortable competence.

Thomas Noble, it will have been perceived, was but fourteen months of age when brought to the United States. He remained in New York until 1859, when he came to Ohio and attended school at Columbus until July, 1860, when he went to Miami county, where he was employed in manufacturing brooms and also in farm work until he married, August 22, 1863, Clementine Covault, who was born in Miami county, Ohio, July 23, 1842, a daughter of W. W. and Harriet (Harvey) Covault. The two children which resulted to Mr. and Mrs. Noble were named Henrietta, the wife of L. E. Gleason, and Minnie, at home. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Noble located in Cleveland, Ohio, and re-engaged in the manufacture of brooms until 1865, when he went to Mercer county, Ohio, where he was engaged in buying and shipping live stock until 1869, and then followed farming for a year in the same county; he next moved to Willshire, Ohio, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1875, when he moved to Van Wert and conducted a saloon until 1891; he then sold out his establishment, and has since been doing a large brokerage and real estate business—owning three business blocks and a half-interest in the Spencer Hotel property; he also owns 160 acres of farming land in this county and 145 acres in Mercer county. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Noble are Presbyterians, and in politics he is a democrat; fraternally he is a member of the A. O. U. W., and as a business man he bears a reputation without a blemish.

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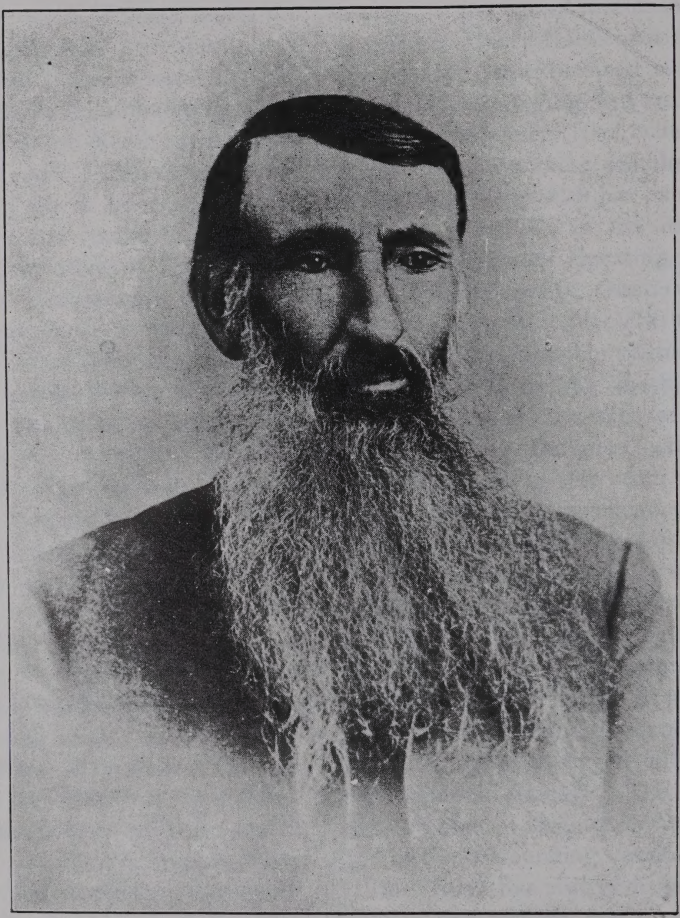
CHARLES HENRY NOELL, the popular manager of the drug store of F. P. Hill & Co., was born in Cumberland county, Pa., August 11, 1854. He is the only son of Edmund P. and Elizabeth (Heffelfinger) Noell, both natives of Pennsylvania. The latter was a native of Cumberland county, and of German descent, and the former of French Huguenot extraction.

Beginning with the grandfather of Mr. Noell, it may be stated of him that his name was Jacob Noell, the name "Noell" being the French name for Christmas. At the time of the massacre of Saint Bartholomew, in 1572, his ancestry fled to the German Palatinate, and from the Palatinate Jacob Noell emigrated to Baltimore, Md., in 1798. Thence he moved to York county, Pa., where he settled on the Susquehanna river and married Catherine Elizabeth Kreidler, a native of Tulpehocken, Berks county, Pa. In August, 1814, he marched as an independent volunteer to Baltimore, and on the 12th of September following he was shot by a British bullet, through the body from left to right, dying at length from the effects of the wound. Catherine Elizabeth Kreidler's father was named Daniel Kreidler. He was born in Tulpehocken, Pa., was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and died from the effects of exposure at Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778.

Edmund P. Noell, the son of Jacob, was reared in his native state, and when yet quite young married Miss Heffelfinger, who was reared to womanhood in her native county. To this marriage there were born seven children, one son and six daughters, as follows: Charles Henry, the subject of this sketch; Catherine; Emma, who died in infancy; Mary, Martha, Louisa S. and Annie C. Edmund P. Noell was put out to earn his own living when but ten years of age, and to a most cruel master. Hard work was his lot from the beginning, for when his father died, the means he left was soon expended in caring for his family. Though small of stature, he was a very active man and a man of great endurance. He and his wife were worthy members of the United Brethren church. During his early life Mr. Noell was a democrat in politic, but in later years became a republican. He was also a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity and exemplified the principles of that order in his every day life. He was born in 1817 and died in 1895, at the age of seventy-eight.

Charles Henry Noell was reared in his native county and received a good common-school education. He was reared to habits of activity and industry, and when eleven years of age began working on the farm by the month, remaining with his parents until 1876. He then started out in life empty handed to take care of himself, locating, at first, at Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio, where he found work in a drug store as clerk, the first year receiving only his board in payment for his services. After remaining in this position two years he resigned, and secured employment in a drug store in Defiance, where he also remained two years. He then removed to Van Wert, where he has since remained. Upon reaching the latter city he entered the employ of Hill & Wilson, and was with that firm five years, at the end of which time Mr. Wilson withdrew, and the firm then became F. P. Hill & Co., as it is at the present time—Mr. Noell, since the change of style in the firm, having been the manager of the business, which has by him been managed with great care and with abundant success. The firm controls a large amount of trade both in the city of Van and in the surrounding country.

Mr. Noell has always been a republican in politics, and cast his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the Blue lodge, chapter, council and commandery. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Noell was married September 10, 1884, to Miss Olive L. Miller, daughter of Peter H. Miller, deceased, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. One



SAMUEL NEEL,

DECEASED.

daughter has been born to bless this union, Sibyl Marie, born October 15, 1892. Few people anywhere are more sociable in disposition than are Mr. and Mrs. Noell. Their kind hearted and pleasant ways render both very popular, and each has a large circle of warm and admiring friends.

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SAMUEL NEEL, deceased, ex-sheriff of Van Wert county, Ohio, and ex-postmaster of Van Wert city, was born in county Down, Ireland, June 9. 1824, and at the age of five years was brought to America by his mother, who first located in Montreal, Canada, but later removed to Wheeling, W. Va., and then to Jefferson county, Ohio, where Samuel learned the blacksmith's trade under his brother, John Neel. He next moved to a point near Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, where he remained until 1849, when he joined the exodus to California caused by the discovery of gold, more, however, to explore the wild western country than with the hope of acquiring sudden and great wealth. This trip, which acquired many weeks' travel impaired his supposed iron constitution, and while on the Pacific slope he worked his way along under a load of sickness and proverty. He returned home by a route through Central America and from the gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi river to New Orleans.

It was in 1853 when he came to Van Wert county. In the early days he followed his trade, which doubtless had an influence in molding his strong will and emphatic character. He was elected county sheriff in 1857 and performed his official duties with diligence and fidelity. Under President Johnson's administration he was appointed special agent to take charge of the post-office on the failure of Waldo, who was the regular postmaster, in which capacity he served the public efficiently and honorably. His later life was devoted to farming, and it was he who introduced the Walter A. Woods farming machinery into Van Wert county.

Mr. Neel was twice married—first, at Mansfield, Ohio, to Miss Elsie Painter, a native of that city and a daughter of John Painter. To the union of Samuel and Elsie were born two children—John P. and Mary Alice, both now deceased. The mother of these died August 20, 1863, and the second marriage of Mr. Neel took place in 1869 to Mrs. Elizabeth Hammell, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, March 16, 1838, and is a daughter of O. P. and Eliza (Patterson) Clark. Mrs. Elizabeth Neel had been previously married to William Hammell, a farmer of Jefferson county, but later of Van Wert county, where he passed from life, leaving his widow with two children, viz: Alice, of Saint Louis, Mo., and Ida, wife of G. W. Tumbleson. by her second Mrs. Neel is likewise the mother of two children—Josiah Sibley, living with his mother, and Ora Marie, deceased. Mrs. Neel is a Presbyterian in her religious belief and devout in her observance of that faith. She and her son, Sibley, are the owners of a fine farm of 181 acres of arable land, of several residence lots in the city of Van Wert and also of considerable stock in the Natural Gas company.

Samuel Neel, during life, was also a pious Presbyterian in religion, and in politics was a stanch democrat. He was prominent as a Freemason, and the esteem in which he was held by the members of that ancient order may be expressed by a simple allusion to his final obsequies, which were held under the auspices of Shawnee commandery, No. 14, Knights Templar, of Lima, of which deceased was always an enthusiastic member. Rev. J. A. Gordon delivered a brief eulogy, reciting the historical points of interest in the life of the departed and giving the most prominent traits of his character. The commandery came to Van Wert in a special train and marched to the house, a mile west of town, in a body. There were thirty-three knights in line from Lima and Delphos and thirty-three from Van Wert, all under command of G. W. Van Rensselaer, E. C.; C. Holiday, G., and W. K. Bone, C. G. There were likewise seventy master Masons in line. At the house the impressive hymns, "Greenwood" and "Lead, Kindly Light," were sung, and at the cemetery, "Thou art Gone to the Grave, We Will not Deplore Thee." The funeral procession was very long, and no such assemblage was ever gathered in the cemetery as witnessed the burial service, all denoting the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

Josiah Sibley Neel, son of Samuel Neel, was born in the city of Van Wert January 23, 1872. He was reared on his father's farm and during his youthful days had the excellent advantages furnished by the Van Wert public schools. He has always been a very industrious young man, and at his father's death took charge of the farm, managing it with judgment and producing satisfactory results.

Mr. Neel was married October 30, 1895, to Miss Iowa McDonald, and he is now living on a fine ninety-acre farm of his own, which adjoins the city limits of Van Wert on the west. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity of high standing and is a knight templar, and in religious faith a Presbyterian. Miss Iowa McDonald, his wife, was born July 28, 1872, was reared in Van Wert, Ohio, and received her edacation in the public schools of that city, graduating from the high school May 27, 1891. After her graduation she taught school several terms with signal success. In religious faith she is a Lutheran and is in every respect a most estimable young woman, an ornament to society and has a host of friends.

DANIEL NORMAN, an ex-soldier of the Civil war and a retired business man of Middlepoint, Ohio, was born in Pickaway county October 12, 1827, and is of English origin. Our subject was a mere child when he lost his father, rereceived a common pioneer education, and at the age of twelve years came to Van Wert county with Daniel M. Beard, to whom he had been bound when a child until twenty-one years of age. Mr. Beard settled in Ridge township, on a farm, and with him our snbject remaimed until he reached his majority. At the age of thirty-five years, he enlisted in company H, Fifteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. T. S. Gilliland, for three years or during the war, served out his time, was honorably discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn., immediately veteranized in the same organization, and served until his final discharge, on account of the close of the war, at San Antonio, Tex., December 27, 1865, with the rank of corporal. He took an active part in the battles of Pittsburg Landing, Peach Tree Creek, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, the Atlanta campaign (where he was under fire for nearly three months), Dalton, Resaca, Buzzard's Roost, Pumpkinvine Creek, Lovejoy's Station, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, and Jonesboro; he was with Gen. Thomas in pursuit of Hood and took part at Columbia and in the two days' fight at Nashville, and in many skirmishes. He was fortunate in never having been taken prisoner, nor with ever meeting a casualty, although he was active in every engagement in which his regiment took part, excepting Stone River, when he was on a detail of three months as hospital nurse. It will thus be seen that Mr. Norman faithfully served his country for nearly five years, and has one of the longest martial records of any soldier of Van Wert county.

The marriage of Mr. Norman took place in

Van Wert county, March 25, 1852, to Miss Mary A. Smith, a daughter of George Smith of Illinois, this marriage resulting in the birth of four daughters—Mary J., Harriet A., Rose B. and Annie Viola. After he became of age, Mr. Norman learned the shoemaker's trade in Madison county, Ohio, and followed this calling for a long time at Middlepoint, coming here in 1865, after the war, to join his wife and family, who had settled here in 1864. He lost his first wife in 1869, and in 1870 chose as his second helpmate Priscilla Manship, and this union has been blessed by the birth of one child—Oleta M. In 1878 he engaged in the grocery business and was very successful, and is now the owner of a fine residence property, and stands very high in the esteem of the community. He and wife are members of the Methodist church, and live in harmony and peace with their neighbors and in accordance with the teachings of their faith. In politics Mr. Norman is a stanch republican and is a member of the Zeller Hamilton post, G. A. R. No. 260, at Middlepoint, in which he has held all the offices, or nearly all, except that of commander. He was one of those soldiers who was inspired with patriotism at the very incipiency of the war and never tired of battling for his country's flag until he saw it wave indisputably triumphant.

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JOHN W. NORRIS, senior member of the firm of Norris & Son, proprietors of the Crescent Steam laundry of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Harrison county, this state, and was born February 5, 1826. His parents, Nathaniel and Sarah (Todd) Norris, were born and were married in Maryland, from which state they came to Ohio in 1824 and settled in Harrison county, where the father engaged in farming until 1827, when the family removed to Seneca county, where the same vocation was followed until the father's decease. They were the parents of four children, viz: Thomas, of Paulding county, Ohio; Basil, deceased; John W., whose name opens this biography; and Lloyd, of Seneca county, Ohio. Nathaniel Norris, besides being an extensive and skillful agriculturist, owning and cultivating a half-section of fine land, was a successful veterinary surgeon. In politics he was a republican, although he came from a slave state, and in religion both he and wife were adherents of the Dunkard doctrine.

John W. Norris, at the age of twenty-one years, left the parental abode and for eighteen months worked his future father-in-law's farm. In 1852 he entered 132 acres of farming land in Putnam county, Ohio, which he made his home until 1861, when he sold his property and located in Kalida, in the same county, entered the ministry of the United Brethren church, and for four years was pastor of that circuit. In 1852 he was called to Van Wert to take charge of this pastorate, which he most acceptably filled until 1854, when he removed to Ridge township, Van Wert county, and re-engaged in farming until 1890, when he returned to this city and purchased the Crescent Steam laundry, which he has since been actively and successfully superintending.

John W. Norris, on March 29, 1849, formed a most auspicious matrimonial alliance, in Seneca county, Ohio, with Miss Harriet L. Morton, who was born in Bucks county, Pa., March 31, 1829. This young lady was the daughter of Evan Morton, the gentleman who owned the farm which was the scene of the early labor of Mr. Norris when he first entered on his business career at the age of twenty-one, alluded to above. The result of the union has been the birth of seven children: Andrew, Sylvester, Wesley and an unnamed infant, all deceased; Sylvanus, in business with his father;

Emma, at home; and Tally, wife of J. Williamson, of Van Wert.

Sylvanus Norris, son of Rev. John W. and the partner of his father in the proprietorship of the Crescent Steam laundry of Van Wert, was born July 2, 1851, in Seneca county, Ohio. He was educated in the union schools of Van Wert, and has always been an inmate of his father's house. He was married in Van Wert January 22, 1874, to Calista J. Tomlinson, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a republican. He has been effective in his aid to his father in conducting the laundry, which is well equipped with the most improved modern machinery and is capable of turning out results unsurpassed by any similar establishment in the state. The family all make their home together on North Market street.

* * *

ISAAC NORTH, an old and well known farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, and a native of Allen county, Ohio, was born October 22, 1837, a son of Thomas and Susannah (Stuckey) North. Isaac North, our subject, grew to manhood in the woods of Allen county, and on January 24, 1867, was married to Irean T., daughter of John and Catherine (Long) Campbell. John Campbell was a blacksmith by trade, and had drifted about the world considerably before he settled in Van Wert county, when Mrs. Irean T. North was but eleven years of age. The children born to John and Catherine Campbell were named as follows: Ann, who died in infancy; Mary, wife of John Steel, of Richland county, Ohio; Samuel, of Delphos, Ohio; Emeline, widow of Abram Hornley; John, of Van Wert; Jacob, who died, leaving a wife and five children; William, of Kansas; David, of the same state; Irean, wife of our subject; Ellen, wife of Joseph Gilbert, of Kansas, and Theodore, an artist of Van Wert. The death of John Campbell took place in December, 1872, and that of his wife occurred in 1869.

Isaac North made his first purchase of land in Ridge township in November, 1871, the tract consisting of twenty-seven acres, to which he added, in 1886, forty acres; he also inherited a part of the old homestead, and is now the owner of a totality of 106 acres. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac North were named as follows: Alice Ophelia, who died in infancy,; Mary Ellen, wife of Walter Conwell and mother of two sons, Elmer and Ora Isaac; Susan Catherine, who died in childhood; William Thomas, at home; Ada Bell, wife of William Glass, of Van Wert county, and mother of one daughter, Lulu L.; Nettie Lou; Minnie B.; Franklin Theodore; Pearl May and Bessie Hazel. The mother of this family is a member of the society of friends, and the father is in politics a republican. The home of Mr. North is neat and tidy in every respect and his farm surpasses in many respects any other of its size in the township, being most skillfully cultivated. In their social relations the North family holds an enviable position, and through their urbanity and charitableness and benevolence have won the esteem of the entire community.

* * *

DANIEL S. NORTH, an enlightened and prosperous farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of what is now Sugar Creek township, of Allen county, in the same state, and was born March 21, 1836, a son of Thomas and Susannah (Stuckey) North, wh were born natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, and the parents of eight children, as follows: Daniel S., our subject; Isaac; Ira, who was a soldier in the Twenty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry during the late Civil war; Matilda, deceased wife of Jacob Haines; Christian, who died in the service of his country, at the age of twenty years, being then in the same regiment with his brother Ira; Enos, who also lost his life in the war of the Rebellion, being then a member of the Forty-sixth Ohio infantry; Mary Margaret, who is the wife of William E. Ireland; and one child, the eighth, that died unnamed. Thomas North moved from Fairfield county to Allen county while yet a single man, and there followed his trade of tanning, which he had learned in Lancaster, Ohio, under Tunis Peters; he also owned eighty acres of land, which he sold on coming to Van Wert county, in March, 1856, and here bought 160 acres, which are yet held by his sons, Daniel, Isaac and Ira. Thomas North died in Ridge township, November 13, 1892, his wife having died in October, 1890, mourned by many friends.

Daniel S. North, being the eldest of the family above named, had charge of and worked on his father's farm, while the latter attended to his tanning interests. The first land owned by our subject was a tract of forty acres in York township, which he exchanged with his father for ten acres of the homestead in Ridge township, on which his father built him a dwelling. Our subject relates that when the family first came to Van Wert county, the only visible evidence of a predecessor was a roofless cabin, in which were growing saplings as thick as a man's thigh, and this land was cleared and converted into a farm by our subject and his brother, Isaac. In 1859, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Lettie Meeker, daughter of Lot and Margaret (Arnold) Meeker, to which union have been born the following children: Lucetta Jane, wife of George Fosnaught, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Loretta E., married to Andrew Harp, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio; John P.; Osa May, wife of Sheridan Bevington; Esther Alvetta, wife of Clark Ickes; Charles, who married Allie Flager; Susan Viola and Thomas F., at home. Mr. and Mrs. North are true christians and worship at the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics, Mr. North is a republican. He owns a finely-improved farm of 106 acres, and lives in the enjoyment of the respect and friendship of all his neighbors.

* * *

WILLIAM O'BRYANT, a prosperous farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Austin and Maria (Purkeypile) Bryant, natives of New England, and of colonial descent—the O' having been added to the surname by Austin Bryant in order to distinguish his family from other families of the same name, Bryant, in his neighborhood—although he was not an Irishman by birth. Mr. O'Bryant, as he called himself when a young man, came to Ohio and located in Jackson county, finally moving to Champaign county. Of his eight children five lived to maturity, viz: William, Delitha, Rebecca, Isaiah and Chauncy. Of these William and Isaiah are the sole survivors. Austin, himself, died in Champaign county.

William O'Bryant, our subject, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, April 21, 1836, and was but fifteen years of age at the death of his father, and the support of his mother, his own, and that of the younger children devolved upon himself, and he provided a home for his mother as long as she lived. August 18, 1861, Mr. O'Bryant enlisted at Camp Chase, Ohio, in company B, Twentieth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. John C. Fry, for three years or during the war, and served until honorably discharged for disability, caused by chronic diarrhea, November 25, 1862. He fought at Fort Donelson and at Shiloh, took part in many skirmishes and did a great deal of scouting duty, and did his duty well. On his return home he recuperated until May 2, 1864, when he enlisted in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Ohio infantry, under Capt. Jacob Kress, for 100 days, served 123 days and was honorably mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, August 31, 1864. His service was rendered between Pittsburg and Richmond, on patrol duty and on breastworks, and he was under fire for sixty-three days continuously, beside which he took part in several severe skirmishes. He was again attacked with his old ailment but would not go to hospital, and gallantly stood at the post of duty until the close of his term. On his return to Champaign county he was married May 16, 1865, to Miss Margaret Idle, daughter of Henry and Susanna (Roberts) Idle. Henry Idle was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and was a pioneer of Champaign county, Ohio, where he hewed from the forest a good farm of 100 acres. He had born to him, by his first wife, two children—Sarah and Mary—the latter dying in infancy; to his second marriage were born five children, viz: Joseph, Henry, Thomas, John and Elizabeth; to his third marriage, with Susanna Roberts, were born twelve children, viz: Jeremiah, Drusilla, Nancy, Harriet, Wesley, Eliza, Margaret, Ernestine, Daniel, Lavina, Phebe and Edward—the last named dying at the age of twenty-one years. The father of this numerous progeny died in Champaign county at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was a patriot in the war of 1812, a member of the Baptist church and an honest man, "the noblest work of God."

After marriage Mr. O'Bryant located in Hardin county, Ohio, later returned to Champaign, and in 1872 came to Van Wert, bought forty acres of this present place, deep in the woods, to which he has added, and has now a highly cultivated and profitable farm. Mr. and Mrs. O'Bryant have had born to them a family of six sons, viz: Seymour, Edward, Ellsworth, Alva, Harvey and James. In politics Mr. O'Bryant is a democrat. He was a good soldier, is a respected citizen and a sincere Christian.

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HUGH V. OLNEY, one of the large land owners of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Marion county, February 25, 1848, a son of Benjamin and Eliza J. (Smith) Olney. Benjamin Olney, a native of Marietta, Ohio, was born in 1818; a son of Gilbert Olney, a native of Nova Scotia, who for many years resided in Muskingum county, Ohio, but died in Wyandot county, the father of six children, viz: Hiram, Joel, Diana, Benjamin, Leroy J. and Sarah. The son, Benjamin, was reared in Marietta, and in 1838 went to Wyandot county, taught school a few years, then farmed until 1885, then passed three years in Van Wert, and then retired to Marion, Ohio. He was married, in 1846, to Miss Eliza J. Smith, who was born in Union county, Ohio, in 1826, a daughter of Hugh V. and Sarah (Crable) Smith, to which union were born five children, viz: An infant, deceased; Hugh V., our subject; Alice, deceased; Sarah and Elizabeth. Both parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The father is a republican, and for sixteen consecutive years served as a justice of the peace, and is also connected with the Marion Manufacturing company; he is recognized as a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, and he has amassed a comfortable fortune in real estate.

Hugh V. Olney, the subject of this sketch, lived on the farm with his parents until twenty-three years of age, when he engaged in the clothing business, in partnership with his uncle, Leroy J. Olney, at Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, for three years; he then moved to Marion, Ohio, and was employed at carpentering until 1877, and then re-entered the clothing trade at Van Wert, continuing therein until 1888, when he sold out and carried on a boot and shoe house until 1891, when he disposed of this business and has since devoted his attention to his landed interests in Pleasant, Washington, Hoaglin and Union townships, Van Wert county. He is a director in, and treasurer of, the Van Wert Hedge Fence company, and also owns the fine business block on Main street now occupied by Davies & Jones, clothing merchants, and Jones & Tudor, hardware dealers.

The marriage of Mr. Olney took place in Marion county, Ohio, September 26, 1871, to Miss Sarah O. Harvey, daughter of D. H. Harvey, and to this union have been born four children, named Clara, Edith (Mrs. Ed Doe), Myrtle and David K. Mr. and Mrs. Olney are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee; he has served two years in the common council, and was one of the building committee that had charge of the erection of the new city hall and the fire department building, and is also one of the water-works trustees. Fraternally he is a knight templar Mason, a member of the Royal Arcanum, and of the National Union. He is a man of fine personal appearance, and is very popular with the people of Van Wert and adjoining counties, and his business talents are far above the ordinary, rendering him capable of filling any position in life, public or otherwise, which he may choose to accept.

* * *

ANDREW B. OLIVER, a young and thriving farmer of York township of Van Wert county, was born in Butler county, Ohio, August 7, 1851, a son of Ellis and Jane (Breese) Oliver, both natives of Wales, who came to America in 1850, and on their voyage had the misfortune to lose their little daughter, Mary, aged two and a half years. The parents located first in Butler county, where they remianed until 1853, and then came to York township, Van Wert county, where the father entered the homestead now owned by our subject. Ellis Oliver was a man highly respected wherever known, but unfortunately died in 1863, from that dreaded disease, spotted fever. The estate left by this gentleman was earned by dint of hard labor, and came to our subject as the only heir.

On this farm Andrew B. Oliver grew to manhood; he received a fair education, and after the death of his father the responsibility of the care of the family rested upon his shoulders; but, young as he was, being a lad of twelve summers, he struggled manfully and eventually succeeded in developing one of the finest farms there is in the neighborhood. In 1871, Mr. Oliver married Sarah Coils, daughter of William and Catherine (Stabaugh) Coils, both now deceased.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Oliver engaged in the manufacture of lumber and for seven years operated a saw-mill in conjunction with farming. In partnership with C. R. Hiller, he was for two years also engaged in the manufacture of tile. Mr. Oliver, however, at one time met with quite a severe loss through the utter destruction of his mill by fire, yet, nothing daunted, immediately re-built and then sold to John Benson, but shortly afterward he and that gentleman formed a copartnership, and then engaged in operating a steam flouring-mill. After meeting with some trifling obstacles, Mr. Benson withdrew from the undertaking and a stock company was formed, the capital stock of which was valued at $10,000, which was purchased by the citizens of the vicinity, but it has finally merged into the hands of A. B. Oliver, W. C. Morgan, J. C.

George, Sallie George and Evan Morgan. Mr. Oliver, has charge of the engine room and gives a general oversight to the business, and much of the success of this enterprise is largely due to his forethought and executive ability. The company purchase large quantities of grain, which they manufacture into flour, and this product finds ready market, as it is a very popular brand in the vicinity where known. They also buy and ship large quantities of grain, are noted as fair dealers, and the firm at all times pay the highest market price.

Mr. Oliver is one of the well-to-do men of his township, owning a fine homestead of nearly 200 acres, which is well tilled, and, under his able supervision, is very productive. This property is the fruit largely of his own labor, and it is a compliment to Mr. Oliver when we notice the success he has obtained since becoming a citizen of Van Wert county. In political matters he affiliates with the prohibition party, and is a very active worker. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver are four in number, viz: Ellis Augustus, Minnie O., Reuben M. and Alta J. Mr. Oliver and wife are associated with the most respected residents of the county and are highly esteemed wherever known.

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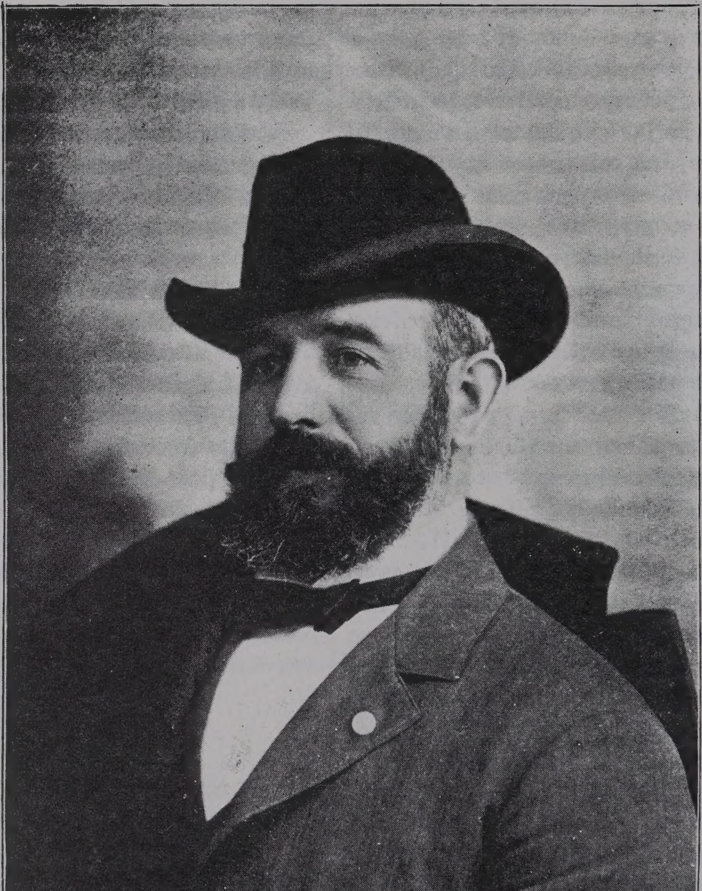
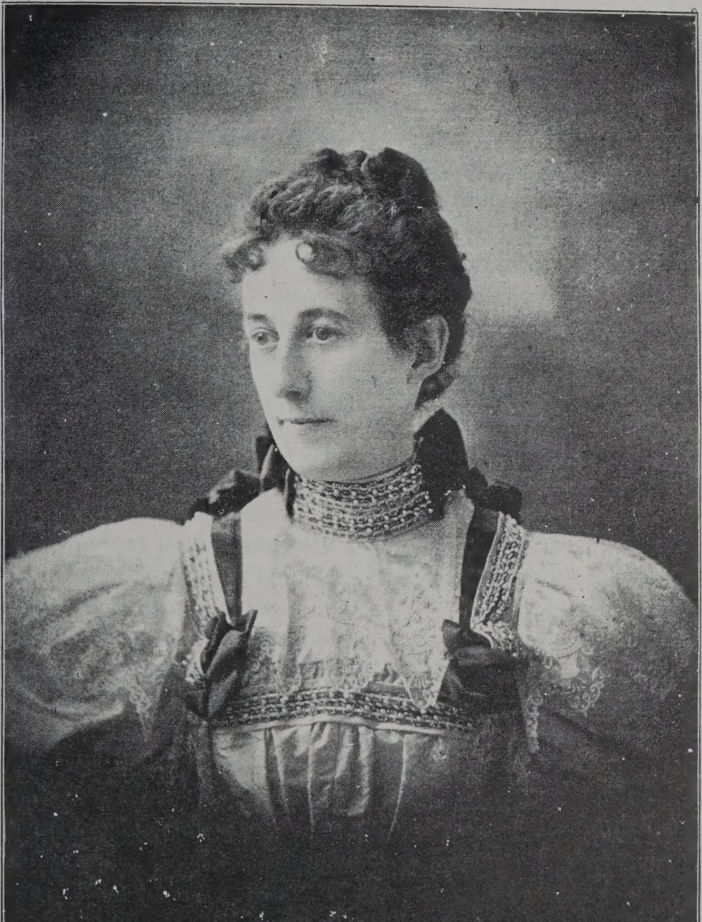
BENJAMIN OWENS, a farmer of prominence in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Richland county, Ohio, and was born October 24, 1851. His father, John Owens, was born January 9, 1809, in Fairfield county, and was a son of John Owens, a native of Ireland, who was married in Virginia to Miss Nancy Agnes Barr.

John Owens, the younger, was a small boy when taken to Richland county by his parents and in that county he was reared and educated. July 14, 1842, he married, in Ashland county, Sarah Whitmarsh, born January 5, 1824, in the county last named, and a daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda (Drum) Whitmarsh. Benjamin Whitmarsh was a native of New York, and his wife was of German extraction. After marriage John Owens and his wife resided in Richland county until February, 1852, when they came to Van Wert county and settled in Harrison township, on a farm of eighty acres, which Mr. Owens cleared up and afterward increased to 120 acres. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Owens were born seven children, viz: Nancy A., William, Sarah J., Benjamin, Rhoda S., John W. and Andrew. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, Mrs. Owens having joined when she was twenty-four years of age. In politics Mr. Owens was a democrat and filled several township offices.

Benjamin Owens has been a resident of Harrison township all his life, having been less than four months old when his parents settled here. He was reared to farming and now owns eighty acres of land in section No. 16, and this land he has fully developed and improved to the utmost. Mr. Owens, as did his father, affiliates with the democratic party, and is well known thoroughout Harrison and adjoining townships as a man of decided thought, integrity and usefulness. His eldest sister, Nancy A., is the wife of John McGill, a farmer of Adams county, Ind., and is the mother of seven children. William, eldest son of John Owens and eldest brother of Benjamin, is residing on the old homestead in Harrison township; Sarah J., the second daughter in the family, is married to Benjamin F. Bowers, of Pleasant township, and is the mother of seven children: Rhoda Owens, the youngest daughter of the family, is still under the parental roof; John W. Owens married Nancy Stites, and died in Harrison township March 25, 1894; Andrew Owens, the youngest of the



W J Semple



Reta Palmer Semple

family, married Della Kirkland, and is the father of one child. Rhoda Drum, the maternal grandmother of the above-named children, was a daughter of William and Amy (Adams) Drum—Amy Adams being a grand-daughter of John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States.

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D. J. OWENS, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, was born March 22, 1844, and is a son of Owen W. and Mary (Williams) Owens. In the year 1851 the family, including nine persons, came to America, the children living named as follows: Margaret, born in 1821, is now deceased; Eleanor, born in 1824, has also been called away; Elizabeth is the widow of John W. Hughes; John, deceased, was a farmer of York township; Hugh died in 1855; Owen died in Wales; William is also deceased; Thomas is a farmer of York township; and D. J. is the subject of this sketch. Owen W. Owens bought and settled on the land now occupied by our subject, where the father died in 1879, but his wife had preceded him to the grave in 1869, both members of the Welsh Presbyterian church.

D. J. Owens, our subject, attended school but two winters, and was chiefly self-educated; at the age of twenty-two years he was elected assessor of his township, and was re-elected four terms successively, serving in all four years, and about ten years as trustee. In 1874 he married Margaret Perry, daughter of John and Catherine (Roberts) Perry, and to this union have been born eleven children, viz: Owen W., in school at Chicago, Ill.; Annie, wife of T. T. Jones; Mary C.; Hugh J.; John P.; Maggie E.; Robert E.; William Oscar; David S.; Thomas Roger, and an infant who died unnamed. In politics Mr. Owens is a republican, is very popular throughout the township, and counts his friends by the score. In 1884 Mr. Owens was appointed commissioner for No. 1 pike, Venedocia precinct, and has control of the bonds issued until the completion of the pike.

Mr. Owens has been throughout life an industrious and skillful tiller of the soil, and the land originally purchased by his father has been so added to and manipulated that it is now one of the handsomest farms in the county, improved with every convenience that modern agricultural science can suggest, and kept well up to the standard of progressive tillage. As a citizen, Mr. Owen fully does his duty, and but few movements for the public good are set in motion in which he does not take an active part, or in aid of which he does not freely contribute.

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THE PALMER STONE QUARRY.—In the year 1874 Mr. Davis Johnson of Van Wert, having in charge certain lands belonging to the Misses Palmer, was having a ditch dug through section No. 4, Ridge township, and at a depth of three feet encountered stone, which, upon investigation, proved to be limestone, and, as at that time there was no stone quarry in Van Wert county, he proceeded to prospect around a little and found a spot close by, where the stone was only two feet from the surface. Miss Zaide Palmer at that time lived in San Francisco, Cal., and Mr. Johnson wrote to her the particulars of his discovery, and suggested that she come to Van Wert and consider the matter of opening a stone quarry. Miss Palmer, being of a rather enterprising nature and possessing good business ability, answered Mr. Johnson that she would come to Van Wert and investigate. Circumstances interfered, however, at this time, that delayed her coming east until the summer of 1875. When Miss Palmer arrived she quickly came to a decision in the matter, and in a short time made all preparations for opening a quarry. Ridge township, north of the Ridge road, was then known as the North woods, there being but a comparatively small amount of land cleared for farming, and in such a flat, marshy, ground, with few ditches, no tiling, and almost impassable roads for six months in the year, it seems, at this day, as if it must have been a discouraging venture, but Miss Palmer was one who found difficulties only to overcome them. Van Wert villiage being the principal market, she soon found that, to promptly fill the contracts for building stone, she must have a different method of transportation than hauling over the mud roads. She therefore quickly arranged for a right of way to build a tramway from the quarry direct to Van Wert, and in a short time the "Palmer Stone Quarry" was known all over Van Wert county.

Shortly after opening the quarry Miss Palmer had the stone tested to find if it was of a quality suitable for lime, and, such proving the case, she soon had lime kilns in operation. The quarry being now in good running order, she began clearing and improving the farm and making improvements that greatly benefited the entire locality. The quarry road from the quarry to the Ridge road, was entirely new, and as its condition affected the business of the quarry to a great extent, with characteristic enterprise and energy she proceeded to macadamize her right-of-way, running along the quarry road from the quarry to the Ridge road, or pike.

In the course of time the matter of improving the streets in Van Wert village was discussed, and in a short time the village council decided to macadamize Main street, and Miss Palmer, securing the contract, proceeded with the work, and although the stone was broken to the required size—by hand—the work was finished in such a manner as to call forth the commendations of the local newspapers and the people in general.

Before the contracts were awarded for the next street improvements Miss Palmer had purchased a No. 3 Gates stone crusher, and in the face of active competition secured the contracts, and in all work afterward done by the Palmer Stone Quarry no objection was ever raised as to its not being finished according to the specifications. To obtain the success which Miss Palmer did, meant work, and work of the hardest kind. Living for several years in the village, it was necessary for her to drive out to the quarry almost every day, four and one-half miles, morning and evening, in all kinds of weather; and, suffering the discomforts of such a marshy, ague-breeding locality, we cannot wonder that her health became impaired; consequently, in 1877, she was forced to give up her active business life and seek a change of climate, going east; where she remained most of the time until the summer of 1890, when she returned home, but not renewed in strength, and here remained until her death, which sad event occurred August 12, 1891.

Those who knew Miss Zaide Palmer, testify as to her worth. Gifted as a business woman, possessing a superior education, which included several of the languges, she enjoyed life as few enjoy it. Exact in all her dealings, yet most generous of heart and purse, never refusing to relieve the suffering, and always ready to assist in any work for the betterment of humanity, she was esteemed by all who knew her. So lived and died Zaide Palmer, held in loved remembrance by all with whom she was intimate and with kindly memories by those with whom she came in contact.

The Palmer Stone Quarry at present is owned Mrs. M. Reta Palmer Semple, a

Zaede Palmer

younger sister, who was married, in Philadelphia, Pa., to William J. Semple, June 15, 1893. Mr. Semple is a native of England, and since 1894 has had charge of the quarry and estate. He is a man of culture and refinement, and socially he and wife are very popular.

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PATRICK O'MARA, a citizen of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in 1849 in Ireland, and came to the United States with his father, who settled in the city of New York, where his three children were born. Patrick O'Mara early in life learned the trade of brass finisher, and worked at this trade in New York city with success for a couple of years, at the end of which time he removed to Charlotteville, in Schoharie county, N. Y., when he remained two years. From Charlotteville he went to Canada, and at length to Niagara Falls, where he became captain of a boat on the Welland canal, a very responsible position, which he filled with great success. From Niagara Falls he removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he became foreman in the yards of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad company, remaining there thus employed until 1881, when he came to Van Wert, and took charge of the section upon which he has been employed, as section boss, ever since, a period of fourteen years. That he is industrious and attentive to the interests of the company that employs him is evident from the confidence reposed in him, for no man can hold a responsible poistion for a long series of years unless he possesses the qualities mentioned.

Politically Mr. O'Mara is a democrat, and religiously he is a Catholic, maintaining membership in Saint Mary's Catholic church, of Van Wert. At Charlotteville, N. Y., Mr. O'Mara met and married Miss Elizabeth Lee, by whom he has five children, viz: Katie, born in 1874; John, born in 1876; Mamie, born in 1878; Ida, born in 1880; and Thomas, in 1889. Katie was born in Warsaw, N. Y., and is one of the most charming young ladies of Van Wert, clerking in the Progress dry-goods store; Mamie, born in Milan, Erie county, Ohio, also clerking in the Progress dry-goods store, is a bright and very promising young lady; John was born in Saint Catherine's, Canada, is now working with his father on the railroad, and is an industrious and excellent young man; Ida, born in Fort Wayne, Ind., is attending school in Van Wert, and Thomas, born in Van Wert, is also attending school in that city.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Lee) O'Mara was born September 25, 1856. Her father, John Lee, was born in Scotland. Farming was his occupation, and he was possessed of a goodly quantity of this world's goods. Coming to the United States when quite young, he landed in New York, and going thence to Charlotteville, he followed the occupation mentioned above, to which he was much devoted and at which he was more than ordinarily successful. He entered the army of the Union, but fortunately was never in battle, and in this connection it is proper to note that he was a second cousin of the great rebel commander, Gen. Robert E. Lee. John Lee was a pronounced democrat in his political convictions, and was a good Catholic, always faithful to his belief and to his church. At the age of nineteen he married Mis Mary Wesley of New York, by whom he became the father of ten children, viz: Charles, Elizabeth; Anna, Michael, John, Patrick, James, Thomas, Katie, and Mary. All of these children are living but one, Thomas, who died in 1877, while in attendance at college in Saint Louis, Mo. Both of the parents of Mrs. Lee are still living, comfortably situated in life. Elizabeth Lee, wife of the subject of this sketch, was born in Charlotteville, N. Y., and received a good education in the schools of that place. She was but sixteen years of age when she and Mr. O'Mara were married. She is a member of the Saint Mary's Catholic church of Van Wert, is true to her faith, and is a woman highly esteemed by all her friends and relatives, and also by the entire community.

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MICHAEL F. OSSING, deceased, a patriotic and industrious naturalized citizen of the United States, was born in Prussia, Germany, July 31, 1828. He was a son of Frederick Ossing, who was born about the year 1800, and was in his own country a successful farmer. Frederick Ossing was married in Prussia to Miss Sophia Axthelm, and together with his family, when he was in the prime of life, he emigrated to the United States, in 1834, landing in Baltimore and going direct from there to Marion county, Ohio, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1844. He was liberal in his thought and charitable in his dealings with his fellow-men, and was religious and conscientious in his every-day life. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and lived consistently with its moral precepts. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, viz: Ewald, Adelunda, Frederick, Michael F., Kuneyunde, Regina and Henrietta, all living but two, Ewald and Adelunda, who died in Germany—all the rest coming to the United States with their parents.

Michael F. Ossing was brought to the United States when he was between five and six years of age, and came with his parents to Marion county Ohio. Here, upon arriving at suitable age, he learned the trade of shingle-maker, at which he worked until 1864, when he enlisted in company A, Fifty-fourth regiment of Ohio troops. In this regiment he served until 1865, when he was discharged, and was for some years on the pension list of Uncle Sam. In politics Mr. Ossing was a democrat, and he was a member of the Saint Peter's Evangelical church of Van Wert. At his death, which occurred November 7, 1891, he left his family in moderate circumstances. In character he was a just and liberal man, doing by others as he wished to have them do by him.

Mr. Ossing was married, in 1857, to Miss Wilhelmina Geyer, who was born in Saxony August 1, 1837. Her father, Frederick Geyer, was a native of the same country, and was a successful tailor there. In 1834 he married Miss Eva Beyer, of the same country with himself, and in 1852 emigrated to the United States, landing in New York, and coming direct to Marion county, Ohio, where he remained for two years, and then came to Van Wert county, where he still resides on his farm. Politically he was a democrat, and religiously a member of the Evangelical church, being a member of Saint Peter's church of Van Wert. He and his wife, Eva, are the parents of nine children, as follows: Albertina, Albert, Wilhelmina, Edward, Ferninand, Charles, Robert, Mary and Theresa. All are living except Albert, who was killed while serving in the army of the Union, and Theresa. Edward, Ferdinand and Charles live in Indiana. To Michael F. Ossing and his wife, Wilhelmina, were born six children, viz: Albert, Edward, Caroline, Emma, Josephine, and Henrietta, all of whom are living in Van Wert. The two sons have trades, Albert being a carpenter and Edward a painter. The entire family are in good standing in the community and are highly respected by all who know them.

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HENRY POHLMANN, one of the well-known citizens and farmers of Van Wert county, Ohio, residing two miles and a half northwest from Delphos, in section No. 14, Washington township, is a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born in July, 1842. He is the son of

Mathias and Gertrude (Applebaum) Pohlmann, both natives of Hanover, where they were married. In 1843 they came to America and stopped first in Detroit, Mich., where they remained a few weeks. From Detroit, Mathias Pohlmann walked to Fort Jennings, Putnam county, where he found his old friend, Casper Geise. The same winter his family came to Fort Jennings, and when the digging the canal began he went to work on it, at which he continued for a year or two. He was a carpenter by occupation and did considerable work at his trade. Afterward he bought land in section No. 13, Washington township, Van Wert county, and then began farming, working at carpentering work also when there was work to do. He owned thirteen acres in section No. 23, and 120 acres in section No. 14, making his home in the first-named section. He was twice married, and had born to him two daughters by the first marriage, both of whom dead. By the second marriage he became the father of three sons, one of whom, Mathias, died when twelve years of age; the living sons are Henry and Casper. The parents were members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church, and in its faith the father died in 1888, and his wife died in 1893.

Henry Pohlmann was brought up on the farm, and was educated in the district schools and at Delphos. He remained on the farm with his parents until his marriage, and then moved to the farm of eighty acres where he now lives, which then belonged to his father, and after his death he received forty acres more, all in section No. 14. Since then he has purchased land as follows: Sixty-six acres in section No. 14; eighty acres in section No. 14; and sixty-five acres in section No. 11. Altogether he owns 331 acres, all but forty acres being improved. In 1873 he built his present two-story residence, which is one of the best in the neighborhood.

In 1870 Mr. Pohlmann was married to Elizabeth Kohlschmidt, daughter of Henry Kohlschmidt. She was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1851, and came to America when she was seventeen years old. To this union eleven children have been born, as follows: Mathias, married to the daughter of J. M. Geise; Gertrude, married to Frank Hotz, of Allen county; Mary, married to Ignatius Knoeble, of Van Wert county; Henry, Clara, Joseph, Leo, Frederick, Otto, Allie, and George. Mr. Pohlmann has served as school director and road supervisor. He is a member of the democratic party, and he and family are members of the Saint John's Roman Catholic church. Mr. Pohlmann is one of the thoroughgoing and benevolent citizens of Washington township, Van Wert county, and he and family are highly esteemed where known.

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CHARLES F. PETERS, one of the most substantial farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from one of the old colonial familes of Maryland and was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, July 6, 1860. His ancestors were early settlers of Baltimore, Md., and were engaged in mercantile business, and thence came Samuel Peters, the great-grandfather of our subject, who was a pioneer of Clear Creek township, Fairfield county, Ohio, where he cleared a farm from the wilderness and reared a family of thirteen children, who were named Henry, Nathan, Ebenezer, Stevenson, Robinson, Andy, Leah, Rachel, Mary, Samuel, Lewis and two whose names have lapsed from the memory of the present generation.

Robinson Peters, the grandfather of our subject, married Elizabeth Gallager, and by her became the father of five children, who were named Zebulon, Newton, Mary, Elvira and Jennie. The father of this family was a farmer of much consequence in his neighborhood and the owner of a large tract of land. He was also prominent in matters military, and died at the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

Newton Peters, son of Robinson Peters, and father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in September, 1829, was a well educated gentleman, having graduated from Greenfield academy and later becoming a school-teacher. He married Miss Lydia Eversole, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Miller) Eversole, settled on a farm, and reared the following children: Preston E., Charles F., Lizzie, Robinson J., Mattie, Clark and Jessie. In politics Newton Peters was a republican, and in religion he and his wife were strict Methodists. He has always taken great interest in matters educational, has given all his children good school training, and his son Clark is now a school-teacher in Van Wert county.

Charles F. Peters also received a good education, was thoroughly trained to agriculture, and March 23, 1887, married, in Fairfield county, Miss Nannie Trimble, who was there born September 13, 1861, a daughter of Thomas and Samantha (Hooker) Trimble—an old and prominent family of the county and parents of five children, viz: Joseph, Jennie, Elizabeth, William and Nannie. The father, Thomas Trimble, was a pioneer cattle dealer and drover of Fairfield county, and died, in 1861, one of its most respected citizens. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Peters lived in Lancaster, Ohio, for one year, and then, in April, 1888, came to Van Wert county and settled on 160 acres of land, which Newton Peters, the father of Charles F., had purchased in 1883. Here Charles F. has since been engaged in practicing farming, and his only child, Agnes, has been born. In politics Mr. Peters is a republican, and in religion he and wife stand high in the membership of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Peters has proven himself to be a skillful farmer and a useful citizen, and well worthy of the esteem which is reposed in him by his fellowmen. He is ever ready to lend a helping hand to the needy and never falls behind in his aid to movements designed for the promotion of the interests of the public in general. Upright in all his actions, with a name untarnished by the slighest stain, he walks through the paths of life with a genial smile on his face, shedding sunshine on all whom he meets.

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THOMAS DYDAMUS PRIDDY, one of the oldest living settlers of Van Wert county, Ohio, has been a resident of Washington township since 1835, having located here in April, of that year. He is a son of William and Eliza (Buttler) Priddy, of English and Irish origin and good old Virginia colonial descent, coming from an American family that ante-dated our Revolutionary war. The progenitor of the Priddy family in America was the great-grandfather of our subject, who had three sons, of whom one, John, the grandfather of the subject of this notice, settled in Ross county, Ohio, another located in Warren county, Ohio, and one remained in Virginia.

John Priddy, grandfather of Thomas D. Priddy, the gentleman whose name opens this biographical memoir, was born in the Old Dominion, was a patriot in the war of the Revolution, and was married in Greenbrier county (now in West Va.), to Martha Row, after which he came to Ohio, and, as hinted above, made his home in Ross county, but subsequently moved to Fayette county, where he cleared up a farm, and had borne a family of five children, viz: William, Elias, George, one that died young, and Lucy. John Priddy was a man of iron constitution, and in the fall of 1835, when seventy-nine years of age, rode horseback 130 miles, in company with his son George, to Van Wert county, and returned to Fayette county in the same manner. He was a good citizen and a pious christian, and died on his farm, in the faith of the Methodist church, between his eightieth and eighty-first year of mundane happiness and usefulness.

William Priddy, father of our subject, was also born in Greenbrier county, Va., his birth occurring in 1793, and was still a young man when he came to Ross county, Ohio, with his father. Here he married Eliza Buttler, of Delaware, a daughter of Benjamin Buttler, who came from Ireland, was four times married, was the father of fourteen children, and lived to the extreme age of 108 years. William Priddy was a soldier in the war of 1812, and from 1815 until November 29, 1832, resided on his farm in Fayette county and there entered land on the Auglaize river, in Putnam county, but by a change of boundaries this farm became a part of Marion township, Allen county; Mr. Priddy, however, never took possession of this land, as it was never thrown into market until after he had come to Van Wert county, in March, 1835, and entered eighty acres in Ridge and Washington townships, on the "ridge," on which he settled in April, building a log cabin in the woods and eventually clearing up a productive farm and increasing it to 160 acres. To the marriage of William Priddy and wife were born eight children, as follows: S. W., A. T., Thomas D., Mary A., Martha J., John N., Elizabeth S. and William B., the sons growing up to assist in clearing away the forest, and in hunting the deer, bear and other wild game that reigned in the umbrageous groves of that early day. Mr. Priddy was a Methodist in religion and in politics a whig, and died in 1848 at the age of about fifty-five years.

Thomas D. Priddy, the subject of this biographical memoir, was born in Fayette county Ohio, August 18, 1820, and was about fifteen years of age when brought by his father to Van Wert county, where he grew up among the old pioneers, and where he has witnessed the wonderful transformations that have taken place between then and now—then having wild game and corn dodger or hoe cake for his daily food and the log cabin for a shelter, but now viands fit for a prince and a dwelling no gentleman in the land need be ashamed of to abide in—all earned by the exercise of the strong muscles of his good sturdy arms. He had received a slight education in Fayette county, which was supplemented by a further attendance at the schools of Van Wert county until he reached the age of eighteen years. In 1835 Mr. Priddy and his father erected the first round-log house in Van Wert for the proprietors of the town—George Marsh, Peter Puterpaugh and James Riley—and then continued at the work of improving the home farm; and the farm, township and county, indeed, owe much of their development to the strenuous efforts of Mr. Priddy. April 18, 1843, Mr. Priddy married, in Van Wert county, Miss Caroline DeCamp, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, February 21, 1822, a daughter of John and Hannah (Springer) DeCamp, who settled in Ridge township, Van Wert county, in 1841. The father of Mrs. Priddy was a blacksmith, was a pioneer of Van Wert county, and died about 1850, the father of ten children. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Priddy settled on the home farm, which he increased in a short time to 206 acres, improved in a most excellent manner, and by half a century's attention has made it what it is—the nonpareil of the township. To their marriage were born two children—S. N. E. and Emerson. The elder, S. N. E., is in the oil business in Findlay, and Emerson is a lawyer of some prominence in

Tiffin, Ohio, although most of his time is spent in the oil business.

In 1847 occurred the death of Mrs. Caroline Priddy, and in 1852 Mr. Priddy married Mrs. Lucinda Pangle, a daughter of Thomas and Millie Cochran and born in Franklin county, Ohio. Thomas Cochran was an old settler of Allen county, Ohio, with his wife was a member of the Methodist church, and in his day was a man of considerable consequence. This second union of Mr. Priddy was blessed with fonrteen children, of whom nine lived to years of maturity, viz: Millie J., Lucy A., Ann M., John L., Charles F., Lester Bliss, Edward H., Watson H. and Josie. The second Mrs. Priddy died August 4, 1892, also a member of the Methodist church, and in 1895 Mr. Priddy married Mrs. Julia A. Packham, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 13, 1837, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Vickers) Martin, pioneers of that county. Mrs. Priddy is an ardent member of the Methodist church and Mr. Priddy has long been an advocate of the cause of temperance. He votes with the republican party, and his eldest son was a soldier in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry during the late war, serving three years. Mr. Priddy has been a very prominent and popular man in his day and has been honored with several local offices, which he really never sought, but which he filled from a sense of duty as a citizen—every duty as such being cheerfully undertaken by him and faithfully performed when called upon. In the spring of 1894 he announced his name as a candidate for congress, and made a most favorable race, being one of the leading candidates until the fourth ballot was taken, at which time Mr. U. H. Hester, of Van Wert, announced his name, taking with him sixteen of the delegates from Van Wert county, which showed to him a treacherous move on the part of some of his would-be friends, and there was a shifting of votes from other counties as well, which he did not approve of; thus he withdrew his name and bid adue to political life. Mr. Priddy has been a prominent factor in home politics from the early pioneer days of Van Wert county up to the present time, and by his manly and most honorable life has won for himself and maintained a most enviable position in the esteem of the residents of his township and county, and one seldom attained by the ordinary inhabitant.

Mr. Priddy, late in the fall of 1895, forsook his country home and retired to a most pleasant and comfortable residence in the town of Middlepoint, where he expects to enjoy the fruits of his earlier life. He was for many years a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church and rode the circuit for four years; of late years, however, he has withdrawn from active church work, owing to the position taken by some of its leading ministers toward the temperance question, he having been suspended by them for charging one of the leading members with frequenting saloons, which charges were fully sustained by him, but which the church failed to recognize.

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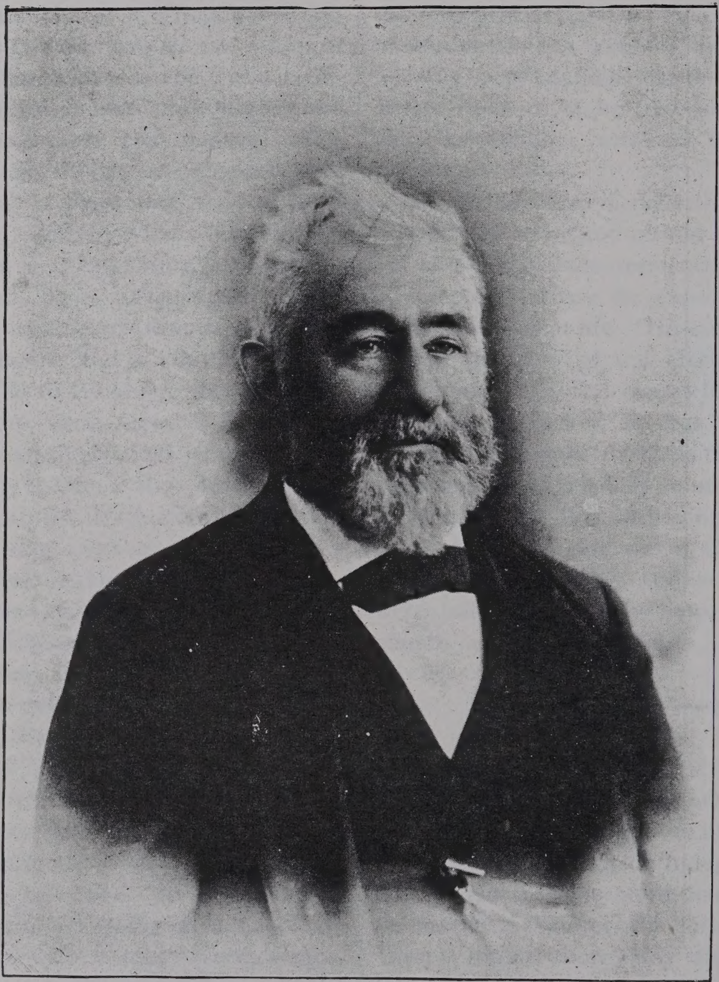
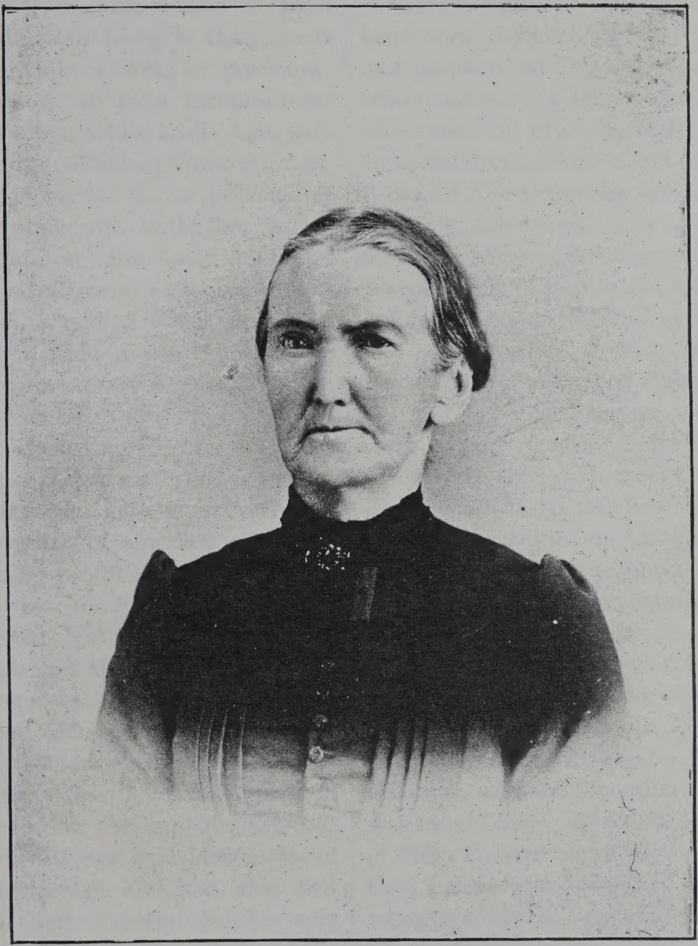
SETH PAINTER, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the state and was born in Columbiana county on Independence day, in 1822. His parents were Samuel and Mary (Hendricks) Painter, the former a native of West Virginia, born May 28, 1794, and the latter a native of Mauch Chunk, Pa., born December 12, 1793. They were married in Columbiana county, Ohio, where Samuel Painter afterward carried on farming until his death, July 29, 1851, his widow surviving until June 1, 1874. Their children were born in the following order: Nathan, who died in in-



SETH PAINTER.



MRS. SETH PAINTER.

fancy; Lorenzo, who accumulated great wealth and died in California at the age of seventy-two years; Stephen, who died aged twenty-four years; Seth, our subject; Louisa, widow, first, of John Thompson to whom she bore three children, and secondly, widow of John Marshall—Mrs. Marshall living at the present with her daughter, Mrs. Harris, in Pittsburg, Pa.; Lucinda, widow of John Grimmessey, and residing in Warren, Ohio; Lydia Ann, wife of Robert Grimmessey, of Salem, Ohio; Samuel, who died in Salisbury, N. C., a prisoner of war; Mary and Susan, who both died in infancy. Orris Painter, the only child of Stephen, mentioned above as one of the sons of Samuel Painter, was also made captive in the war and died in Libby prison, after having endured all the torments of hunger usual in the rebel prison dens.

Seth Painter, whose name opens this biography, passed his early life on his father's farm, and was an attendant at the subscription school till twelve years of age, and then, the district schools being established, he attended the latter until he reached his majority. June 12, 1845, he wedded Miss Margaret Lyman, daughter of James and Margaret Lyman, the former of whom was a native of England, and the latter, whose maiden name was Toole, a native of county Kildare, Ireland. James Lyman was for thirty-one years a sailor, and died in New Orleans at the age of sixty-four years, an American citizen; his widow survived until eighty-seven years of age, and also died in New Orleans. Seth Painter and his wife came to their present home in York township in June, 1849. The land had previously been entered by his father, Samuel, during the administration of Martin Van Buren, the original tract consisting of 333 acres, which his father divided equally among his three sons. The land was an utter wilderness, with no evidence of ever having been invaded by a white man, with the exception of a tree cut either by a coon-hunter or the wild honey-bee hunter. The whole tract of 333 acres eventually came into the possession of our subject, and this he increased, by purchase, to 488 acres.

To the union of Seth Painter and wife have been born eight children, as follows: Clarke and Stephen, who died in childhood; Samuel, who resides on a farm near his father's, and who married Priscilla Rank, who bore him eight children; Mary Ellen and Francis, both deceased; John, who also resides near his father, who was first married to Jennie Rigdon and secondly to Olive Roberts; Annie is the wife of Joseph Wollam, and is the mother of one child—Grace; Lucy is married to Milton Roberts, and is the mother of three children—Glenn, Viola and Amber. The children born to Samuel and Priscilla Painter, alluded to above, were named Guerney, Lulu, Seth, Minnie (deceased), Harry, Horace, Otto, and one that died unnamed; to the first marriage of John Painter was born one child, Russell, and the children born to his second marriage were four in number and were named Mabel, Pearl, Velma, and Emma.

In church matters our subject is a member of the Society of Friends, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; in educational matters he has always been foremost, and the second school in the district was taught in a cabin built by him for the use of Mrs. Painter as a kitchen. The name of Seth Painter is a household name in Van Wert county, while his splendid farm has a charm for and is the delight of every passer-by. His influence is felt everywhere, and every enterprise of merit bears the impress of his touch. Mrs. Painter says the change in the moral conduct of the inhabitants of York township since her coming here has been wonderful, and instead of hunting and carousing on Sunday the people now attend church.

MATTHEW A. PARLETT, of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., October 16, 1846, a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Tauser) Parlett. While living in Pennsylvania Philip Parlett was manager of a blast furnace, but in 1856 brought his wife and six children to Ohio, two of his sons, William and George, having preceded him a year or more. The children, besides Matthew A., who came with the father, were named Daniel, David H. (deceased) and Margaret (wife of Charles Emerine). The family first located in Champaign county, but in 1858 removed to Wyandot county, where the death of the mother took place in 1859, and that of the father in 1863. The latter had been a soldier in the Eighty-second Ohio infantry during the recent war, and there contracted a disorder which was the radical cause of his death.

Matthew A. Parlett passed his life on the farm until he reached his sixteenth year, when he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-sixth Ohio infantry, for three years, and took part in the battles of Port Republic, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville; was next at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and, indeed, was with his regiment in all its marches and engagements until his discharge, August 15, 1865, at Louisville, Ky., having served three years and eleven months. July 2, 1868, Mr. Parlett was first married, his bride being Miss Jennie Graham, who bore him three children, viz: Ollie, wife of Douglas Longbrake, of Hardin county, Ohio; John Wesley, at home, and Nelson, deceased. The mother died May 29, 1878, and November 24 of the same year Mr. Parlett married Caroline McCleary, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Todd) McCleary, natives of Pennsylvania and parents of four children, viz: Charlotte, wife of Israel Gibbs, of Pennsylvania; Caroline, Mrs. Parlett; Jennie, wife of John Sophield, of Wyandot county, Ohio, and William, of Van Wert county. Mr. and Mrs. McCleary were early settlers of Wyandot county and there ended their days—the father dying in 1862, from disease contracted in the late war, and the mother dying April 26, 1873. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. (McCleary) Parlett are six in number, and are named May Elizabeth, Ralph A, Lela May, Clara Guella, Ethel and Nora Blanche. Mr. and Mrs. Parlett are consistent members of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Parlett is an ardent republican. Matthew A. Parlett, our subject, came to Van Wert county in February, 1882, and located on his present farm of eighty acres in Ridge township, having previously purchased the place. Since his residence here he has made many friends, and is fully recognized as a model farmer and useful citizen.

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HENRY PRICE, a stationary engineer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born October 28, 1838, and is a son of Amos Price, who was born in Montgomery county, Pa., in October, 1808. By trade Amos Price was a stone-mason, but for many years, instead of working at his trade, he was a contractor on railroad building. In 1829 he married Miss Sarah Bergy, and in 1845 removed to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was also engaged in contracting. Remaining in Montgomery county until 1862, he removed to Van Wert county, where he gave up contracting for the reason that the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company owed him a good deal of money. For some years he then lived retired from active business of any kind, except that he lived on a farm and did a little work on that property. There he lived till his death, which occurred in 1882.

He was a man of unusual ability and energy and amassed a considerable fortune. At the time of the Philadelphia riots in 1843 he was a member of the militia and aided in suppressing the disturbance. He was a firm republican in politics, and a true believer in the German Baptist or Dunkard faith. He was a man that gave freely of his means, and was very popular with all classes of people. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: John, James, Elizabeth, Margaret, Henry, Amos, Sarah, Daniel and Caroline, nine in number, and of these, Daniel, while serving in the army, was wounded in the battle of Lookout Mountain, was taken prisoner, and was never heard of again; John is living in Van Wert; James died in August, 1862; Elizabeth and Margaret died in Celina; Amos is living in Van Wert; Sarah in Paulding county, and Caroline is living in Van Wert county.

Henry Price, the subject of this sketch, was born in Montgomery county, Pa., and at an early age learned the trade of a turner. Soon afterward, however, he learned engineering and in 1868 removed to Celina, Ohio, where he was engaged for nine years as stationary engineer. In 1877 he removed to Van Wert and has been similarly engaged ever since. He has always been noted for his honest, straightforward way of transacting his business and of treating his fellow-men. He is popular everywhere and has many good, warm friends. In politics he is a republican, and in religion a member of the Methodist church. He is now in very comfortable circumstances and lives a quiet, unobtrusive life, with his family in his beautiful little home in the city of Van Wert.

Mr. Price was married April 7, 1862, to Miss Hattie Hawn, by whom he has had the following children: Amanda, born in 1862; Mattie, born in 1864; Emma, born in 1867; Charles, born in 1877; Lulu, born in 1878; May, born in 1879; Ida, born in 1880, and Nora, born in 1881. Beside these, there was one child that died in infancy. Mrs. Hattie (Hawn) Price is a daughter of George W. Hawn, who was born in Cincinnati September 14, 1812. He was by trade and by life-long occupation a painter, and met with most gratifying success. He was married February 17, 1834, to Miss Mary Martin, by whom he had four children, as follows: Sarah, born September 4, 1835; Walter, born March 25, 1837; George, born March 15, 1840, and Hattie, born September 24, 1843.

The ancestry of Mr. Price, it may be said in closing this brief sketch, were among the nobility of Italy. His great-great-grandfather was a very wealthy man, and was banished from his native country to England because he was a strong and persistent advocate of the people's rights. From England he emigrated to the United States, where after some years he died.

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ASA POLLOCK, an old and well known citizen of Jennings township, and a representative of one of the pioneer families of Van Wert county, is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Graham) Pollock, and dates his birth on the 24th day of September, 1823. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, but became residents of Ohio as early as 1812, settling in Columbiana county, where they reared a family, the names of their children being as follows: William, died in 1894; John, deceased; Mary, deceased wife of John Hyer; Nelson, deceased; Robert; Asa; Jane, deceased, wife of Josiah Wolford; Elizabeth, deceased; Martha, deceased; Harris P., killed at the battle of Lookout Mountain; James, who died in childhood; Ellen, deceased wife of William Lindsey.

Thomas Pollock and family moved to the county of Van Wert, in 1838, locating in what is now Ridge township, the country at that time being a comparative wilderness. Mr.

Pollock built the first court house and jail in Van Wert, and it is a fact worthy of note that the subject of this sketch, then a boy in his 'teens, did the cooking for the builders. It is stated, as a matter of historical interest, that the first two occupants of the jail were John Myers and Samuel Mattocks, who usually remained in their cells during the day and rambled at will through the village and country of nights. There were few roads at that time in the country, and the subject relates that deer, wild turkeys and other kinds of game were plentiful, and formed much of the diet of the early settlers. Thomas Pollock died in November, 1865, his wife in 1868.

Asa Pollock was born in Columbiana county, spent his boyhood at farm labor, and ended his school days at the early age of twelve years. It might be said that he literally grew up with ax in hand, and he assisted in felling the forest on his father's place in Van Wert county, performing a man's labor when but a lad, and learning the lessons of industry for which he has since been noted. He is proud of the fact that his parents were godly people, and they failed not to instruct him in his duties to his Maker and his fellow man.

Mr. Pollock was married, in 1853, to Mary Leathers, daughter of Christian and Catherine Leathers, the issue of which union is as follows: John, who died in early childhood; Alfretta, wife of Jacob Turner; Ellen, wife of Jacob Dibert; Abraham L., married to Amanda Zeigler; Allen B.; Katie, wife of John Wilcox; Hugh G., who married May Norman; Lewis Otto, married to Daisy Williams; William H.; Charley, who died in infancy, and Jesse.

Mr. Pollock can truthfully say that he earned every dollar that he possesses, and he is now the owner of 220 acres of valuable land in the townships of Jennings and Washington. He has served as trustee of his township four terms and discharged the duties of the office in a highly satisfactory manner. Mr. Pollock is a Presbyterian in his religious belief, while his wife subscribes to the creed of the Lutheran church.

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THOMAS POLLOCK, an agriculturist of the modern school, and consequently progressive, was born in Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, July 9, 1858, and here he still makes his home. His parents, Robert and Elizabeth (Sutton) Pollock, were also natives of the Buckeye state, and settled in what is now Ridge township, Van Wert county, in 1838, Thomas Pollock, the father of Robert, having entered, some years previously, 160 acres in the wilds of Washington township, the farm being later merged with Ridge. Robert Pollock followed farmer all his active days, with the exception of two years, when he held the office of county treasurer under the auspices of the democratic party, of which he was an adherent. To Robert and Elizabeth Pollock were born beside Thomas, our subject, two children, viz: Samuel, who reached the age of thirty-six years, and Ella, now the wife of Aaron Zeigler, of Adams county, Ind. Robert Pollock died November 13, 1888, and was deeply mourned by a host of sincere friends, who had honored him for the upright and useful life he had led, and loved him for his benevolent disposition and gentle manners.

Thomas Pollock, beside his agricultural training, enjoyed excellent school advantages in his native township, also attended a commercial college at Delaware, Ohio, October 14, 1884. He wedded Ida McMillan, daughter of Jackson and Harriet (Gilliland) McMillan. Mrs. Ida Pollock is an accomplished lady and an excellent scholar, having been a school-teacher in Van Wert prior to her marriage. To the congenial union of Thomas and Ida

Pollock have been born four bright children, who have been named Walter, Robbie, Nellie and Gordon. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Pollock cling to the faith of our subject's parents—that of the Presbyterian church; in his fraternal affiliations, Mr. Pollock is a Knight of Pythias, and is a charter member of the Normal lodge, No. 640, at Middlepoint; in his political views he follows the teachings of his father, who, as will have been seen, was a democrat. As a farmer, Mr. Pollock has been progressive and has kept himself well abreast of the improved and advanced position which agriculture now holds in the industries of the world, and this vocation he has made a life-long study and the labor of his hands since a boy, with the exception of the period passed as an assistant to his father in the county treasurer's office. He is now the owner of 120 acres of well improved land, that will compare favorably with any tract of equal size in the county, and he stands as high in the social ranks of his township as he does in the rank of his agricultural associates.

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**JOHN E. PRICHARD**, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, was born August 30, 1868, a son of John and Elizabeth (Evans) Prichard, both natives of Wales. About 1845 the parents came to America, and when landing in New York the father found himself without a dollar. He succeeded, however, in borrowing enough money, of D. O. Evans, to carry him to Cincinnati, Mr. Evans accompaning him. There, Mr. Prichard engaged in boiler-making, after having passed through a severe spell of sickness, his faithful wife keeping vigil at the bedside, binding shoes in order to keep the wolf from the door. The father worked in Cincinnati for twenty years, laying aside a little money, and then came to Van Wert county and purchased eighty acres of land, now vested in the name of our subject, J. E. Prichard. In 1859 John Prichard brought his family to his pioneer home, employed a carpenter by the name of Russell to put a cover on his unfinished cabin and to assist in hewing out the puncheon floor; here he resided until his death, which occurred in March, 1881, at the age of fifty-nine years; his wife survived until March 11, 1892; they were the parents of ten children, viz: Richard, who died in Wales in infancy; Ann, the wife of John Bevington; John E., our subject; Jane, deceased; George, a farmer of York township; Elizabeth, deceased wife of John Jones; Richard, on the old home place; William, of York township; Jennie, wife of Thomas Hughes, and Mary Jane, who died in infancy.

John Prichard spent his boyhood days on the farm assisting his father, having but few if any school advantages. October 15, 1873, he married Mary Elizabeth Culver, a daughter of Cummings and Melchoir (Heath) Culver, the former a native of New York state. They became the parents of the following children: Nancy Jane, wife of William Coe, of Findlay, Ohio; Franklin, of Upper Sandusky; John, Ozias, William and Asel, all of Upper Sandusky, and Ebenezer, who resides with his uncle, William Heath. At the age of ten years Mrs. Prichard lost her mother, and Mr. Culver, her father, married Catherine Meyers, and after her death Mr. Culver married the Widow Stoneburnner. To Mr. Prichard and wife have been born two children, Nannie, an accomplished young lady who has taught school for three years, and William, who aids his father on the farm. Mr. Prichard owns a handsome farm of 120 acres having "taken it from the stump." His farm is now adorned with fine buildings and is thoroughly improved in all respects; Mr. Prichard has held the office of township trustee since 1890, and also served as a member of the board of school directors.

He is recognized as an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, whose word has never been violated and whose thrift is proverbial throughout the township.

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JOHN RAHRIG, a wealthy and old-time farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Alsace, Germany, April 1, 1825. His father, Philip Rahrig, was born in the same Franco-German province in 1797, was a weaver, and by his first marriage became the father of three children—George, Philip and John. In 1830 the father and his family sailed for America, but on the voyage the wife was confined with child and died, and she and the new-born infant were buried in the deep, deep sea.

On landing in Baltimore, Philip Rahrig had only two five-franc pieces, which he paid to a teamster for hauling himself and children to the country where he had secured employment among the Pennsylvania-Dutch then settled thereabout. Shortly afterward he went to Franklin county, Pa., worked there five years, and then came to Ohio, locating in Seneca county, bringing with him his second wife, whom he married in Pennsylvania and who bore the maiden name of Mary A. Myers, a daughter of Michael Myers, a native of Alsace. To this union were born seven children, viz: Elizabeth, Michael, Joseph, Jacob, Peter, Patrick and Barbara. Mr. Rahrig cleared up forty acres in Seneca county, on which he lived until about 1865 or 1866, when he moved to Allen county, bought 160 acres in the woods in section No. 11, Marion township, and made a good farm, and when years came on apace he retired to Landeck, where he died at the residence of his son, Joseph, in 1888, at the extreme age of ninety-one years and three months, in the faith of the Catholic church.

John Rahrig, our subject, was but five years old when brought to America by his father, and was reared to farming in Pennsylvania and Seneca county, Ohio, and in December, 1848, came to Van Wert county and entered forty acres in the woods of Jennings township—a part of the farm on which he still lives. He then returned to Seneca county, where he married, September 7, 1851, Miss Barbara Bockey, who was born November 4, 1831. The marriage of John and Margaret (Simons) Bockey resulted in the birth of six children, viz: Joseph, Mary, August, Elizabeth, Barbara and Matthias. In 1852 Mr. Rahrig made a trip to California, via New Orleans and Panama, to San Francisco, worked in the mines and returned with some gold. In 1854 he settled on his present farm, built a log cabin, cleared up the place, increased his possessions to 240 acres, improved it throughout, and made it one of the best farms in the county.

Mr. Rahrig lost his wife in 1868; she was yet a comparatively young woman, dying at about the age of thirty-six years, a devout member of the Catholic church. In 1870 Mr. Rahrig secured, as his second helpmate, Antoinette Deming, a native of Germany, who bore four children—Thomas, Frank, Lena and Rose—and died in 1878, also in the Catholic faith. Mr. Rahrig's third marriage took place January 17, 1885, to Mrs. Mary A. Williams, widow of Michael Williams. This lady was born in Germany December 19, 1832, a daughter of Matthias and Margaret (Wiker) Frankert, the father being an old settler of Seneca county, Ohio, where he owned a good farm, on which he ended his days, a devout Catholic and the father of seven children—Jane, Nicholas, Mary, Marion, John, John Nicholas and Katie. Mrs. Rahrig, by her first marriage, was the mother of nine children, all of whom lived to maturity, viz: Tillie, Margaret, John, Jacob, Peter, Mary, Katie, Emma and Michael. Mr. Rahrig has acted as councilman in the Catholic church for twelve years, and assisted to build the first church belonging to that denomination in Landeck, of which his wife is equally a faithful member as himself. Mr. Rahrig was also among the first to start the movement that resulted in the erection of the present Catholic church in Landeck, and he and wife are recognized as among the most liberal of its supporters. As a citizen no resident of the township is more respected than Mr. Rahrig, and Mrs. Rahrig is esteemed as a lady of exceptional womanly virtues.

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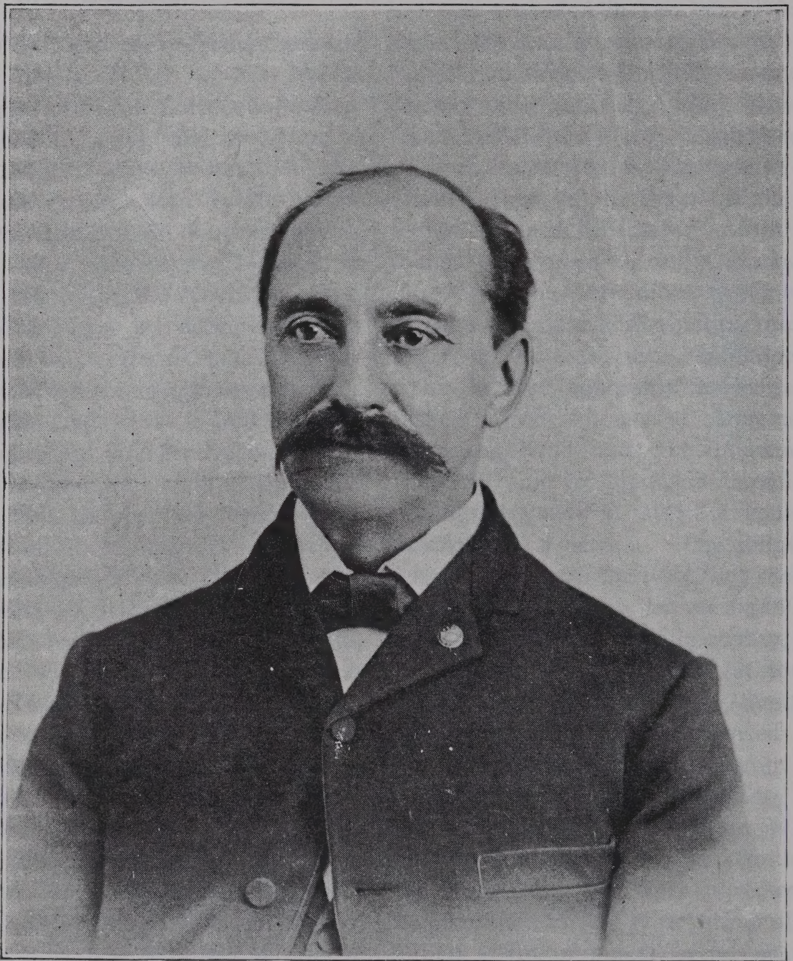
OWEN O. PUGH, a native of Wales, was born in June, 1843, a son of Hugh and Martha (Edwards) Pugh. In 1850 Hugh Pugh with his wife and two sons, Owen O. and David, came to America and located in Mahoning county, Ohio, where Hugh, the father, engaged in mining for a year and a half; he was also a minister and often filled the pulpit. From Mahoning he went to Portage county, Ohio, where he was engaged in the ministry for two years, and then came to Van Wert county, and located on the farm now owned by our subject and which contains 120 acres, at that time all in the woods. This farm he cleared up and improved and lived upon for twelve years; he then moved to Putnam county and purchased 120 acres, on which he resided until his death in 1878. Hugh Pugh was the first resident preacher in this part of the state, and followed his calling until the end of life. Mrs. Martha Pugh resides in Venedocia, the mother of six children, viz: David, who grew to manhood and died at the age of twenty-nine years; Owen O., our subject; Hugh, who died at the age of three weeks; Margaret, who also died in childhood; Jane, the wife of Thomas W. Hughes; and John E., who resides on the old homestead in Putnam county and is married to Anna Jones.

Owen O. Pugh, our subject, was reared on the home farm, where he performed the most of the work, his father being an invalid. May 4, 1865, he was united in wedlock with Eleanor Evans, a daughter of Rowland and Jane (Jones) Evans. Mrs. Pugh was born in New York state, where her father had located on coming from Wales, in 1842, whence, three years later, he moved to Butler county, Ohio, where he made another stop of three years, and then, in 1848, came to Van Wert county, and located on a farm near Venedocia, which he had previously purchased. Rowland Evans and wife are the parents of six children, viz: Mrs. Pugh; Margaret, deceased wife of John M. Jones; William, who grew to manhood, reared a family and died in Gomer, in 1891; Mary, wife of Rich Breese, of York township, Van Wert county; John, who died in the full vigor of manhood; and Robert, who died in childhood. In 1885 Mrs. Pugh lost her mother, and the father subsequently married a Welsh lady named Ann Jones, and is now a resident of Venedocia. To Owen Pugh and wife have been born nine children, viz: Margaret Jane, who died just in the fulness of womanhood; Martha, who died at three months of age; Hugh E., managing his father's farm; Martha Ann; Elizabeth, Marion, Eleanor; Laura and David Garfield, the latter born on the day of Garfield's inauguration as president of the United States, at home; and John, who died aged four months. In politics Mr. Pugh is a republican, and in 1877 was elected trustee of the township and served two years, and in 1895 was re-elected to the same office. Our subject and family are devout members of the Welsh Presbyterian church, of which he was for three years a trustee. In October, 1892, Mr. Pugh and his wife made a trip to the old country, visiting the scenes of his boyhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Pugh in their social affiliations mingle with the best society of the town, and he is honored for his true integrity and broad public spirit.

JAMES POTTER, the genial proprietor of the Avenue Hotel, at Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Bedford county, Pa., November 15, 1845, and is a son of George and Catherine (Yon) Potter. George Potter, the father, was born in the same county and state, a son of William and Georgianna Potter, who came from Germany in early life and settled in the Keystone state, where William engaged in milling. George was but sixteen years of age when his father died, and he was left in charge of the mill, which his father had never completed, but which George operated for a few years. Then, disposing of it, he bought a mill in the same county, which mill he operated fifteen years; then sold and moved to Martinsburg, Pa., in 1864, where he remained until 1866, when he settled at Altoona, Pa., where he dealt in real estate until his death, in 1878. His wife, Catherine Yon, was born in Maryland, but their marriage took place in Pennsylvania. To this marriage there were born twelve children, viz: John, William, Jacob, Loretta and twin a sister died in infancy; Leora, Levi (killed at Kenesaw Mountain, a member of the Twenty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, company C), Simon, Caroline, James, Jeremiah, David and a deceased infant. The mother of this family also died in 1880, a member of the Lutheran church, of which her husband had also been a member. In politics the father was a democrat, and the estate he left was valued at $30,000.

James Potter, the subject of this biography, was an inmate of his parents' home until eighteen years of age, when, February 29, 1864, he enlisted in company A, One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Pennsylvania volunteer infantry, was assigned to the Second army corps, army of the Potomac, participated in the battle of Spottsylvania C. H., and at Cold Harbor was wounded in the left ankle by a gunshot. He was at once taken to the Emory hospital at Washington, D. C., and confined therein until June 27, 1864, when he was transferred to the Darby hospital, at Philadelphia, and a short time afterward removed to Satterlee hospital of the same city, where he remained until the spring of 1865; he was thence transferred to the Germantown hospital, where he veteranized, became a member of the One Hundredth veteran reserve corps, and remained there until September 15, 1865, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his home at Martinsburg, Pa. There he lived until the following October, when he came to Ohio and entered into the milling business in Morrow county with a brother for a partner. The following spring he made a trip to the west, but soon returned and rejoined his brother until 1868, when he went to Marseilles, Lasalle county, Ill., where he was employed in a mill for four months. Then he worked in a mill in Westfield, Ohio, until 1869, when he was married, November 14; then engaged in the restaurant business at Ashley, Ohio, for three months. In March, 1870, he opened a meat market in Van Wert, but three months later sold out and entered the Eagle and Van Wert stave works, where he continued for the long period of eight and a half years, or longer, acting as chief engineer. In 1879 he sold washing machines for three months; he next was employed for twenty-two months in a meat market, and then for twenty months kept a restaurant. In June, 1882, he opened the Avenue Hotel, which popular house of entertainment he has conducted ever since. This house has twenty-



JAMES POTTER.

MRS. NETTIE POTTER.

eight rooms, measuring on the average 10 x 14 feet, which are furnished to the public at $1 per day, or board and room for $4.50 per week. Mr. Potter was married, in Westfield, Ohio, November 14, 1869, to Miss Nettie Terry, who was born in Westfield, April 8, 1848, and this union has been blessed with seven children, viz: Addie, wife of E. O. Riffle, agent of the C., J. & M. R. R. at Paulding, Ohio; Harry, deceased; Mollie, deceased; George; Frankie, deceased; Kittie, deceased, and Elmer. Mr. Potter is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Nathional Union; he is also a member of the Lutheran church, while Mrs. Potter is a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Nettie Potter was born in Westfield, Morrow county, Ohio, April 8, 1848, and is a daughter of Edward and Rossetta (Higley) Terry. Edward Terry was born in Connecticut, in 1805, and was a son of George W. and Deborah (Brondage) Terry, both natives of New York, and whose home was at Tioga Center, and there they both died. Mr. Terry was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and a man of much learning and eloquence. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Edward being the third son.

Edward Terry was educated in his native county, remaining at home until he was eighteen years of age. Then going to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., he there learned the trade of shoemaker, which he followed in Spencer, Tioga county, N. Y., until 1838. Locating then at Westfield, Ohio, he still followed his trade until 1861, and then enlisted in company D, Sixty-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry for three years. He served for three months, when he contracted a severe cold, and being unable longer to serve his country as a soldier, he was discharged, and returning to his home he remained until his death, which occurred December 5, 1866.

On June 21, 1842, he married Miss Rosetta Higley, who was born in Auburn, N.Y., March 14, 1822, and was a daughter of Chauncey and Margaret (Head) Higley, both natives of New York. Mr. Higley was a distiller and moved to Ohio in 1840, locating at Westfield, where he resided until his death, August 2, 1887. His widow resides at Ashley, Ohio, aged ninety-one. They were the parents of eight children, of whom five reached mature years. Mr. Higley was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics was a democrat. His widow still adheres to the Methodist faith, and her standing is high in the social circles in which she moves.

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RAWSON RADER is a well-known resident of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is an ex-soldier of the Civil war, and was born near Columbus, Ohio, four miles north of the state house, February 4, 1844.

Frederick Rader, father of our subject, was born in Germany, March 4, 1807, and came to America in 1825, at the age of eighteen years, became a butcher and stock dealer, and located in Fredericksburg, whence he moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he married Mary Welsh, and by her became the father of three children—John, Rawson and Elmira—the last named dying a married woman. The father did a successful business in and near Columbus for a number of years, and then moved to Delaware county, whence he came to Van Wert county in 1869, and located on a forty-acre tract in Washington township, which tract he converted into a good farm, on which he passed the remaining years of his life.

Rawson Rader, our subject, received a fair education in the common schools of Ohio, and was taught the woolen manufacturing trade in Marysville, Union county, which he began at the age of fourteen years, and at the end of three years had learned thoroughly. September 10, 1870, he married, in Delaware county, Ohio, Miss Minnie Daniels, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Hall) Daniels, of New York state, and of English origin, but proximately of New England Puritan descent. David Daniels was a lumberman, was a successful business man and reared a family of six children, viz: Martha, Jane, Mary, John, Phebe and Minnie. Mr. Daniels died in York state, and his widow later came to Ohio. She had been married, in Bath, N. Y., to Henry Manchester, who died in 1860, and by whom she had one child—Ebbie. She afterward married A. Smith, and died in 1892. Nine days after his marriage, Mr. Rader found himself settled on a farm of forty acres in the woods, which he cleared up and occupied until 1881, having had born to him in the meanwhile six children, viz: Eva, Elmer, Estella, Enos, George and Celia, and later occupied a small farm of thirty-two acres on the ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Rader are sincere members of the Methodist church, while the republican party claims his franchise. He is a thorough friend of education, and has seen to it that his children have not been neglected in that respect.

Elmer Rader, son of Rawson Rader, our subject, is a graduate of the Western Ohio Normal school, of Middlepoint, Ohio, andh as been a successful school-teacher for three years. Mr. Rader served in the Civil war, having enlisted, at the age of seventeen years, at Marysville, Union county, Ohio, and, having run away from home for the purpose, his parents objecting to his enlistment on account of his youth. He was mustered in, however, in July, 1863, in company B, Eighty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. James Fields, for six months, and took an active part in the repelling of the rebel general, John Morgan, who was at that time ravaging the fair state of Ohio. His regiment struck Morgan's trail at Eagle Ford, twelve miles from Zanesville, on the Muskingum river, and followed him to Bellaire, Ohio, where the rebel was captured, but later escaped. Mr. Rader also served in Kentucky, and was on duty during the bitterly cold New Year's day of 1864. He is now a member of the G. A. R. post, No. 260, in which he has held the office of commander and other offices. John Rader, elder brother of Rawson, served in company G, Ninety-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, was in many battles, but escaped unwounded.

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WILLIAM LUTHER RANK, the leading undertaker of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 13, 1843. His father, Joseph Rank, was a native of Cumberland county, Pa., born November 10, 1815, and son of George and Christina (Ely) Rank. George Rank was also born in Pennsylvania, was reared a farmer and was educated both in German and English. He was married in his native state and in 1829 came to Ohio, and purchased land near Shelby, in Richland county, where agriculture engaged his attention until his death in November, 1851, his wife surviving until July, 1852. They were the parents of twelve children, viz: Nancy, Samuel, Susan, George, Catherine, Sarah, Joseph (father of our subject), John, Lydia, Christina and two that died in infancy. The parents of this family were members of the German Reform church, and in politics Mr. Rank was a democrat.

Joseph Rank, son of the above and father of our subject, was reared on the pioneer home farm in Ohio until he reached manhood, when he returned to Pennsylvania and served an apprenticeship at shoemaking with his brother Samuel. He worked at his trade as a journeyman until his marriage, November 6, 1838, to Miss Eliza Myers, a native of the Keystone state, born November 1, 1813, and a daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Myers, also natives of Pennsylvania. After marriage Joseph and his young wife settled on a farm in Richland county, Ohio, near Shelby, and there he tilled the soil until 1854, when he brought his growing family to Van Wert county, Ohio, and purchased 160 acres in Union township, where he followed farming until his death, June 18, 1891, having lost his wife December 8, 1886. The family of Joseph Rank and wife was comprised of six children, viz: Sebina, wife of Isaac Hoaglin, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county; William L., the subject of this sketch; George A., a farmer of Union township; J. F., a photographer of Van Wert; Pricilla A., wife of S. Painter, of York township, and Margaret L., wife of Charles Barrow, of Union township. The father of this family was a steward in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was also a devout member; in early life he was in politics a democrat, but later became a prohibitionist; he was well read and took great interest in the county schools was a man of determination and a good and honorable citizen, and by his industry was enabled to leave his heirs a fine farm of 200 acres.

William Luther Rank had reached the age of eleven years when his parents settled in Van Wert county, with whom he remained until he reached his majority. He then engaged in farming on his own account for one year on a tax claim in Union township, when, February 7, 1865, he enlisted in company B, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio volunteer infantry, for one year, and served under Capt. Isaac W. Patrick until honorably discharged at Winchester, Va., September 1, 1865; he then located in Van Wert, and engaged in shoemaking until 1874, when he joined his brother, J. F., in photographic work until 1885, in February of which year he embarked in the undertaking business and funeral directing, which is his present employment, and in which he has ever since been a public favorite. The marriage of Mr. Rank took place in Union township, Van Wert county, October 20, 1863, to Miss Lydia Hattery, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, September 6, 1841, a daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Jervis) Hattery, natives of Virginia, who came to Van Wert county in 1843 and farmed in Hoaglin township until the end of their days. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Rank has been blessed by the birth of one child Vernilis A., January 7, 1877, but whom they had the misfortune to lose July 18, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Rank are members of the Episcopal church, in which he is a class-leader and exhorter, and he is also a master Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Royal Arcanum and of the National Union; in politics he is a republican. He owns considerable property, and in connection with his undertaking business handles picture frames, moldings, easels, etc., and is very popular as a business man generally.

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GEORGE A. RANK, a progressive and prosperous farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Joseph and Eliza (Myers) Rank, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in full detail in the sketch of W. L. Rank, and was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1845. When he was ten years of age his parents brought him to Van Wert county, where he has grown to manhood. He was reared on his father's farm and was an able assistant in developing the same from the wild woods, and his education was acquired in the primitive log school-house of his early days. He resided with his parents until his marriage, November 12, 1874, with Miss Ada Pope, daughter of

Cordon and Esther (Barrow) Pope, to which union have been born two children—Alta A. and Joseph O. Mrs. Rank was born in Delaware county, Ohio, February 9, 1850, her parents being natives of the Buckeye state, but at the early age of eleven years lost her mother, after which sad event she lived with her uncle, Edward Barrow, of Richland county, until her marriage.

After his marriage Mr. Rank settled on a part of the old homestead, and with the help of his young wife continued the improvement already begun. Later he purchased a portion of the old home farm, and, on the death of his father, received yet another portion as his legacy. He later removed to his present home, which comprises eighty acres, all but ten acres cleared, well drained and in an excellent state of cultivation. Mrs. Rank was christened in the Lutheran church, but Mr. Rank is an active and influential member of the Methodist church, to both of which denominations he contributes liberally. In politics he is a conservative democrat; fraternally he is a member of the Royal Arcanum lodge of Van Wert, No. 196. He is an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, and he and family are highly respected throughout the township and county.

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**J. F. RANK**, the leading photographer of Van Wert, Ohio, is the third son of Joseph and Eliza (Myers) Rank. (For history of the Rank family see biography of W. L. Rank.)

J. F. Rank was born August 17, 1847, at Shelby, Richland county, Ohio; his parents moved to Van Wert when he was seven years of age, and here he was reared and had the advantage of both the select and common schools of the town until he reached the age of eighteen years. He taught in the public schools of the county for some four years most successfully; then for a time he became a clerk in a grocery store. In 1872 he entered the photograph gallery of Mr. Hartsock as a student; two months later he purchased the establishment of Mr. Hartsock and carried on the business successfully for some twenty-one years, when he disposed of it, and during the following two years traveled over a large portion of the United States; he witnessed the stirring scenes attending the opening of the Cherokee strip in 1893, and then went south, obtaining photographic views of the Indian settlements along the Texas border. Afterward he joined his family in Iowa, and later located at Schuyler, Nebr., where he was in charge of a photograph gallery for a short time. Subsequently he purchased a residence in Lincoln, Neb., where he remained for some two years, and then returned to Van Wert, where he established his present gallery July 1, 1895. This gallery is located at No. 111 West Main street, and contains a suite of eight rooms, including reception, waiting, working and operating rooms, all supplied with elaborate furniture, and with apparatus of the latest invention, in every detail up to date. This establishment is conceded to be the finest in northwestern Ohio. Success has attended Mr. Rank in this, his second venture in the business, for which he is well adapted by reason of his urbane and courteous manners. In connection with his gallery he also carries an extensive line of all kinds of picture frames.

Mr. Rank, in 1874, married Miss Mary J., daughter of W. F. McBride, of Oskaloosa, Iowa. To this union four children have been born, viz: Harry, who died at the age of two years; Ethel and Mabel, twins, and Myrtle. The twins, Ethel and Mabel, are so wonderfully alike in size, color of eyes, hair, complexion and tones of voice that their parents are sometimes puzzled to tell which is which. Mr. Rank has been a consistent member of the

Methodist Episcopal church since the age of twelve years; he is an enthusiastic worker in the Sunday-school, of which he has been superintendent some two years; politically Mr. Rank is a republican, and fraternally a member of the I. O. O. F., well up in the degrees, having passed all the chairs. No family in the community stand higher in the estimation of their neighbors.

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CHARLES EDWIN REDRUP, a locomotive engineer on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, and the oldest employee of the road in any capacity, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., March 7, 1855. His parents, James and Anna (Phelps) Redrup, were born in Buckinghamshire, England, in 1815, immigrated to the United States in 1836, and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, remaining there, however, only a short time, when they removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., where Mr. Redrup purchased and operated a dairy. In this business Mr. Redrup continued until about 1851, when he returned to Ohio, this time locating in Mansfield and engaging in the business as a grocer. After several years thus spent he turned his attention to milling and was thus occupied until his removal to Van Wert county, in 1866. Previous to this removal he had traded his milling property in Mansfield for a farm in Tully township, Van Wert county, and it was to this farm he removed his family, with the view of following farming the remainder of his active life, and he did follow farming until 1881, when he removed to the city of Van Wert and became engaged in handling musical instruments and sewing machines. Three years later he removed to Warren, Huntington county, Ind., where he was engaged two years as a liveryman; then returned to Van Wert, where he died in 1887. In religious faith Mr. Redrup was a Baptist, and at the time of his death he had been a member of that church fifty years. Mrs. Redrup, a notice of whose family history may be found in connection with the biography of Mr. O. A. Balyeat, died in 1885, when she was fifty-five years of age.

Charles Edwin Redrup, the subject of this sketch, spent his boyhood in the same manner that other American boys spend theirs, working upon the farm and attending school until he was fourteen years of age. He was then engaged in farming until 1880, when he turned his attention to railroading. At this time the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw was still a narrow-gauge road, and Mr. Redrup began that year to work for this company, filling from that time on the positions of teamster, section hand, brakman, and finally that of locomotive engineer, taking charge of the second engine that ran upon the road, and thus he is now the oldest employee of the road in any capacity. He took charge of this engine in 1884, and has thus been a locomotive engineer for the past twelve years, of which six years has been spent in the passenger service. Up to the present writing Mr. Redrup has met with no accident of importance, so fortunate and so careful has he always been, but it should be borne in mind that even the greatest possible care and caution will not always prevent an accident, though in the responsible position filled by Mr. Redrup, and locomotive engineers in general, these two qualities are of the highest value.

With the exception of a short time spent in Greenville, West Manchester, and Carlisle, Ohio, Mr. Redrup has lived in Van Wert ever since he began working for this company, he being stationed in those places only while the road was extending southward. He is a member of the brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and in religious belief he is a Methodist. In politics he is a republican, taking a lively interest in the success of that party. He and his family live in a comfortable home on Second street in Van Wert, surrounded by numerous good, kind-hearted neighbors and friends.

On April 20, 1880, Mr. Redrup was married to Miss Fagan, a daughter of Thomas and Jane (Crow) Fagan, residents of Van Wert. Thomas Fagan was born in New Jersey in 1828, and in 1834 was brought by his parents to Ohio, they locating in Montgomery county. In 1856 Mr. Fagan was married to Miss Jane Crow, and removed to Tippecanoe City, Miami county, Ohio, where he engaged in the ready-made clothing business. Remaining their until 1862 he then removed to Mendon, Mercer county, where, until 1873, he was engaged as a lumber merchant, and in the last named year he removed to Van Wert. Mr. Fagan is a man of more than ordinary mechanical and inventive genius. He is a skilled machinist, and has invented several improved agricultural implements, among them plows, ditching machines and harrows. His father was born in New Jersey in 1804, and during his early manhood was a sea captain, but in later years he was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. His death occurred in Marion, Ind.; in 1872, his wife, who was born in 1803, dying in the same city the same year.

Miss Jane Crow, who married Thomas Fagan, was born in Miami county in 1836. Her father was a native of Virginia, born in 1792, and removed to Miami county, Ohio, in 1835. In the latter county, with the exception of a few years, he followed farming until 1875, when he removed to Van Wert and there conducted a cooper shop, returning to Miami county and dying there in 1879. Mrs. Fagan's mother, Mary Rhorer, was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, came to Ohio in 1835, and died in Van Wert in 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Fagan have five children, four daughters and one son, all married and residents of Van Wert.

WILLIAM J. REED, a prominent citizen of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, is a son of Jacob Reed, and was born September 8, 1851. Jacob Reed was born in Ashland county, Ohio, September 15, 1825, was reared on a farm and is still living in comfortable circumstances on his farm in Ashland county. He was married, in 1849, to Miss Mary Strickland, of Ashland county, Ohio, and to this marriage there were born five children, viz: William, born in 1851; Joseph, born in 1853; John, born in 1855; Anna, born in 1860, and Ella, born in 1861. All are living but Ella, who died in 1862. William and John are both married and living in Van Wert, Ohio; Joseph is single and living in Ashland county, and Anna is married to George Ohl. Jacob Reed, the father of these children, is in politics a democrat, and is a member of the United Brethren church. He is of Irish descent, and is in every way a very liberal man.

William J. Reed was born in Ashland county, was there brought up on a farm, and his education was received in the common schools. At the age of twenty-one years he left home and came to Van Wert county, purchasing a farm in Tully township, upon which he lived for twenty-two years. At the end of this period, or in February, 1895, he purchased another farm close to Van Wert, upon which he now lives. In politics Mr. Reed is a democrat, and in religion a Methodist. He is a man that has made his own way in the world, has been successful and is respected by all.

On February 11, 1873, he married Miss Fanny B. Staman, and is by her the father of five children, viz: Olin, born in 1873; Myrtle, born in 1876; Frances E., born in 1879; Pearl, born in 1881, and Millie, born in 1884. All are living except Myrtle, who died in 1879. Those living are attending school except Olin, who is a very promising young man, and now studying telegraphing in the Van Wert office of the P., Ft. W. & C. Railroad company.

Miss Fanny B. Staman was born September 19, 1852. Her father was born in Pennsylvania October 9, 1812, and at an early age began working for his father, who ran a gristmill and a tannery. Remaining with his father, thus engaged until his father's death, he inherited some valuable property, and continued the business his father left him. In this he was very successful, and being a careful and economical manager, acquired a good deal of valuable property. In 1841 he was married to Miss Fanny Lantz of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lantz was a German by birth, a republican in politics, and a member of the Menese church. He was the father of nine children, viz: William, Abraham, Anna, Mary M., Curtis J., Fanny B., Harriet D., Francis L. and Lizzie E. All are living but Harriet, who died in February, 1885. The rest are married and the heads of families.

Fanny B., the wife of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ashland county, and at the age of twenty years was married to Mr. Reed. She was well educated in her youth, and is a bright, pleasant and intelligent woman, a good wife and a loving mother. Both she and her husband stand high in the estimation of the community in which they live. Both are public spirited and are willing to aid any material improvement and any charitable enterprise that should be sustained by the public at large.

RICE BROS., marble and granite dealers of Van Wert, Ohio, are proprietors of one of the best appointed shops devoted to this purpose in the city, the firm being composed of Samuel and George W. The parents were Paul and Elizabeth (Funk) Rice, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Paul and Elizabeth were married in Pennsylvania, and later came to Ohio and located in Wayne county, where Paul was employed in farming and coopering until 1847, when he moved with his family to Mercer county, remained there until 1868, and then came to the city of Van Wert, where for many years he carried on cooperage, but is now retired. The children born to Paul and Elizabeth were ten in number, viz: Jeremiah, deceased; John, of Delphos; Hezekiah, of Van Wert; Samuel, of Rice Bros.; Thomas, of Delphos; George, of Rice Bros.; Mary Anna, wife of William Mahan, of Van Wert; Emma T., deceased; Rebecca J., deceased, and William F., of Van Wert. The mother of this family was called to her heavenly home January 23, 1871, dying in the faith of the United Brethren church.

Samuel Rice, the fourth born in the above family and one of the firm of Rice Bros., was born in Wayne county, Ohio, April 8, 1854, and was but two years of age when his parents moved to Mercer county, where he attended school and remained with his parents until he reached his sixteenth year, when he hired out by the month as a farm laborer—working five years for one employer; he then came to Van Wert and was here employed in teaming until 1889, and also made the moving of buildings his occupation for five years; he next entered the fire department, and drove a fire team four years, and also in 1889 formed a partnership with his brother George in the marble and granite trade. Of course it will be seen that he was engaged in more than one occupation during the intervals of time mentioned.

George Rice, the sixth of the family born to Paul and Elizabeth Rice, was bore in Mercer county, Ohio, March 28, 1858, and was brought to Van Wert county by his parents, with whom he remained until he was twenty years of age, when he engaged in general labor until 1882, when he joined his brother Samuel in his building-moving occupation; in 1889 the two brothers bought out the marble yard of W. S. Hughes, and in this line do a business of about $6,000 per annum. George Rice was married in Van Wert, November 1, 1885, to Millie A. Willett, a native of Hillsboro, Highland county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with two children—Raymond E. and Helen Idora. Mr. and Mrs. Rice are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a republican and has served in the city council four years. Like his brother, he is the owner of considerable real estate.

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HARRY C. REDRUP, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Wyoming territory, December 27, 1868, a son of Thomas and Mary J. (Rickets) Redrup, and was but one year old when brought by his parents to Richland county, Ohio, where they resided about five years, and then came to Van Wert county, where our subject grew to manhood. He attended the city school the necessary period, and the high school held him for three years; he also took a commercial course, by which he was well prepared for business purposes. He remained with his parents until 1891, when he entered the employ of the Daily Bulletin as general collector and reporter, and held the position until November 23, 1892, when he married Miss Elida Maddox, a native of Ohio, born February 6, 1869, and daughter of George and Catherine (Tingle) Maddox, also natives of the Buckeye state, the father being a Methodist Episcopal minister. For nearly a year after his marriage Mr. Redrup employed himself in general collecting, and in the fall of 1893 he and his wife opened the most fashionable millinery establishment in Van Wert, at No. 1 South Washington street. Mrs. Redrup being a lady of taste and refinement, and being thoroughly acquainted with the business, soon brought the enterprise to the favorable notice of the ladies of Van Wert, and the concern now does a trade of about $3,000 per annum. Mr. Redrup, moreover, is a valuable aid, being a gentleman of tact, ability and intelligence. Unfortunately for Mr. Redrup, he is somewhat incapacitated for manual exercise or labor, having had the misfortune, in the winter of 1879, of meeting with a fall while skating, which seriously injured his hip joint, which injury still causes him much annoyance, but his mentality is exceptionally sound.

In politics Mr. Redrup is a republican, and under the auspices of that party he has served as assessor in the Second ward two years, in the Third ward one year, and in the Fourth ward one year. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with the teachings of which they strictly conform. Mr. and Mrs. Redrup own a nice residence property in the west end of town, and enjoy the friendship and esteem of their neighbors, as well as the respect of the community at large.

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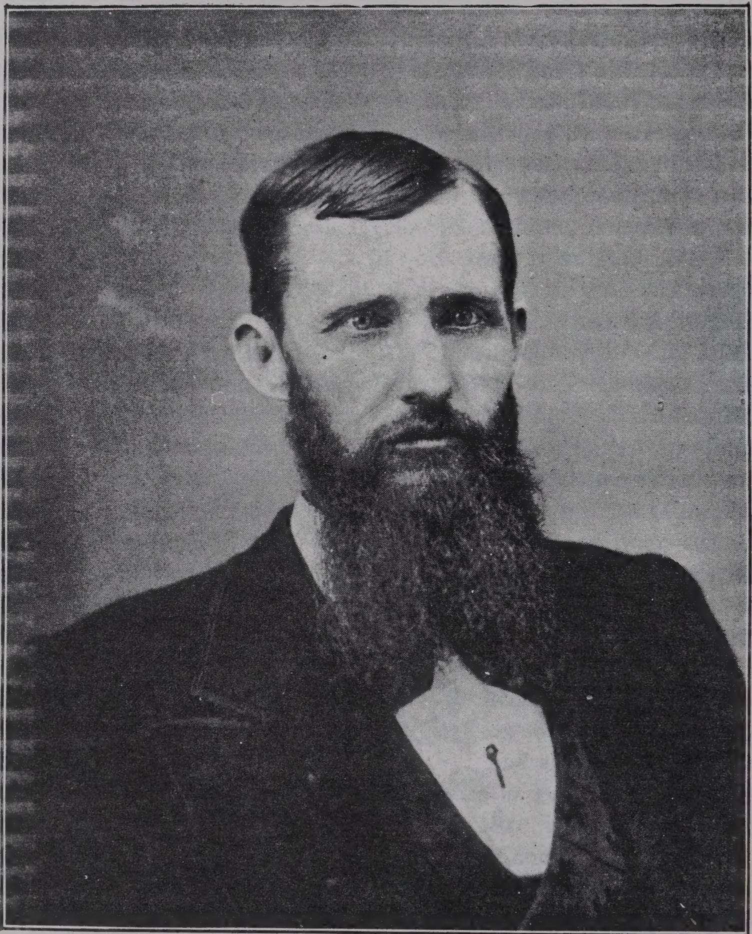
CHARLES P. RICHEY—Or 'Squire Richey, as he is commonly called, ex-sheriff of Van Wert county, Ohio, and at present justice of the peace, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 11, 1819, is a son of George and Catherine (Porter) Richey, who were both natives of the north of Ireland, and there married. On coming to America the father was employed in teaming until 1819, in Pittsburg, Pa., when he and his family moved to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he entered land on a military warrant and was engaged in farming until his decease. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom died in childhood; the three that were reared to maturity were named Andrew, since deceased; Charles P., our sub-



WM. H. H. DENISTON,

DECEASED.

ject, and Eleanor, also deceased. The parents died in the Protestant faith, leaving a well improved farm of seventy acres.

Charles P. Richey was reared on the home farm in Pickaway county, and there married, April 21, 1839, Martha T. Maddox, a native of the county, born September 6, 1822, a daughter of Severn and Elizabeth (Hill) Maddox, the result of the union being five children, viz: Nancy E., now of Delphos, Ohio; Margaret J., of Wisconsin; Elizabeth C., deceased; George W., a farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio; and Martha Ann, deceased. The lamented mother of this family was summoned to her final home July 24, 1866, and her mortal remains were interred in the Van Wert cemetery. She was a pious and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and beloved by all who knew her. Jauuary 1, 1874, Mr. Richey was married to his second wife, Mrs. Missouri T. (McConahay) Scott, widow of Captain William C. Scott, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. In religion Mr. Richey is a Methodist and Mrs. Richey is a Presbyterian, but this difference in church membership has in no manner conflicted with their conjugal happiness. Since their marriage, 'Squire Richey and wife have made the city of Van Wert their permanent home.

Charles P. Richey first came to Van Wert county October 9, 1844, and located in Ridge township, where he resided eighteen months, and then bought 120 acres of land in the wild and dense woods of Pleasant township, built a cabin and cleared up a farm, on which he made his home until 1859, when he was elected sheriff of the county, in which office he succeeded himself, and then, in May, 1864, enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for one hundred days, was assigned to guard duty at Point Lookout, and at the close of his term was honorably discharged at Camp Denison, Ohio, in November, 1864. On his return home he engaged in the boot and shoe trade in company with James Clark—a partnership which lasted eleven years. In the meantime, however, in 1867, Mr. Richie was again the choice of the republican party for sheriff, an office he had twice so ably filled, and was elected to serve one term. In 1875 he sold his interest in the boot and shoe trade and retired until 1880, when his party elected him justice of the peace, in which office he has succeeded himself every term since—a self-evident indication of his capability, integrity and popularity. The squire's property comprises 180 acres of valuable land in Pleasant township and considerably realty in the city of Van Wert. His social standing, it is needless to add, is with the best in the city and county.

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**WILLIAM H. H. DENISTON**, deceased, a popular man, and county official during a portion of his life, and an ex-soldier of the Union army, was born in Allen county, Ohio, February 18, 1841. He was a son of William and Catherine C. (Harter) Deniston, natives respectively of Wales and of Ireland and people of excellent qualities as citizens and as individuals. They lived in Allen county until the death of Mr. Deniston, and afterward the widow removed to Van Wert county and lived in Van Wert until the death of her son, the subject of this sketch, when she removed to Middlepoint and there died in 1882. She and her husband were the parents of ten children, of which number the subject of this sketch was the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Deniston were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were highly esteemed by al! who knew them. As a republican he served as surveyor of Allen county for some years, was unusually popular, kind-hearted and honorable. He was finely educated and well informed on all current topics, political, religious and industrial. Withal, he was a man of fine physique, and healthy and strong.

William H. H. Deniston was but a small boy when his father died, and then removed to Van Wert; he received a good education and taught school for several terms. Upon the first call for troops by President Lincoln, to suppress the southern Rebellion, he volunteered in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and in the first battle in which he participated, that of Pittsburg Landing, was struck on the foot by a fragment of a bursting shell, which made it necessary to amputate the injured member. Through this misfortune he was incapacitated for a soldier's duty, was honorably discharged and returned to Van Wert. Here he was elected county recorder in 1863 and served three consecutive terms, the policy of the republican party then being to reward the soldiers as far as practicable for their services and sacrifices in the war.

Mr. Deniston was married in Van Wert, Ohio, August 11, 1864, to Miss Eliza J. Blake, who was a native of Van Wert, and by whom he had four children, viz: Owen S., of Saint Louis, Mo.; Columbus D., also of Saint Louis, Mo.; Alonzo C., deceased, and Viola R., a teacher in the public schools of Van Wert. The mother of these children died in June, 1872, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Van Wert. Mr. Deniston married October 15, 1874, in Van Wert, Miss Matilda L. Gamble, who was born in Van Wert county, and is a daughter of Robert and Jane (Patterson) Gamble, natives of Maryland and Ireland, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble located in Van Wert county in an early day, some time in the 'forties. They were the parents of six children, of which number the wife of Mr. Deniston was the third in order of birth. Mrs. Gamble died in 1859 and Mr. Gamble is now living in Van Wert county at an extreme old age. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, while Mrs. Gamble was a Methodist. Mr. Gamble has always been a republican.

Mr. Deniston was engaged in handling real estate at the time of his second marriage, and so continued until his death, which occurred November 11, 1876, after a protracted illness. Fraternally he was a member of the order of Odd Fellows, and of the Improved Order of Red Men, and was buried under the auspices of these orders. The subject of this sketch had been past grand in the Van Wert lodge, No. 251, of the I. O. O. F.; also one of the charter members of the Abenaki tribe, No. 77, Improved Order of Red Men, and also was a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a man of high character, honest and respected by all who knew him. By his second marriage he had one child, Georgia A., who is now a teacher in the Toledo public schools. Mr. Deniston was appointed agent to investigate a large estate in England, known as the John estate, and made a trip to that country for the purpose, but, as is usual in such cases, without result. Mrs. Deniston is still living in Van Wert, an amiable, pleasant lady, worthy of all respect, which she receives in unstinted measure.

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MARTIN RIES, a prominent and progressive young farmer of York township, Van Wert county, of which he is a native, was born November 30, 1868, and is a son of George and Caroline (Reese) Ries, the former of whom was born in Hessian Germany in 1821, Caroline Reese being his second wife. On coming to America, George Ries located in Richland county, Ohio, whence he moved to Van Wert county and entered government land, his first farm comprising eighty acres, to which he subsequently added eighty acres and converted the whole tract into a prolific and tasteful farm. His second helpmate, Miss Caroline Reese, was a native of Hanover, Germany, born in 1830. George Ries died in 1871, a member of the Reform church, and a democrat in politics; his widow survived until October, 1893, when she, too, expired, having borne her husband five children, viz: George H.; Charlotte, wife of Henry Hoker; Emil, deceased; Benjamin, and Martin, the subject of this sketch.

Martin Ries was trained to agriculture on the home farm, and assisted his mother most filially until his marriage, April 12, 1894, with Miss Gladolia Ogden, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, July 7, 1875, a daughter of Miller and Mattie (Snyder) Ogden. Miller Ogden was a native of Crawford county, and a son of David Ogden, a native of New York, of English parentage. When a young man, David Ogden came to Ohio, settled in Crawford county, and married Nancy Miller, who bore him nine children, viz: Mrs. Phebe Shoup, deceased; Miller, father-in-law of Mrs. Gladolia Ries; Hiram, deceased in childhood; Mary, wife of George Ankney; Obelian, wife of John Smith; Charles, a traveling salesman; Abbie and Dow. David Ogden was reared a farmer, but also became a minister in the United Brethren church; he served in the late war with the 100-day troops, and died about 1871, a stanch republican.

Miller Ogden, father of Mrs. Ries, was born in 1851, was reared a farmer, and in 1873 married Mattie Snyder, who became the mother of three children—Gladolia, wife of our subject; Laverne, a farmer of Crawford county, Ohio, and Vesta, also of Crawford county. Mattie Snyder was born in Crawford county about 1855, and expired in 1880. After his marriage, Miller Ogden located in Poplar, Ohio, where he farmed for three years and then moved to another farm deeper in the woods, on which he followed the same vocation until 1880, when he engaged in the confectionery business at Poplar, in which he was quite successful, and which occupied his attention until 1884, when he went to Dakota, where for seven years he re-engaged in farming—owning, the last year, a sheep ranch—since when he has been traveling in company with his brother, Charles, selling a valuable patent fence.

In politics George M. Ries was a democrat while Martin, our subject, is a republican. Martin and wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are among the most respected of the polite society of York township.

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HON. JAMES W. RIMER, civil engineer of Van Wert, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, March 26, 1846. His parents, Jacob and Eliazbeth (Rhodes) Rimer, were among the pioneer settlers of Putnam county, having located on a farm in Sugar Creek township in 1833, on which farm the father still resides, and on which our subject was reared to manhood.

The preliminary education of Hon. James W. Rimer was received in the common schools of Putnam county, and later he attended the union schools one year in Lima. In the meantime he spent considerable time in vacation seasons in teaching school. During the years 1867 and 1868 he was in attendance at Mount Union college, which is now within the limits of the city of Alliance. In 1869 he became associated with L. E. Holtz, a practicing civil engineer of Ottawa, Ohio, remaining with him one year. In 1870 he removed to Van Wert, having been induced by the commissioners of Van Wert county to so remove by the promise of doing the official surveying for the county.

In October of that year he was elected surveyor of the county, and performed the duties of his office so efficiently and satisfactorily to all concerned that in 1873 he was elected for a second term, thus serving six years. In 1877 he was by the democratic party elected to the lower house of the general assembly, and in 1879 he was re-elected by a majority of ninety-five over his opponent, Judge James L. Price. His services in the legislature were performed mainly in connection with committee work, the sessions of 1878 and 1879 being devoted in part to the codifying of the drainage laws. Mr. Rimer being the only member of the body having had practical experience with the execution of those laws, his knowledge was indispensable to the committee. During his period of service in the legislature George H. Pendleton, James A. Garfield and John Sherman were elected to the United States senate.

In 1880 Mr. Rimer became interested with other Van Wert gentlemen in the promotion of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company, and was made its chief engineer for the road, which position he held until 1887, when he resigned. For two years he was a member of the Van Wert Electric Light & Power company, but has since been engaged in surveying and civil engineering, having assisted to survey the routes for several railroads. Mr. Rimer is a careful and skillful master of his profession, and has in preparation a valuable work on the subject of excavation and embankment. He is a knight templar Mason and a cultivated, most genial, accomplished and pleasant gentleman.

**EDWARD RING**, a respected citizen of the county and city of Van Wert, was born at Crestline, Ohio, July 16, 1863. He was a son of Nelson Ring, who in 1862 married Miss Jane McFarlane, of Pennsylvania. Nelson Ring was of English descent and was but two years old when he lost his father, and consequently was in early life compelled to rely on his own efforts for success in gaining a livelihood. He acquired the carpenter's trade as early as he could do so, and after following this trade for some years he learned the boiler-maker's trade in Sandusky, from which place he removed to Crestline, where he has lived for the past thirty-five years, one of the most liberal men in thought and deed anywhere to be found. His success in life, while not phenomenal, has yet been gratifying, and he is enabled to live in comfort during his declining years upon the accumulation of his labors. Politically Mr. Ring is a republican, and in religious matters a Methodist. He and his wife are the parents of three children, viz: Edward, Charles and Minnie, all of whom are living. Charles is married and living in Crestline, Ohio; and Minnie is married and living in the same city.

Edward Ring, while living in Crestline, his native city, learned the painter's trade, which he followed with satisfactory success for many years. When he had arrived at the age of twenty-two years he left his home and went to Fort Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, where he remained about two years. In 1887 he left Fort Recovery and located in Van Wert, where he was married to Miss Catherine Omlar, of Coldwater, Mercer county, Ohio, and in Van Wert he began working in the shops of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company, where he has given satisfaction to his employers and where he is still employed. In politics Mr. Ring is a republican and he is a Methodist by faith. He and his wife are the parents of two children, viz: William, born in 1888, and Edward, born May 11, 1890. Mrs. Catherine (Omlar) Ring, the mother of these children, was born June 8, 1868. She is a daughter of John Omlar, a native of Germany, and a farmer, who came to the United States previous to his marriage to Miss Catherine Betting, herself also a native of Germany. Mr. Omlar landed in New York and went from that city to Fostoria, Ohio, where he remained some time, and from there went to Jay county, Ind., whence he removed to Coldwater, Ohio, locating on a farm. Farming was his occupation for some years, but at present he is engaged in draying. In politics Mr. Omlar is a democrat and in religion a Catholic. Mr. Omlar and his wife, Catherine, were the parents of twelve children, viz: Philip, who died in infancy; Mary, who is married and living in Coldwater; John, a school-teacher and living in Carthagena, Mercer county; Anna, living in Tippecanoe City, Miami county; Rosie, single and living in Dayton, Ohio; Catherine, married and living in Van Wert; William, of Tippecanoe City; Henry, Frand and Josephine, all three single and living in Coldwater, and Joseph, deceased. One child died in infancy that was not named. Catherine (Omlar) Ring was born in Saint Anthony, Dubois county, Ind., and at the age of two years she was brought to Ohio by her parents. She and Mr. Ring met at Fort Recovery, and were married in Van Wert. Her mother died on June 7, 1895, in Coldwater, after living a life of usefulness and goodness—kind to all "and with malice toward none."

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JOHN G. RINGWALD, an old settler and substantial farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Jennings township, in the same county, October 18, 1857, where he was reared on his father's farm and educated in the common schools. He is a son of Gottleib Ringwald, a native of Germany, who in 1852 was brought to America by his father, also named Gottleib, and was an only child. Gottleib, the elder, settled in Jennings township, near Landeck, where he cleared up forty acres of land and died, in 1864, a member of the Lutheran church.

Gottleib Ringwald, the father of our subject, was born May 5, 1817, and was married in Van Wert county, to Elizabeth Wolford, who was born February 20, 1830, in Bradford county, Pa., a daughter of Josiah and Barbara (Moyer) Wolford. After his marriage, Mr. Ringwald settled on the Wolford farm, which then consisted of eighty-five acres, and had been purchased by Mr. Wolford in 1840, and increased to 160 acres, of which he subsequently disposed of a portion. Mr. Wolford died on his farm in 1870, an aged man, of honorable and upright character, and the father of three children—Elizabeth, Samuel and Josiah. Gottleib Ringwald lived on this farm until 1880, when he settled on his own farm of 160 acres. He was the father of six children, named as follows: Barbara, John G., Elias, Mary (died at six years of age), Sarah J. and William H. Gottlieb died November 8, 1895, sixty-nine years of age, in Chippewa county, Wis., of blood poisoning.

John G. Ringwald early learned the carpenter's trade and engaged in the saw-mill business. At the age of twenty-three, October 11, 1880, he married Ann Eliza Dalby, who was born in Washington township in October, 1860, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Thomas) Dalby. Robert Dalby was a Welshman and an old settler, who owned 120 acres of good farm land, and died in 1891, full of years and honor, and the father of six children, Thomas, Robert, Jennie, Annie E., John L. and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Ringwald, after marriage, settled on their present farm of sixty acres, a part of the home place, and in 1883 Mr. Ringwald engaged in the saw-mill business, buying a new mill, which he has conducted with success until the present time. To himself and wife have been born seven children, who are named, Mary A., Jane D., Annie J., Thomas C., Robert, Florence and Edna R. Mr. and Mrs. Ringwald are members of the Presbyterian church, to the support of which they liberally contribute of their means, and of which Mr. Ringwald is a trustee. In politics Mr. Ringwald is a republican, but has never been an office seeker. He is a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge at Middlepoint, and a Knight of Pythias of Venedocia lodge, No. 177. He is a well known and substantial citizen, whose business reputation is without a blemish and whose word is known and accepted by all as good for anything he agrees to do.

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JOHN ROAT, farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, son of Peter and Catherine Roat, is a native of the state, and was born November 22, 1852, in the county of Hancock. The family is of German descent, the father having been born in the old country, where he received his education. When a young man, Peter Roat came to the United States, and, according to the most reliable information, settled in Hancock county, where he followed the farmer's vocation the remainder of his days. He married, about the year 1850 Catherine Flager, who bore him five children, viz: John, whose name introduces this paragraph; Mary, wife of John Gaber; Christina, wife of Hiram Schilling; George and Christ. Mrs. Roat was born in Germany, and was brought to the United States by her parents when a mere child, the family settled in Hancock county. After his marriage, Peter Roat purchased land in the aforesaid county, and earned the reputation of an industrious and enterprising man. While in the prime of life he met with an accident which caused his death. His widow subsequently married Peter Searbah, and bore him three children: Fred, deceased; Caroline, wife of Samuel Gorby, and Eliza, wife of Edward Boutwell.

John Roat, our subject, received his educational training in the schools of Hancock county, having had instruction in both the English and German language. He was reared on a farm, adopted that useful calling for his life work, and for some time after the death of his father made his home with his grandparents. In company with his uncle and guardian, George Flager, he came, in 1867, to Van Wert county, and after attaining his majority worked as a farm hand until his marriage, which was solemnized November 21, 1878, with Sabina A. Beck, daughter of Michael and Mary Beck. After his marriage Mr. Roat farmed for a part of the proceeds of a farm in Harrison township for one year, and then moved to the old Beck homestead, where he lived about ten years, purchasing in the meantime his present farm in Union township, to which he removed his family in 1890. Mr. Roat is an enterprising farmer, has made a success of his calling, and has the respect and confidence of his friends and neighbors. Politically he is a democrat, but is not a partisan, yet takes an active interest in the good of the community, assisting to the extent of his ability all worthy enterprises. He belongs to Center grange, No. 1329, Patrons of Husbandry, his wife belonging to the same society. The following are the names of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Roat: Alda G.; Charles, deceased; Goldie I., and Gordon I.

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MATTHIAS M. RITTENHOUSE, a pioneer and prominent farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Christian and Esther (Metz) Rittenhouse, and was born in

Wayne county, Ohio, in 1827. Matthias Rittenhouse, the father of Christian, was a Mennonite minister of Pennsylvania and a wealthy farmer, who died about 1836; Christian Rittenhouse, his son and the father of our subject, was born in Montgomery county, Pa., in 1803, learned the shoemaker's trade, then went to Canada and worked a year, returned to Pennsylvania, and about 1825 married Esther Metz, the union being blessed with the following children: Matthias M., our subject; Joseph, deceased; David; Hannah, widow of Zachariah Brown; Eli; Christian, deceased; Katie, wife of Frank Kneour, of Williams county, Ohio, and Samuel. In 1825, the father of this family came to Ohio and bought in Wayne county a farm which he cultivated in connection with shoemaking, and also operated a tannery for four years. He was a member of the Dunkard church and in politics was independent. His wife was called away by death July 15, 1874, and his own death took place in 1889.

Matthias M. Rittenhouse, the subject proper of this biography, was educated in the common schools of his native county and was also taught the trade of tanning. February 14, 1850, he was united in marriage with Christena Meely, daughter of George and Margaret (Stock) Meely, and then, with a Mexican war land warrant, took up his land in Van Wert county, on which he built a log house, and cleared up a farm from the woods, which farm is now in an excellent state of cultivation. In 1875, the log cabin was replaced by a large modern frame structure, which was erected by his son Charles C., then not twenty-one years old. Mrs. Christena Rittenhouse was born in Adams county, Pa., in 1828, and in 1841 came with her parents to Richland county, Ohio, and in 1850 to Van Wert county, where she was married. She has borne her husband six children, as follows: Margaret E., wife of Richard H. Martin, whose biography appears in full on another page; Charles C., now of Hastings, Nebr.; Salome A., deceased; Katie, wife of William Reid, of Union township; Emma J., married to Dr. E. V. Hall, of Fort Wayne Medical college, and George M., still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Rittenhouse are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church; in politics the former is a democrat and has held the office of township clerk, township trustee, and justice of the peace. In 1864 he enlisted in company B, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Patrick, and served in the Shenandoah valley until honorably discharged in September, 1865. Mr. Rittenhouse has always been an industrious man and has made a success of life, and has won the respect of all who know him.

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JOHN C. ROBINSON, present county commissioner and a prominent and successful farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is the second son and eldest now living, born to Hamilton and Maria (Riddle) Robinson.

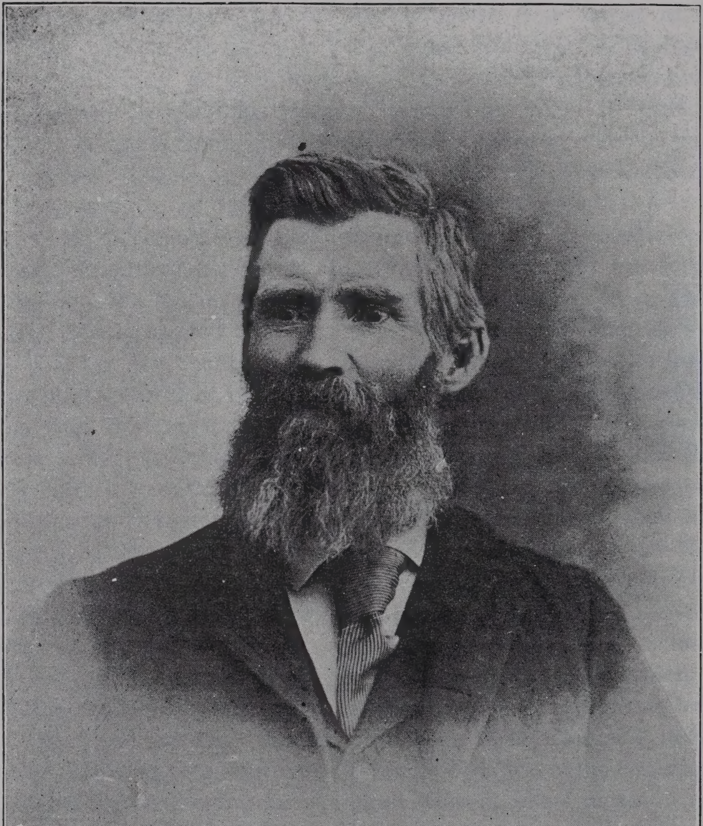
John C. Robinson was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 6, 1848, and when but five years of age came with his parents to this county, where he has lived ever since. He was educated in the common schools of his day, was taught industry in his early youth, and was reared upon the farm by one of the early settlers of Pleasant township. When but seventeen years of age, he offered his service for the preservation of the Union, but was not received on account of his youth. He remained under the parental roof, assisting his father on the home farm, until his marriage, which event took place, February 5, 1870, at which time he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Harris, daughter of Elijah and Ann (Evans) Harris, of Van Wert. To this happy union one daughter has been born—

Clara, now the wife of Carey Hoghe, an enterprising young farmer of Pleasant township.

For two years after his marriage, Mr. Robinson lived on a rented farm. He then purchased near the old homestead a farm of forty acres, which was covered with woods, lying in its natural state, which he at once began to clear and improve. Subsequently, he sold this farm and purchased the one on which he now lives. He has added to his farm from time to time until it now contains 208 acres, is well stocked and improved, and in an excellent state of cultivation. Mr. Robinson is one of the classical, well-read farmers of his county, and it being his chosen work he has made a success of it. In 1894 he was elected director of the agricultural board of the county. He is a leading and influential member of Pleasant grange, No. 399, and has done much to advance the agricultural interests of the community in which he lives. As a farmer, Mr. Robinson is enterprising and progressive, and is one of the public-spirited men of the county, being at all times ready to lend a helping hand to any enterprise that would tend to the development and better condition of the community at large. Politically he is a stanch supporter of the republican party, which party he has served as a willing and efficient officer. In 1884 he was chosen infirmary superintendent, which place he filled to the entire satisfaction of the directors. At the close of this official position he was nominated, in the fall of 1888, to fill the office of county commissioner of his district, and in November of the same year was elected by the usual majority. Mr. Robinson and his most estimable wife take a deep interest in matters educational and the welfare of the rising generation, with whom they are very popular. They are generous and benevolent and highly esteemed wherever known.

Hamilton Robinson, the father of John C., is one of the oldest and most successful farmers of Pleasant township; he is the son of John and Margaret (Nelson) Robinson, who were both natives of Ireland—the former of county Down, near Belfast, and who immigrated to America in childhood. The father of John Robinson was James Robinson, a Protestant in religion, who was forced to leave his country on account of his religious belief in 1788, when he came to America and settled in Westmoreland county, Pa., where he died in the year 1816. There John Robinson, grandfather of John C., was reared to manhood and received a limited education in a little old log school-house. He served in the war of 1812, and soon after his enlistment was given a captain's commission and after the war returned to his farm in Westmoreland county, Pa. Subsequently, in 1814, he started westward on horseback, accompanied by a friend by the name of John Law, carrying his camp kettle and necessary equipment on pack saddles, determined to seek his fortune. He halted in the wilderness of Richland county, Ohio, where he entered three tracts of land in the name of himself and two brothers. On this land, with the help of his companion, he erected a log cabin, in which he soon established his young family and began the task of clearing a farm from the woods. About the year 1800 he was united in marriage with Margaret Nelson, also a native of Ireland, who had come to America with her parents in childhood; to their union were born nine children—Hamilton, the father of J. C., being the youngest and the only one now living; they were named as fallows in order of birth: James, John, Alexander, William, Thomas, Agnes, Esther, Margaret and Hamilton. Mr. Robinson was a man of unusual strength and courage, steadfast in his purposes and firm in his convictions, and was a stanch member of the Associated Reform church.

Hamilton Robinson was born in Richland



Fred Reed

Catharine Reed

county, Ohio, December 10, 1817, and there grew to manhood on the old homestead, which he assisted in clearing from the woods, and was educated in the pioneer schools of that day. January 25, 1842, he was united in marriage with Maria Riddle, also of Richland county and daughter of James and Effie Riddle. To this union eleven children have been born, viz: Eliza, deceased; Issabella, wife of James Leslie, deceased; William, deceased; John C., county commissioner; Margaret, deceased wife of Martin North; James H., farmer of Pleasant township; Jane, wife of Emanuel Good; Sarah, Thomas A., Nancy A., and Esther M., the wife of Lemuel Dwyer. Mrs. Robinson was born in Washington county, Pa., April 21, 1822, and when a child came with her parents to Richland county, Ohio. In early life she was a member of the Associated Reform church, but upon locatig in Van Wert county united with the Presbyterian church, with which she was connected at the time of her death, December 24, 1779.

In September, 1852, Mr. Robinson moved to this county and purchased a farm in Pleasant township, upon which he resided four years; then purchased the farm on which he now lives, and since that time has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Van Wert county. He is a life-long member of the Associated Reform church and has always been a liberal supporter of church and school as well as all benevolent enterprises and institutions. Politically in early life he was a democrat, but being opposed to slavery he joined the republican party at its formation and has since been a strong supporter of its principles. He is one of the few remaining pioneers of Pleasant township who were instrumental in the early development of the county, and to him as much as any other man are largely due the good roads of the community and the growth and development of his township and county; thus he can look back upon a long and useful life well spent, and no man stands higher for integrity and honor in the county than Hamilton Robinson.

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FREDERICK REED, a prosperous farmer and ex-soldier, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, on his father's farm in Jennings township, November 9, 1839, a son of Daniel and Mary (Tipton) Reed, and now resides in Tully township, in the county of his birth.

Daniel Reed, a native of Pennsylvania, was a son of Frederick Reed, a Pennsylvania farmer of good old Dutch stock, and when a young man came to Ohio, and in Harrison county married Miss Tipton, who was of English extraction, to which union were born twelve children. About 1835 he came to Van Wert county, and settled in what afterward became Jennings township, bringing with him considerable money, but, as there were no stores in the neighborhood in those pioneer days, he was compelled to go to Sidney, Shelby county, to do his trading. Daniel entered one-quarter section of land, and three brothers—William, Quinton and James—who came with him, and a fourth—Peter, who come later—all entered farms adjoining, making quite a settlement of their own, but without neighbors. The land was covered with heavy timber, but they soon made a deadening and raised their corn among the decaying trees. At one period, for six weeks, they ground their corn in a coffee-mill, the winter being too inclement to permit going the long distance to mill. But this episode was trifling, compared with the many other hardships inherent to pioneer life, unnecessary to be mentioned in detail. Daniel Reed assisted, among other early tasks, in putting in the locks of the Cincinnati & Toledo canal, but of course devoted his efforts chiefly to the development of his farm, succeeding in clearing up an excellent place of 160 acres; but hard work eventually overcame him and he died at the comparatively early age of fifty-one years. He and wife were members of the Christian church, and his conduct through life was most exemplary. He aided in organizing his township, served in several of the township offices, and at one time was county commissioner. For fourteen years his brother William was a justice of the peace—or until he moved west.

Frederick Reed, our subject, was reared in the wilderness above alluded to, doing his share in clearing up the home farm. He attended the first school established in his township, which was taught in a rude log structure, with the customary primitive adjuncts. He married, March 24, 1863, Susannah Berry, daughter of Malachi and Mary (Taylor) Berry, and the next December, leaving behind his young bride, enlisted in company G, Second Ohio heavy artilery, for three years or during the war, under Capt. Orris King, and served until December, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., on account of the cessation of hostilities. He fought at Strawberry Plains, Bull's Gap, Knoxville, Lookout Mountain, Resaca, in many skirmishes, and wound up with guard duty at Knoxville, Tenn. He contracted chronic diarrhea during his term of service and was laid up a month in his quarters, and later was attacked with rheumatism, from which he has never fully recovered. On his return home he re-engaged in farming, buying eighty acres of the old home place, on which he lived until his removal, in 1872, to his present farm of 100 acres in Tully township, which he has cleared up and thoroughly improved with first-class buildings. Here he had the misfortune of losing his wife in 1884, and on March 20, 1885, he married Catherine Mozel, the father of whom came from Germany about 1852, bringing his family, which consisted of himself, wife and one son, Jacob. Mr. Mozel first settled in Holmes county, Ohio, on a farm, but about 1860 came to Tully township, bought forty acres, which he increased to eighty acres, on which he still resides. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Mozel numbered seven, and were named Jacob, Catherine, Elizabeth, Peter, John, Louisa and Louis, the last two of whom died in infancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been born five children—an infant, deceased, Elva M., Nora B., Olive E. and Arthur O. The parents are members of the Methodist church, and in politics the father is a republican, but has never been a seeker after office. He has fully done his duty as a soldier and civilian, is self-made as to fortune, and enjoys the respect of all who know him.

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JOHN T. ROSS, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Brown township, Franklin county, and was born March 19, 1831, a son of John and Mary (Tomlinson) Ross, natives of Virginia. The parents were married in Madison county, Ohio, and came to Van Wert county in 1835, where they entered 100 acres of land and an additional forty acres in Mercer county, all located in the wild woods, but which Mr. Ross subsequently cleared off, laboring at this work until his death, in his forty-third year. Mr. and Mrs. Ross were the parents of the following children, namely: Rebecca, wife of Harrison Boroff, of Mercer county; Robert and Benjamin, deceased; Nancy, widow of Robert Dunathan, of Mendon, Mercer county; William, deceased; John T., our subject; Lydia, the widow of Washington Price, of Delphos, Ohio; Lewis, residing in Van Wert, was a lieutenant in the Civil war; Paul S., whose residence is in Colorado; Richard T., residing in Payne, Paulding county, Ohio, and who was wounded, while serving in the Forty-sixth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, in the battle of Mission Ridge, from which wound he has never fully recovered; and Mary Jane, deceased wife of Rev. William Deal. The mother of these children for her second husband married John Arnold, the union resulting in the birth of one son, Dallas M., of Mercer county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold are now deceased, both dying in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John T. Ross was reared to farm life, though when a young man he spent most of his time in hunting and trapping, and even as late as 1865 killed eighteen deer. In 1847 he entered forty acres of land, which he shortly afterwards sold and bought eighty acres in 1853, to which he afterward added 200 acres, all of which he has cleared from the forest and improved with the exception of twenty acres; a little old tumbled down cabin still covers the spot on which he first made his abiding place in this wild country, where, at the time, the Wyandot and Cherokee Indians held sway.

Mr. Ross was married to Elizabeth Magdalena Reas, a native of Hanover, Germany, and to this union have been born seven children, namely: Henry, who died at the age of eight years; Albert, who wedded Emma Hook, and lives in Van Wert; Rosaltha, wife of J. D. Anderson, of Van Wert county; Cyrus, married to Hattie Tellis, and living near the old home; Julia Ettie, wife of George W. Crone, of Paulding county, Ohio; Wilhelmina, wife of John A. Jones, and mother of one child, named Russell.

September 15, 1861, Mr. Ross enlisted in company A, Forty-sixth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and had his first fight at Shiloh, following which he took part at Corinth, Jackson, Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Champion Hills and New Hope church; at Noonday Creek in the Kenesaw valley, the charge at Kenesaw Mountain; and then at Atlanta, July 23, 1864, and on the 28th of the same month sustained two slight wounds, one of which was in the forehead. At Jonesboro he was in a fierce fight with Hood's men; he was next at Blue Ridge, then at Grisselville, Ga., where the first brigade of the Third division had a combat with five brigades of Hood's army. He next took part at Bentonville, the last battle fought by Gen. Sherman. Mr. Ross was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 27, 1865, and was paid off and discharged at Columbus, Ohio, August 17 of the same year. Mrs. Ross died January 4, 1894, and Mr. Ross still lives on the homestead, surrounded by a large circle of devoted friends.

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LEWIS F. ROSS, retired manufacturer and dealer in drain tile, Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Mercer county, Ohio, is a son of John and Mary (Tomlinson) Ross, and was born June 8, 1835.

John Ross, also a native of the Buckeye state, was reared to manhood in Franklin county, whence he moved to Mercer county in 1834, and engaged in farming. He had been married in Franklin county to Miss Tomlinson, a native of the county, who bore her husband a family whose names are given in the sketch of John T. Ross, preceding.

Lewis F. Ross, the subject of this sketch, was a lad of eight years at the time of his mother's second marriage, when the family removed to York township, Van Wert county, where Lewis F. worked on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when he went to live with his brother, John F., of the same township, with whom he worked until twenty-one years of age, and then worked "on shares" until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when he enlisted for three years in company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, September 10, 1861, under Capt. J. W. Heath. He participated in all the marches, shirmishes and engagements of his regiment until February, 1864, when he veteranized at Scottsboro, Ala., was assigned to his old company, and granted a veteran furlough home. On his way back to his regiment he was taken ill and was left at Chattanooga, Tenn., in charge of the camp equipage of his brigade, until September, 1864, when he rejoined his command and served with it until his honorable discharge, at Louisville, Ky., July 22, 1865. That Mr. Ross was a true, good and faithful soldier and patroit is proven by the facts that he was promoted to Fifth sergeant while in the ranks, and at Camp Sherman, one year later, was promoted to the First sergeancy, and, February 2, 1865, was commissioned first lieutenant. On his discharge from the army he returned to York township and engaged in farming, having purchased a farm of eighty acres. For ten years he also filled the office of justice of the peace, and then resigned, and for two years served as township assessor. In 1884 he sold his York township farm and came to Van Wert, and for two seasons was employed as an assistant to the county commissioners in opening up and extending the Little Auglaize river for six miles, and then for a year was engaged in soliciting for the Ohio Farmers' Assurance association; in 1886 he embarked in the manufacture of drain tile, which vocation he followed until 1893, when he sold his plant and is now living in retirement.

The marriage of Lieut. Lewis F. Ross took place in York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, June 16, 1868, to Miss Ida E. Roberts, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, January 21, 1851, a daughter of John and Mary (Mitchel) Roberts, and this union has been blessed by the birth of three children, viz: Chauncy C., a merchant of Van Wert, born August 1, 1872; Otis C., a clerk, born June 8, 1876; Hallie, born July 21, 1882—died March 21, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Ross are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is a member of G. A. R. He owns 100 acres of fine land in the county, and has a very pleasant residence in the city, where he enjoys, with his family, the esteem of a large circle of friends.

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ALBERT J. ROLLER, farmer of Jennings township, and ex-county commissioner, was born in the county of Mahoning, Ohio, June 3, 1847, a son of John and Susanna (Fox) Roller. The father was a native of the aforesaid county and the mother of Columbiana county. John Roller and family moved to Van Wert county in 1865, and settled in York township, where Mrs. Roller yet resides. The following are the names of their children: Martha, deceased wife of Silas Rice; Albert J. and Allen F., twins, of whom the latter died at the age of twenty-four; Urban died when thirty-six years of age; Joseph M., is a resident of Liberty township; Mary Jane is the wife of Samuel Wentz, of Jennings; John lives near Elgin; Wilson lives with his widowed mother in York township, and Harriet died in infancy. The father of these children departed this life September 5, 1866.

Albert J. Roller has spent his life as a farmer, and at the early age of sixteen, owing to the death of his father, was obliged to forego his school privileges in order to assist his widowed mother, and younger brothers and sisters. In November, 1868, he entered into the marriage relation with Mary Jane Guthrie, daughter of George and Mary J. (Moore) Guthrie, and now has a family of nine children, whose names, in order of birth, are as follows: Walter, a medical student, of Van Wert county; Emery, a member of the mercantile firm of Tracy & Roller, of Elgin, Ohio; Ira, Ada, Myrtle, Leota, Marion, Ernest and Dwight. The mother of these children died October 2, 1894.

In 1886, Mr. Roller, was elected to the office of county commissioner, in which capacity he served six years. During his official term a number of substantial public improvements were made throughout the county, notably among which were the handsome jail, the armory, and over 300 ditches. As an official Mr. Roller displayed excellent judgment and business tact, and his course was commended by the people of the county, who looked upon as a most obliging and capable servant. His record, as a guardian of the people's interests, stands without stain or blemish, and should he be called to positions of trust in the future it is safe to predict that his duties will be performed in an able, impartial and consciencious manner. In addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners, Mr. Roller served as trustee of his township and also as justice of the peace. Politically he is a democrat, and has done valuable service in the councils of his party in Van Wert county. He has made a success in life in more ways than one, having an excellent reputation as a neighbor and citizen, beside accumulating a sufficiency of this world's goods to place himself in very comfortable circumstances. Mr. Roller and family are members of the Methodist church, in which they are highly esteemed.

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GEORGE W. ROUSH, of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a German by descent, and comes directly from an old Pennsylvania family, his grandfather, also, named George W., having been born in Dauphin county, in the Keystone state, and there rearing four sons—Joseph, John, Jacob and William. Of these, William Roush came to Ohio, in 1822, settled in Hocking county, and cleared up a farm. He, also, was born in Dauphin county, Pa., February 4, 1808, and was but fourteen years of age when he started in life for himself in Ohio. He married Susannah Myers, a daughter of Jacob and Anna (Ditto) Myers, of German extraction, the union resulting in the birth of seven children, viz: George W., Sarah, Jacob, Anna, Elizabeth, Joseph and Margaret, all born in Hocking county. In 1863 or 1864 William Roush moved to Washington township, Van Wert county, bought 120 acres, and here followed farming until his death, at the age of seventy-seven years, a member of the United Brethren church, of which his wife was also a devoted member. Mr. Roush sent two sons to the Civil war, George W. and Jacob, but was always a democrat in his politics. Jacob Roush served in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, was shot through the neck at Vicksburg, Miss., and died seven days later.

George W. Roush was born January 15, 1831, in Hocking county, Ohio, and in 1856 settled in Washington township, Van Wert county. He was married, in Hocking county, January 13, 1853, by Rev. E. Bruce, of the United Brethren church, to Mary A. Davis, who was born February 26, 1833, a daughter of Jabez and Jane (McCoy) Davis, of Scotch Irish descent. After marriage Mr. Roush lived in Hocking county two years, then went to Marion county, Ill., in 1855, lived on a farm of eighty acres for a year, and in 1856 came again to Van Wert county, Ohio; here he cleared up ten or twelve acres in Washington township, and then sold out and located in Monterey township, Putnam county, on a farm in the woods, cleared it up and sold it for $4,000, and in 1882 came to Jackson township, Van Wert county, bought 120 acres also in the woods, of which about fifteen acres was cleared. Of this farm he cleared up and sold forty acres, retaining eighty acres, which he likewise cleared, and on which he erected a comfortable dwelling.

August 18, 1862, Mr. Roush enlisted at Delphos, Ohio, in company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve for three years or during the war; faithfully he performed his duty until July 10, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio. He served at Kingston, Tenn.; Mossy Creek, Tenn.; Buzzard's Roost, Ga.; at the front of Atlanta, Ga.; at Resaca, Pumpkinvine Creek, Acworth, Peach Tree Creek, Kenesaw Mountain and Jonesboro, Ga., and all the engagements and skirmishes in which his regiment took part. After the fall of Atlanta he went in pursuit of the rebel general, Hood, and so on to the close of the war.

To Mr. and Mrs. Roush have been born six children—Sarah J., William L., Hugh C., Margaret A., Mary E., and John F. In politics Mr. Roush is a republican, and he and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is vice-commander of G. A. R. post at Middlepoint, and a man who is truly honored by all who know him. His uncle, Joseph Roush, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was with Gen. Hull at Detroit, but the strain of patriotism that has since run through the Roush family has been manifested in a far superior manner by our subject in the struggle of the late Civil war.

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S. J. ROWLAND, of York township, Van Wert county, a native of Harrison county, Ohio, was born September 8, 1836, and died December 2, 1895. His father, Lewis Rowland, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was there married to Mary Shivers, who bore him six children, in the following order: William, deceased; Rachel, wife of George Balor, of Indiana; S. J., subject of this sketch; Eliza Jane, who died at the age of four years; John and Sarah Ann (twins)—the latter the wife of T. T. Whitten, of Van Wert county, and the former killed in battle near Richmond, Va., when but eighteen years of age, being a member of the Fifty-fifth Indiana volunteers. William Rowland was also a soldier in the late Rebellion, served in the Fifteenth volunteer infantry, and in the performance of his duty contracted the disease which caused his death. The father of this family came to Van Wert county in the fall of 1838, and first entered land contiguous to that now owned by Seth Painter. Here, in 1847, he lost his wife, whom he duly mourned, but in 1851 took to himself what he hoped would prove to be another help-mate, but the union proved to be uncongenial and a dissolution of the tie soon took place, and Mr. Rowland died a widower.

S. J. Rowland, the subject proper of this sketch, was reared to a thorough practical knowledge of agriculture, and received a very good school education. At the age of twenty-six years he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Sarah Jane Whitten, daughter of Philip Whitten, to which union were born three sons, viz: William H., Barcy A. and John A. Of these the eldest, William H., married Miss Emma Ireland, and now resides in York township, Van Wert county. Mrs. Sarah J. Rowland bade her last farewell to her husband and children in March, 1890, dying an ardent lover of her Master; her bereaved husband is also a consistent member of the Society of Friends.

Mr. Rowland, in his politics, was an active republican and served as trustee of his township. His son, William H., is also a republican, but in religion differs with his deceased father. Our subject was the owner of a fertile farm of seventy-nine acres, as well tilled, productive and attractive as any farm of its size in the county. Mr. Rowland was looked upon with great respect and esteem by his neighbors, and his upright course through life won for him many deep and lasting friendships.

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JOHN GEORGE RUPRIGHT, senior member of the firm of Rupright Bros., Van Wert, Ohio, manufacturers of brick and drain tile, was born in Union county, Ohio, January 10, 1844, and is the eldest son of Gotleib and Catherine (Kriedlein) Rupright. The father, Gotleib Rupright, was born in Nuernberg, Bavaria, October 15, 1818, a son of Phillip Rupright, a farmer who came to America in 1837 and settled in Union county, Ohio, where he purchased military land and followed farming until his death, in 1859, having lost his wife in 1851. Phillip and his wife were sincere worshipers at the German Lutheran church, were quite successful financially, and were the parents of two children, viz: Gotleib, the father of our subject, and Margaret, who died young. Phillip served three years in the Bavarian army, and participated in the battles of Waterloo and Leipsic. Gotleib Rupright lived on the homestead in Union county, Ohio, until his marriage, in 1842, with Catherine Kreidlein, who was born in Nuernberg, Bavaria, January 9, 1817, and came to America in 1836. To this marriage were born ten children, viz: An infant, deceased; John G., our subject; Margaret; Catherine, deceased; Dora; Phillip; J. Conrad (the partner of John G.); Martin; Mary; and Gotleib, deceased. These parents were members of the German Lutheran church, and in politics the father was a democrat. He died in the fall of 1892, leaving a farm of 400 acres; his wife died in February, 1891.

John George Rupright was early inured to the toil of farm life and assisted his father on the home place until eighteen years of age, when he enlisted, in Union county, Ohio, August 18, 1862, in company I, One Hundred Twenty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, and served with the command until September 20, 1863, when he was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga by a minie ball in the left thigh; he was then taken to New Albany, Ind., and, becoming convalescent, was transferred to company A, Eleventh Ohio volunteers, veteran reserve corps, which was engaged in transport duty until the close of the war, and also took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C. July 3, 1865, Mr. Rupright was honorably discharged at Concord, N. H., and on his return to his home served an apprenticeship at brickmaking in Union county, where he remained until 1868, when he came to Van Wert and engaged in the manufacture of brick on his own account, turning out about 250,000,000 brick the first year, and using the old-fashioned hand-mold; the succeeding eight years were devoted to the manufacture of potash, at the conclusion of which time he began tile-making, and continued thereat until 1882, when he added the manufacture of brick, which he has continued until the present time. His brother, J. Conrad Rupright, joined him in partnership in 1877, and the firm not only continued in the manufacture of brick and drain tile, but made a specialty of the baling and shipping of hay, of which they handled, in 1894, 1,100 carloads. They also do a large brokerage business.

The marriage of Mr. Rupright took place in Union county, Ohio, February 28, 1869, to Miss Margaret Nichol, who was born in that county June 21, 1848, a daughter of Leonard and Ursula (Star) Nichol, natives of Bavaria, Germany, and this union has resulted in the birth of four children, viz: Dora L., Clara N.

(deceased), Anna K. and William C. Mr. and Mrs. Rupright are devoted members of the German Lutheran church, in which he is a trustee; he has also served as a member of the school board and as a member of the city council, and is also one of the trustees of the city water-works. He is an affable, good-natured gentleman, of fine personal appearance, and is universally respected.

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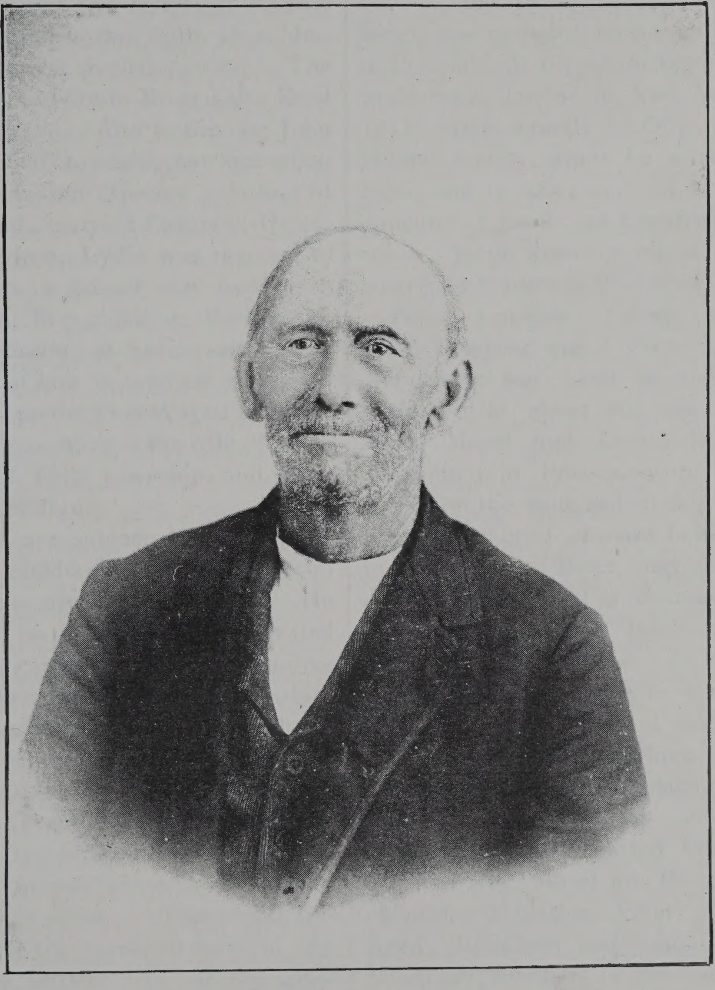
J. CONRAD RUPRIGHT, the junior member of the firm of Rupright Bros., manufacturers of brick and tile, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Union county, October 15, 1852, and is a younger brother of John George Rupright, whose sketch precedes this notice. J. Conrad Rupright was reared on the home farm and educated at the common schools of his district, and at the age of twenty-one came to Van Wert and for two years was employed as an assistant to his brother, J. G., and was then engaged in the grocery business in company with Phillip Scaer for a year, and then was engaged for two years in the same business on his own account, and then, in 1877, formed a partnership with his brother, John G., in the manufacture of brick and tile, which partnership still exists and is doing a prosperous business.

J. Conrad Rupright was united in wedlock, at Van Wert, December 12, 1878, with Miss Elizabeth Germann, who was born in Van Wert, March 19, 1859, a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Smith) Germann, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two children, Walter A. and Otto C. Mr. and Mrs. Rupright are consistent members of the German Lutheran church, of which Mr. Rupright is also the treasurer. The family are quite prominent in the social circles in Van Wert, and have hosts of substantial friends.

WILLIAM REED, one of the original pioneers of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of William and Martha (Howey) Reed, the former a native of Chester county, Pa. Jacob Reed, grandfather of our subject, was a native of Ireland, and with his brother, Andrew, came to America prior to the war of the Revolution. In that heroic struggle Jacob served as a teamster, and Andrew as a brave soldier in the ranks. After the close of the war Jacob settled in Chester county, Pa.; later removed to near Greensburg, in the western part of Pennsylvania, while Andrew settled in Virginia. William Reed, Sr., in April, 1815, brought his wife from Pennsylvania and settled in Ashland county, Ohio, where he clearned up a farm of 100 acres from the woods, and there lived to be eighty years of age. He, also, was a soldier, and served in the war of 1812, was a member of the Methodist church, and was an honored pioneer. His six children, all born in Ashland county, were named Rebecca, William, Elizabeth, George, Rachael and Jacob.

William Reed, the subject of this sketch, was born December 25, 1815, on the farm which his father had opened in Ashland county, Ohio, the previous April. He was taught the carpenter's trade, and was married, in his native county, to Martha, daughter of Jacob and Lydia Martin. For three years after marriage he followed his trade in Ashland, then came to Van Wert county, and in 1839 entered eighty acres of land in Tully township, on which he settled October 18, 1842. He built a cabin in the woods and the first winter went to Fort Wayne for his provisions. By hard work and perseverence he cleared up his original farm and added to it from time to time until he owned 200 acres, hewn from a wilderness infested with beasts of prey, but abounding in wild game. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Reed, six grew to maturity and



WILLIAM REED.

were named Ann, Lydia, George, Rachael, Clara and Alice. In politics M. Reed is a democrat, served one year as justice of the peace, several times as township trustee, has served on the school board in his district, and has been township assessor two terms; in religion he is a Lutheran, and in this faith, also, Mrs. Reed was called to rest August 7, 1891. The six surviving children born to Mr. and Mrs. Reed were married as follows: Ann to the late John Keifer, a farmer of Tully township, to which union were born three children; George a farmer of Adams county, Ind., married Elizabeth Hines, who bore six children; Lydia was married to Alexander Rodgers, a farmer now residing in Fort Wayne, with five children; Rachel, the wife of Henry Johnson, of Sacramento, Cal., has five children; Clara is married to Isaiah Clem, an engineer on the Fort Wayne railroad, and has two children; Alice is the wife of Peter Mozel, a farmer of Tully township, and is the mother of three children.

William Reed, our subject, has now living a family of six children, twenty-four grand children and nine great-grandchildren. He still retains eighty acres of his well cultivated farm, which he carved from the primitive forest when he first settled in the township; the woods occupied almost every rod of land, and were filled with game of all varieties, and it was his custom to carry a gun when visiting, or when passing through the forest for any purpose, and he frequently dropped a deer on the way; his wife herself killed two deer, and moreover, a turkey or two. These birds frequently came near the house in flocks of fifty or more, and the settlers had all the game they wanted.

Peter Mozel, father of the younger Peter, the husband of Alice Reed, is one of the respected citizens of Tully township, and was born in Prussia. His father was Ludwig Mozel, who married Elizabeth Beck, was a soldier in the wars with Napoleon, at different times fought in both the French and German armies, and was wounded in battle. He was the father of three children—Peter, Ludwig and Mary E., and died at the age of about fifty years, a member of the Presbyterian church. His son, Peter, was reared a farmer and was educated in Prussia. At the age of thirty years he came to America, landed in New York in March, 1853, came directly to Ohio, and located in Holmes county, where he worked as a farm-hand, and in 1854 married Louisa Roswiler, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Young) Roswiler. Jacob Roswiler was a Hessian, was a weaver by trade and the father of four children—Peter, Caroline, Lousia and Elizabeth. Jacob Roswiler was a Prussian soldier in the Napoleonic wars, and he and wife died in Germany at about the age of fifty years. Peter Mozel and Louisa Roswiler became acquainted in Prussia, were passengers together on the same sailing ship which brought them to America—Louisa being accompanied by her brother, Peter, and sister. Caroline—and they all located in Holmes county, Ohio, where the marriage of Peter and Lousia took place, as stated above. In 1862, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mozel came to Van Wert county and bought forty acres of land near Convoy, on which they resided three years, then sold and bought their present place of eighty acres in the forest, which by industry and hard work, they have converted into a good home. Mr. and Mrs. Mozel are the parents of four children—Catherine, Peter (married to Alice Reed), Elizabeth and John. Mr. and Mrs. Mozel are members of the German Presbyterian church, and in politics he is a democrat. They are ranked among the most thrifty, industrious and respected farmers of Tully township, are useful members of society, and disposed to aid all enterprises of use to the general public.

EMERY RUMMEL, an official of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and a highly respected citizen, is remotely of German descent, his lineage, however, being traced only to his grandfather, a native of Maryland.

John George Rummel, father of our subject, was also a native of Maryland, born March 28, 1799, and when but a lad was brought to Ohio by his father, who located in Mahoning county. John G. received a very fair education, learning io read and write the German and English languages, and being also taught the carpenter's trade. April 4, 1820, he married Susannah, daughter of Barney Faustnaught, a pioneer of Mahoning county. In 1846 Mr. Rummel brought his family to Van Wert county, accompanied, with horses and wagons, by the families of Joseph Whitenbarger, William May and William Brothers, and also by his wife's father, who rode in a one-horse buggy. Beside his wife, the family of Mr. Rummel consisted of eight children—Margaret, Sophia, Joseph, Susannah, Elizabeth, Caroline, Isaac P. and Emery. The settled on the farm now owned by our subject, in section No. 6, Harrison township. The tract was covered entirely with timber, and comprised 143 acres in Ohio and thirty-three acres across the line in Indiana, and through the usual persistency and industry characterizing the pioneer, a farm was wrought out, that afterward became the equal of any in the county. Mr. Rummel lived to be over eighty-two years of age—dying November 25, 1881, a devoted member of the Lutheran church and in politics a stanch democrat.

Emery Rummel was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, August 31, 1845, and was, of course, a mere babe when brought to Van Wert county. He was reared on the home farm and at the proper age was sent to the pioneer school nearest at hand, and this he attended three months in the year until he reached the age of seventeen years. April 3, 1870, he was married, in Adams county, Ind., to Miss Lavina Barkley, daughter of Andrew and Hannah (Kahl) Barkley. The father, Andrew Barkley, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, was of German extraction, and at the age of eight years lost his father. His wife, a daughter of Henry Kahl, was born in Pennsylvania, and became the mother of five children, viz: Lavina, John, Henry, Mary and James. Mr. Barkley was a soldier in the late war and is now living in retirement in Decatur, Ind., and, with his wife, is a member of the Church of God. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Rummel have been born ten chidren, in the following order: Bertha A., now wife of Lawson Wallis, Mary E., John H., George A., Della M., Lavina C., Mabel E., Ora S., Francis V. and Tessie H. The parents are devout members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of which Mr. Rummel has been a deacon for several years, as well as superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics Mr. Rummel is a democrat, and has served two terms as township trustee and two terms as justice of the peace; he has also been a member of the school board and has served as supervisor; he is a member of the grange, and has always been a warm friend of the agricultural progress of his township as well as an ardent promoter of its educational interest.

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ELZA N. RUNNION, owner of a fine farm and a retired educator of Liberty township, is descended from German-English ancestry, and dates the paternal side of her family history through several generations to the old world. His great grandfather, James H. Runnion, was born in Baden, Germany, came to America in the time of the colonies, and served eight years in the war of the Revolution, a part of the time as member of Washington's body guard; he was a farmer, and died a great many years ago in the state of New Jersey. Joseph Runnion, grandfather of Elza N., was born in New Jersey, served in the war of 1812, married Rachael Logan, and, later, moved to Belmont county, Ohio; thence to the county of Richland in the early development of which he took an active part. His wife died in 1862, and later he removed to Williams county, Ohio, where his death occurred. He is remembered as a highly respectable citizen and a man of much local prominence.

John L. Runnion, son of Joseph, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, November 26, 1816, and when a mere lad accompanied his parents to the county of Richland. He was a well educated man, a United Brethren in his church affiliations, originally a democrat in politics and later became a republican; he married Emily Bowers, daughter of Jeremiah and Anna Bowers, and had a family consisting of the following children, William A., Elza N., Albert, James S. and Logan. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Runnion moved to Crawford county, Ohio, where his death occurred June 4, 1859. His widow subsequently married Matthias Corothers, and departed this life in Seneca county, September 8, 1893.

Elza N. Runnion was born in Crawford county, Ohio, April 12, 1850. He received a liberal education, attending first the public schools and later the Baldwin university, and for a period of eighteen years taught school in various parts of Ohio. Mr. Runnion has always been a student, and since retiring from the profession of teaching has paid considerable attention to literature, being one of the best read men in the county. On the 3d day of October, 1872, he entered into the marriage relation with Arletta Dellinger, daughter of John and Mariah (Leister) Dellinger, of Crawford county. The father of Mrs. Runnion is a prominent citizen of the aforesaid county, a large farmer and stock raiser and successful business man.

After his marriage Mr. Runnion settled in Crawford county, where he engaged in farming and teaching, purchasing land there and residing upon the same until his removal to the county of Van Wert. He has been a resident of Liberty township of the latter county for twelve years, owning a good farm which is well improved and successfully cultivated. He has been a member of the school board of Ohio City since coming to the county, takes an active interest in matters educational and has done much for the schools of his township. He is an earnest supporter of the republican party, and fraternally belongs to Wide-awake lodge, No. 571, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs, and is also a member of the P. of H. and K. of P. orders. Mr. and Mrs. Runnion have had a family of six children, viz: Florence E., Minnie M. J., John E., Verna E., Viola and Albert, the last two both deceased.

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ALBERT RUNNION, a prominent citizen of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, is a native of Ohio, born in the county of Crawford, in the year 1853. His paternal ancestors came originally from Germany, and were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania, in which state his grandfather, Joseph Runnion, was born and reared. Joseph Runnion was a pioneer of Richland county, Ohio, where, in 1817, his son, John L. Runnion, father of the subject of this mention was born.

John L. Runnion spent the years of his youth and early manhood in his native county, and began life for himself as a farmer in the county of Crawford, Ohio, where the remainder of his life was passed. On the tenth of November, 1842, in Richland county, Ohio, was solemnized his marriage with Emily Bowers, and six children resulted from the union, as follows: Rachael, deceased; William, of Seneca county; Elza N., of Van Wert; Albert, whose name introduces this sketch; James F. of Pleasant township, and John, deceased. Mrs. Runnion was born in Richland county, Ohio, in April, 1823, and is descended from Welsh ancestry. John L. Runion was known as an enterprising and successful farmer, a useful citizen, and a man of unquestioned integrity. He was for years a consistent member of the United Brethren church, for the promotion of which he gave liberally of his means, and politically supported the republican party in its infancy. He was a man of marked individuality, firm in his convictions of right, and endeavored to guide his life according to the principles of truth and justice. He took a deep interest in matters educational, possessed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and his death, which occurred in 1859, was an event sadly deplored in the community. About the year 1864, Mrs. Emily Runnion was united in marriage to Matthias Corothers, whose death occurred in 1877 (see sketch of J. L. Corothers). His widow survived him several years, and departed this life October 2, 1893.

Albert Runnion received his elementary education in the common schools, and subsequently took a two-year course at Heidelburg college, Tiffin, Ohio, where he made substantial progress in the higher branches of learning. During a part of the time spent in college, and six years thereafter, he taught school in the counties of Crawford and Huron, and at intervals followed agricultural pursuits, in which he met with well deserved success. In 1882, he sold his farm on the boundary of Huron, Seneca and Crawford counties, and invested the proceeds in real estate in Pleasant township, Van Wert county. Three years later he purchased the farm where he now resides, which he has brought to a successful state of cultivation. Mr. Runnion is an intelligent farmer, a public-spirited citizen, and one of the well-informed men of the community in which he resides; politically he wields an influence for the republican party, and was honored by the citizens of Pleasant township, in the years 1893 and 1894, by being electen to the office of tax assessor, the duties of which position he discharged in a manner with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned. Mr. Runnion was married, in 1877, to Jennie M. Corothers, daughter of John and Susan (Mowery) Corothers, a union blessed with three children, namely: Francis, Loie B. (deceased) and Susie. Mrs. Jennie M. Runnion was born March 2, 1865, in Huron county, Ohio; she is a member of the Society of Friends, with which church her husband is also identified.

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J. F. RUNNION, son of John L. and Emily A. Runnion, and brother of Albert, notices of whom appear in the preceding sketch, is an Ohioan by birth, and first saw the light of day in the year 1856, in Crawford county. Left fatherless at the age of four years, his early training devolved upon his mother, who spared no pains, nor left unimproved any opportunity of instilling into his youthful mind the principles of truth and right which have since borne fruit in his active and useful life. His early educational training was received in the schools of Seneca county, supplemented by a two years' course in Heidelberg college, and later, for a year and a half, he pursued his studies in the normal school at Valpariso, Ind., preparatory to engaging in the profession of teaching. At intervals, while attending college, he taught in the schools of Crawford county, and thus succeeded in procuring means to enable him to pay his way in the institutions above mentioned. His success in the educational field is attested by the fact of his having taught fourteen terms in the schools of Crawford, Seneca and Van Wert counties; and when not engaged in his profession, he gave his attention to the pursuit of agriculture. In October, 1886, Mr. Runnion and Miss Lizzie Shade, daughter of Simeon and Louisa Shade, of Crawford county, were made man and wife, and three children have resulted from the marriage—Lester Cleon, Simon Delbert, and an infant daughter, deceased. On the 12th day of April, 1881, Mr. Runnion, with his mother and brother, E. N. Runnion, moved to his present home in Pleasant township, where, for six years thereafter, he was engaged in teaching in connection with tilling the soil. At the end of that time he concluded to retire from educational work and devote his time exclusively to agriculture, which he has since done. He and wife are members of the Methodist church, and while taking no very active interest in matters political, he supports the republican party with his ballot. Mr. Runnion has a well-stored mind, keeps himself posted in current events, and his educational training enables him to discharge intelligently the duties of American citizenship.

The following is a brief outline of the leading facts in the history of Mrs. Runnion's family. Her father, Simeon Shade, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, of which his father, a native of Pennsylvania, was a pioneer, and a farmer, which useful calling he followed all his life. He was married, in 1857, to Louisa Knierremen, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in the year 1839. The following are the names of their children: Ilona, wife of Q. R. Brown, of Bloomville; Lizzie; Simeon A., of Crawford county, and William E., of the county of Seneca. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shade are still living in Crawford county.

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CHARLES N. SCHEIDT, a well-known dealer in coal and wood in Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Bavaria, Germany, at Kaulbach, Rhine-Pfalz, August 20, 1855, a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Gehm) Scheidt. The parents were also natives of Bavaria, were there married and engaged in farming, and died respectively in 1861 and 1878, the parents of twelve children, viz: Jacob, Elizabeth (deceased), Michael, Philipina, Henry (died in 1893), Catherine, an unnamed infant (deceased), John, Caroline, Margaret, William (of Van Wert) and Charles N. (our subject). The father of this family was a very prominent man in his day, was for eight years mayor of his city, accumulated an estate valued at $20,000, and died a member of the German Protestant church, of which his wife was also a member.

Charles N. Scheidt, our subject, was educated in Germany, and when sixteen years old, on the anniversary of his birth, sailed from Bremen for New York, in which latter city he landed September 11, 1871, and there found employment as a laborer in a furniture factory until March 29, 1879, when he came to Van Wert, and here entered the shop of Fife & Scheidt as an apprentice at the blacksmith trade, and served two years, after which he worked in Delphos, Ohio, at this trade, for nine months, when he returned to Van Wert, worked for the Van Wert Carriage company for one year, and then started his present place and did horse-shoeing and blacksmithing until 1891, when he engaged in the coal and wood trade, which he has since most successfully carried on, and now handles about seventy-five car-loads of coal per year. He has amassed considerable property and has his residence on the corner of Walnut and Jackson streets; he also owns a lot, 44x132 feet, on North Market street, well improved with good buildings; also a residence block at the corner of Race and Greenwalt streets, and the lot No. 377 Tyler street, the greater portion of which property is the result of his prudent foresight and business sagacity, backed up by his untiring industry.

Mr. Scheidt was married, in Van Wert, February 5, 1882, to Minnie Heuschkel, an adopted daughter of Charles E. Heuschkel. This lady was born in Shelby county, Ohio, in March, 1861, and has borne her husband two children—Florence and Clara H. Mr. and Mrs. Scheidt are members of Saint Peter's Reform church, and fraternally he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men. The family are highly respected in their neighborhood as well as throughout the city, and Mr. Scheidt stands in the front rank of the energetic and responsible business men of the city of Van Wert.

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JOHN T. SCOTT, founder of the thriving little city in Van Wert county, Ohio, bearing his name, is a son of Richard and Margaret (Lynn) Scott, and was born in Warren county, Ohio, March 25, 1851. Richard, the father, was also a native of Warren county, and was born March 31, 1816, a son of Thomas Scott, a native of New Jersey, who, in turn, was the son of Jonathan, also of New Jersey. Thomas Scott, the grandfather of our subject, was the father of two children and of Scotch descent.

Richard Scott was reared a farmer, and about 1839 married Margaret Lynn, daughter of James and Esther (Thongson) Lynn, the union resulting in the birth of eleven children, as follows: Mary, wife of Alonzo Crawford, of Columbus Grove; Esther, wife of William Exline, formerly for thirteen years auditor of Van Wert county, but now a farmer and general superintendent of the wheel company at Delphos, Ohio; Anna, wife of the Rev. Thomas J. Harbaugh, minister of the United Brethren church and residing on the old Scott homestead in Putnam county; Thomas, a farmer of Allen county; James, a deceased Methodist minister of Athens, Tenn.; Samuel, a Methodist minister of Jackson Center, Shelby county, Ohio; John T., the subject of this memoir; Richard, deceased; Henry, a farmer of Hardin county, Ohio; Margaret, deceased; and Charles, deceased.

September 10, 1859, Richard Scott, with his family, moved to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of 2,100 acres of land, on which he lived until 1875, when he purchased 160 acres near Athens, McMinn county, Tenn., where he passed the remainder of his life, dying at the age of seventy-eight years. For six years he was a minister of the Methodist church, and afterward of the United Brethren church, was a pious, eloquent and faithful worker in the Lord's vineyard, and his loss was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends and admirers, whose grief at his loss was truly heartfelt. Mrs. Margaret (Lynn) Scott was a native of Pennsylvania, was a daughter of James and Esther (Thompson) Lynn, and was but a child when brought to Ohio by her parents, who settled in Warren, then known as Preble county; she also became prominent in the Methodist Episcopal church, and later in the church of the United Brethren, while her parents were both devoted, sincere Presbyterians.

John T. Scott, the subject of our sketch, was reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools of Warren and Putnam counties, and attended one term at Kalida. December 28, 1872, Mr. Scott married Miss Marvilla Uhrich, a native of Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas county, Ohio, born June 12, 1851, and a daughter of William and Catherine (Houston) Uhrich, and this marriage has been crowned by the birth of twelve children, namely: Mittie L., Richard S., Margaret C., William H., Sina M., Anna E., Jessie I. (deceased), Fannie F., Lizzie F., Ruth, Wreath, and an infant, deceased. The father of Mrs. Scott, William Uhrich, was also born at Uhrichsville about 1820, was there educated, and there learned the blacksmith's trade. About 1842 he married Catherine Houston, to which union were born four children, viz: Mrs. Jane Collins, of Steubenville, Ohio; Florenda, wife of John Buffington, a mechanic of Uhrichsville; Catherine, deceased wife of William McClusky, also of Uhrichsville, and Marvilla, wife of Mr. Scott, our subject. When Mrs. Scott was quite small she lost her mother, and her father married, for his second wife, Susan Meyers, who became the mother of the following children: Dula Belle, wife of Alpha Exline, of Van Wert county; William, deceased; Adam, a farmer of Van Wert county; Scott F., of Tuscarawas county, and Edward, of Scott, Ohio. Mr. Uhrich lived in Tuscarawas county until 1870, when he came to Van Wert county, where he passed away the remaining years of his life. He was for more than a quarter of a century a steward and class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith he died in 1882.

After his marriage Mr. Scott located in Putnam county, and also bought a tract of land on the Van Wert county line, hired a surveyor and parceled the tract out in town lots, thus founding the city of Scott, and presenting to W. H. Drury, at the same time, two lots, on condition that the latter would build and engage in business. Mr. Scott is altogether a man of enterprise, push and energy, and now operates the largest tile factory in the county, and is moreover a self-made man. He is thoroughly upright in all his tranactions and moral to the core, having, ever since a boy of seventeen, been a steward in the Methodist Episcopal church, and he has been the means of having organized the Methodist church at Scott, of which he has been a leader three years, as well as trustee; of this denomination, also, Mrs. Scott has been a devout member ever since girlhood. Miss Margaret Scott, daughter of the above, graduated April 9, 1895, with honors, with the first graduating class from the Scott high school, and the entire family have more than a local reputation for native intelligence and amiability. Certainly no one person has done more to advance the business, moral and educational advantages of both Van Wert and Putnam counties than John T. Scott.

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JOSEPH SCHULTZ, deceased, was a son of Joseph and Sophia (Cope) Schultz, and was born in Germany, in September, 1819. The father was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, received an excellent education, and was a prominent member of the Lutheran church. In January, 1843, subject married Miss Mary Foning, a daughter of Christopher and Sophia (Rose) Foning, the former of whom was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1786, and died in 1844. The union of this respected couple was blessed with three children, viz: Henry, deceased; Mary, wife of subject, and an infant, deceased. Mrs. Schultz was born in Germany in 1824, was educated there and was a devoted member of the Lutheran church. In 1855 she came to America with her husband, who bought a tract of thirteen acres of land near Dayton, Ohio, and carried on farming for five years, then rented more land, and continued this vocation five years longer, utilizing both tracts. In 1865, Mr. Schultz sold his tract near Dayton and came to Van Wert county and bought a farm, which he cleared up, and on which he erected a modern dwelling, having heretofore lived in a house of logs. To his marriage were born the following children: Henry, of Auglaize county, deceased; Rachel, widow of George Slife, of Decatur, Ala., but now at home with her mother; Mary, wife of Chris Thompson, ,of Van Wert county; Joe, of Van Wert county, and an infant boy and an infant girl, deceased.

Joseph Schultz, our subject, had three brothers and two sisters, as follows: Charles, of Berlin, Germany; John, who came to America two years after his brother, Joseph, had come, passed five or six years in Canada and then came to Van Wert county, where he died; Herman J., of Auglaize county, who came over with Joseph; Elsby, wife of John Schroeder, of Chicago, and Sophia, who died in her native Germany.

About fourteen years age our subject was kicked by a horse and for several weeks was not expected to live, but finally he recovered, yet was never a strong man again. Some four years before his death, Mr. Schultz began to complain of pain in his right arm, and for two years had it under medical treatment, and then went to Fort Wayne, where it was amputated. His death took place, in 1869, from cancer of the lungs, two years after the amputation had taken place—and this disorder was presumably what caused the pain in the right arm.

Mr. Shultz was in politics a democrat and was also a prominent citizen; he was a hardworking man, energetic farmer, a good provider for his family, and was much respected by a large circle of friends. His remains were interred in the family lot at Van Wert, and his loss was deeply deplored by his sorrowing family and neighbors. Since this sad event, Mrs. Schultz has rented out the farm, but still makes her home on the place. Mrs. Schultz has now reached her seventy-first year, is a devout member of the Lutheran church, and is truly beloved by her family and honored by all who know her. Her aged mother, who came to this county with her, was called to her final home three years before the family left Dayton.

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ANDREW RICHTER, deceased, a man of excellent characteristics, with varied experience and with varied fortune, was born in Saxony, Germany, October 19, 1836. As is common with most if not all of the children in his native land he early began attending school, and was graduated from one of the best schools in his home city. Afterward he took a course of study in a religious school. Thus well equipped he began the battle of life for himself, at first being employed in a soap factory for three years, and then engaging in the mercantile business for himself with gratifying success. When twenty-four years of age he left his own country for the United States, landing in New York, and coming thence directly to Mansfield, Ohio, where he was married, and near which city he settled down on a farm with his wife's parents. His wife dying, he removed to Van Wert, in 1861, where he married again, this time, Miss Louisa Bieber, in 1865. After being employed as clerk for some time he again went into business on his own account, and again met with success. In 1889 he removed with his family to Willshire, Van Wert county, where he once more engaged in business, remaining there until his death, which occurred August 6, 1881. Mr. Richter for some portions of his life was engaged in speculating, but in this line of activity was not uniformly successful; for which reason he was not so well off when he died as he probably otherwise would

ANDREW RICHTER.

MRS. LOUISA RICHTER.

have been. He was, however, a liberal and charitable man, using this last word in its two senses, as applied to his mental attitude toward other people, and also as to the free use of his means in aid of worthy persons and worthy objects. He assisted in founding Saint Peter's Evangelical church of Van Wert, of which he was a consistent member; and other institutions and causes found in him a ready helper in time of need. Politically he was a democrat.

Mr. Richter and his second wife were the parents of four children, viz: Emma, Anna, William and Oscar, all of whom are living but Emma, who died October 16, 1895, in Delphos, Ohio. Emma Richter was a most excellent young lady, modest, true, and well beloved by all. She was employed for several years in the telephone exchange in Lima, Ohio, where her absence will be keenly felt by all her former associates. Anna is married and living in Delphos, Ohio; Orcar is engaged in business in Corning, Ohio, and is single, and William is living with his mother in Van Wert. Miss Louisa Bieber, second wife of Mr. Richter, was born in New York city, September 12, 1846. After her husband's death she found it necessary to work for a subsistence. At first she engaged in the millinery business in Willshire, where she remained for some time, when she and her children removed to Portland, Ind., whence after some time she moved to Van Wert, where she now resides. At the death of her father she inherited some valuable property, and is now so situated as to live in comparative ease and comfort.

One incident in her life is well worthy of noting in this connection. She was once sailing down the Mississippi river in company with her father on a steamboat, when eight or nine boats, the one she was in being included in the number, were racing. The boat she and her father were on struck a snag and was sunk, the accident occurring during the night. Her father grasped her in his arms, sprang into the river, and managed to get upon a piece of the wreckage, saving himself and his daughter, but not saving $2,000 in gold which he had in his clothes, the money and the clothes sinking to the bottom of the river with the boat. Mr. Richter also had the misfortune to have his nose broken in the accident.

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LOUIS J. SCHUMM, an enterprising farmer, was born in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, April 26, 1851, and is a son of George M. and Mary (Pflueger) Schumm, and grandson of John Schumm, of whom mention in full is made in the biography of Henry G. Schumm, on another page. Louis J. was, like his pioneer ancestor and his children, reared to farming, but was also taught the trade of a carpenter, and for thirteen years he followed this calling, proving himself to be an excellent mechanic and a master of his trade, erecting, during the period mentioned, some of the finest dwelling houses and barns in Willshire township. He received a very good education, was taught both the English and German languages, while his business training was in no manner neglected. He was joined in matrimony, February 8, 1883, with Miss Sarah Breuninger, the accomplished daughter of Lewis and Mary (Seckel) Breuninger. The parents of this amiabel young lady were born in Wurtumberg, Germany, and were married in Green Bay City, Wis., where the father had for many years held a position as clerk, then he engaged in merchandising on his own account, and finally came to Van Wert county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm of 100 acres, which he cultivated until his death. His widow resides on this farm and is a respected member of the Lutheran church, of which her husband has also been a member. To the happy marriage of our subject has been born one child—Frieda E. Schumm—now the idol of his parents and the pet of his relatives.

Mr. Schumm had bought his present farm before his marriage, and it now comprises 100 acres. It is drained with over 1,500 rods of tiling, and is improved with a neat modern frame dwelling and a bank barn of his own planning and construction, and which, owing to his skill as a carpenter, surpasses any similar structure in the county. The most of his property Mr. Schumm has realized through his personal industry and the exercise of a sound discretion in the management of his affairs, and to his skill both as a mechanic and farmer. In politics, Mr. Schumm has always exercised his franchise in the interests of the democratic party. With his wife he is a devout member of the Lutheran church, and his and her social standing is with the best families of Van Wert county, Ohio.

HENRY M. SCHUMM, a thriving young general merchant, at Schumm post-office, Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the township and was born June 18, 1861. His father, Frederick Schumm, was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, born April 24, 1814, and at the age of eighteen years came to the United States with his father, John Schumm, and family, as related in several sketches in proximity to this biography. After a residence of five years in Holmes county, Ohio, Frederick was married to Magdalena Meyer, which union resulted in the birth of the following children: William, John M. (deceased), Frederick, Catherine (married to David Stamm), Jacob (deceased), Hannah (Mrs. John Zimmerman), Mary (Mrs. John Zimmerman), Louis G., George F., Barbara A., Henry M. and Ferdinand C. G. Soon after his marriage, Frederick settled in Willshire township, Van Wert county (1839), among the earliest settlers. At one time Frederick owned 500 acres of fine land, of which he retains 160 acres for his own homestead, having generously divided the remainder among his children. He is an elder in the Lutheran church, is a charter member of the congregation at Willshire, and was one of the most liberal contributors toward the erection of the present Lutheran house of worship.

Henry M. Schumm was born on his father's farm, assisted in its cultivation until he was twenty-four years of age, and then entered into the general mercantile trade. Having received a solid education, and having been well grounded in the German and English languages, he was well prepared for this business, and has succeeded therein most admirably. He carries an extensive and well selected stock, suited to the wants of his patrons, and, being polite, affable and accommodating, never loses a customer who once deals with him. Beside carrying on his store, he is agent for the Clover Leaf railway, and for six years has been postmaster at Schumm, a position he has filled to the entire satisfaction of the public; he is also secretary and superintendent of the Schumm creamery, and is the proprietor of a modern elevator at this point, which is operated under his personal supervision.

The marriage of Mr. Schumm was solemnized May 5, 1887, with Miss Wilhelmina H. Hoppe, daughter of John and Abbie (Guenther) Hoppe, and this marriage has been blessed by the birth of five children, viz: Agnes, Alma, Emanuel H. J., Emil and Edna. In politics Mr. Schumm is a stanch democrat, and, like his ancestors, is an ardent and consistent member of the Lutheran church. His reputation as a business man is without a stain, and his success is due, to a large extent, to his unflinching integrity. His social standing is among the best people of the county and his pioneer descent is also a factor in his highly social respectability.

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HENRY G. SCHUMM, a progressive young farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, descends from a very old German-American family. His grandfather, John Schumm, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, where the major portion of his life was passed in farming, and where he was considered one of the well-to-do men of his day. After the death of his wife, he immigrated, with his four sons and one daughter, to the United States, locating in Holmes county, Ohio. In 1837 the family reached Van Wert county, and here Mr. Schumm entered 160 acres each for his four sons and his daughter, who were named in order of birth as follows: Rosanna (Mrs. Shueler), George M., Frederick, Jacob and Louis. At the date mentioned, Van Wert county was a primitive wilderness, abounding with pregnant frog ponds, with not a tree felled on the land entered by this family. But all hands set to work, built cabins, and after undergoing the oft-told hardships of pioneer life, the fine farms and dwellings of the Schumm family that adorn the landscape of Willshire township to-day were the result of their well-directed energies. John Schumm died a member of the Lutheran church, of which his wife had also been a member.

George M. Schumm, father of Henry G. Schumm and son of John Schumm named above, as will be seen, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and had received a good education before coming to the United States with his father, sister and brothers. After reaching man's estate he married Mary Pflueger, to which union children were born in the following order: Frederick, Louis, George, John (deceased), Mary (deceased), Jacob (deceased), Crist (deceased), Henry G., our subject, Martin, Sophia, William (deceased), Margaret (deceased). After marriage the father and mother immediately erected a cabin and set to work to improve the 160 acre farm originally entered when the Schumm family came to the county, and this in due course of time was converted into one of the finest farms of the township. When first the Schumm family came to Van Wert county, George M. and his father walked through the wild country from Holmes county, Ohio, where the family had made a short stay, and on settling on his farm, George M. made trips to Fort Wayne, Ind., where was the nearest mill, in order to have corn ground. George M. Schumm and wife were both charter members of the Lutheran church, to the construction of which he aided liberally, and in the faith of which he died in June, 1871. His death was a sad blow, not only to his family, but to the community at large, in which he had lived so long and of which he was so useful and beloved a member. Henry G. Schumm was born November 14, 1854, a son of George M. above mentioned. He was reared on his present farm and received a common education. He married, in 1879, April 1, Anna M. Roehm, who was born in Tully township, Van Wert county, May 24, 1857, a daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Bienz) Roehm, and to this union five children have been born, viz: Amelia, Anna, Henrietta, Walter and Esther. Mr. Schumm is a democrat in politics, and in religion he and wife are Lutherans. He has been a trustee in his church since twenty-five years of age. He is at present a trustee of his township, and has been since 1893. He owns 160 acres of fine land, and is also interested in the Van Wert County Mutual Aid association, and many other things not herein stated.

FRANCIS M. SHAFFER, a popular traveling salesman and machinist of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Hagerstown, Carroll county, Ohio, May 14, 1834, a son of Samuel and Ruth (Croghan) Shaffer, who were married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and subsequently moved to Hagerstown, where the father followed his trade of cabinet maker until 1860, when he relinquished his trade and thenceforth devoted his attention to his very extensive farming interests in Mercer county until his death, in 1886, his widow being still a resident of Mercer county. Of the ten children born to Samuel and Ruth Shaffer eight still survive, viz: Francis M., our subject; Sarah A., wife of William Lumison, of Lima, Ohio; Jemima, now Mrs. H. Walters; L. B. and W. W. of Mercer county; Elizabeth, married to J. Heath, of Oklahoma territory; Matilda, wife of G. Laurel, of Mercer county, Ohio, and Bird, wife of George Klime, of Leipsic, Ohio. Samuel Shaffer was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics was a republican; as a business man he was successful, and left to his heirs 254 acres of land, besides other valuable property.

Francis M. Shaffer was reared in Mercer county, he being but a child when his parents settled there, and remained on the home farm until twenty-three years of age, when he married and engaged in saw-milling in company with a brother, and this business he followed until the fall of 1873, and then took the position of foreman of a stave factory at Middlepoint for a year, when, his health failing, he came to the city of Van Wert, and here has been engaged as a merchant or followed the vocation of a salesman ever since. He is now agent for the Port Huron Threshing Machine company, and travels through northwestern Ohio, disposing of this excellent agricultural piece of machinery.

The marriage of Mr. Shaffer took place in Van Wert county, Ohio, in July, 1857, to Maria Putnam, who was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, July 11, 1840—a daughter of Peter Putnam of Van Wert county. To this union have been born two children, viz: Samuel W., a drayman, and Mary B., at home. Mr. Shaffer is a republican in politics, and has served as township treasurer, assessor, clerk, and for four years as city cocncilman, and at present is trustee of Pleasant township. He is popular, not only as a salesman and as a party man, but is a favorite through the community. Mr. Shaffer had the misfortune, in 1888, to lose his right foot at Ohio City, by a railroad accident, for which he received a judgment of $6,000.

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JOHN SHAW, deceased, was born in Stark county, Ohio, on the seventeenth day of June, 1820, a son of George and Dorcas (Smith) Shaw. George, the father, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, made his way to Stark county and there married Dorcas Smith, by whom he became the father of eleven children, of whom eight lived to maturity and were named as follows: John (whose name opens this biography); George, Lewis, Thomas and Charles, all deceased; Mary; Elizabeth, now of Ottowa, Ohio, and Jane, of Hancock county. George Shaw removed from Stark county to Hancock county, some time after marriage, and there made his home until his decease in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he and wife had been life long and honored members. In politics Mr. Shaw was a stanch democrat, and his social standing was with the best and wealthiest agriculturists of his county.

John Shaw, the subject proper of this sketch, was reared to manhood on the home farm in Hancock county, remaining with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he began the study of law and civil engineering. October 26, 1843, in Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, he married Miss Eleanor Day, and January 1, 1844, came to Van Wert county, and for the first few years was employed in surveying; he was elected county auditor in 1853, filled the office for three consecutive terms, and then in 1856 was elected state representative from Van Wert county, and served one term, with great credit to himself; in 1857 he bought a farm in Tully township, Van Wert county, and engaged in buying and shipping live stock until 1881, when he returned to Van Wert city and assisted in the promotion of the construction of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railway, securing the right of way through means of township bonds; in 1883 he was appointed postmaster of Van Wert and served three years, when ill health compelled him to resign the office, after which he lived in retirement until May 29, 1893, when he passed away, mourned alike by his extensive family connection and the community at large. Mr. Shaw was a gentleman possessed of considerable property at his demise, had always been an active and useful citizen, and had led a consistent christian life; in politics he was a democrat. He was a Mason, and Odd Fellow and Patron of Husbandry, and was interred with Masonic honors.

Mrs. Eleanor (Day) Shaw was born in Fairfield county Ohio, January 22, 1823, a daughter of Ezekiel P. and Margaret (Barr) Day. Mr. and Mrs. Day were natives of New York and Pennsylvania respectively, but were married in Fairfield county, Ohio, where Mr. Day engaged in coopering and where he and family resided until 1832 and then moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where Mr. Day died in October, 1856, his widow surviving until March 5, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Day were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Eleanor Shaw is the eldest, and who is herself the mother, by her union with the late John Shaw, of seven children, as follows: James B., deceased; Frances, widow of William Engleright, and the mother of three children—Harry, a grocery merchant, Anna, wife, of H. H. Hill, and Eleanor S., wife of G. H. Center; Melville D., ex-senator, a very prominent citizen and statesman, and now a resident of Wapakoneta; Elva, deceased; Emma J., the wife of John Redrup; Stephen A., a fruit merchant of Arkansas City, and John J., deceased. Mrs. Shaw's years are filled with honor, and no one in the county is more highly respected as a lady and a christian-like member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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SAMUEL SHEETS, a pioneer farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Unity township, Columbiana county, September 20, 1813. His grandfather was a native of Germany, was an early settler of Pennsylvania, but moved from that state to Columbiana county, Ohio, bringing his family and settling in the wilderness. John Sheets, a son of the original pioneer above alluded to, was born in Pennsylvania, came to Ohio, when a boy, with his parents, and was reared in Columbiana county, where he married Catherine Rupert, daughter of Adam and Catherine Rupert, and to this union were born fourteen children, all of whom grew to maturity, and were named Samuel, Adam, Jehu, John, Solomon, Frederick, Benjamin, Isaiah, Elias, William, Margaret, Barbara, Mary and Ann. About the year of 1850 John Sheets sold his farm of 190 acres in Columbiana county and came to Van Wert county and purchased a partly cleared farm of 160 acres in Willshire township, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying at the age of over eighty-four years, an elder in the

Lutheran church and a democrat in politics. He had served in the war of 1812, and was highly respected by all who knew him.

Samuel Sheets, a son of John and Catherine (Rupert) Sheets, was reared on his father's farm, receiving about three months' education in a subscription school of the neighborhood. In September, 1837, he married, in Columbiana county, Miss Mary Cress, a daughter of George and Barbara Cress, natives of the Keystone state and parents of ten children—Catherine, Susan, Sarah, Barbara, Laura, Mary, George, Michael, Isaac and William. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sheets, after the birth of their first child, John, started in the fall of 1840 for Van Wert county, and, after a journey of fourteen days, arrived at their destined home on October 1. Samuel's father had entered this land in 1836, but Samuel paid him the government price, $1.25 per acre, and thus secured the 160 acres for $200. The tract was covered with a dense growth of timber, but in due course of time Mr. Sheets, after expending an immense amount of labor and energy in the task, succeeded in hewing out from the woods a farm that easily rivals any other in the township. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sheets, John, mentioned above, died at the age of four years; Catherine was married to Joseph Lare, a farmer of Tully township, and is the mother of seven children: Barbara, the wife of Patterson Rummel, a farmer of Harrison township, is the mother of five children; Elias, who married Alvira Thorne, is the father of four children; Adalina, married to Allen Pancake, a farmer of Harrison township, is the mother of seven children; Olivia, wife of Abraham Pancake, has two children; Laura B., wife of Cornelius Bresler, has three children, and William, who married Rachael Bowers, is the father of three children. Mr. Sheets is now, as will be seen, the grandfather of thirty-eight children, and is also great-grandfather of one child. Mr. and Mrs. Sheets were united with the Lutheran church in Columbiana county, and since coming to Van Wert county have been instrumental in the formation of the congregation in Harrison township. He contributed freely of his means in aid of the erection of the first Lutheran church building in the township, and has also contributed over $400 in cash and labor toward building the present edifice. For many years he has been an elder. In politics he is a strong republican, and has held the office of township trustee for a number of years. He was a stanch Union man during the late Rebellion and sent two of his sons to join the Union army. These boys served 100 days each and were in several skirmishes, but came out unharmed. Mr. Sheets is well known throughout Harrison and adjoining townships as an enterprising farmer and as a man of the purest integrity. His wife died February 25, 1895—a lady of many womanly excellencies, whose death was, although not unexpected at her ripe age, a sad loss to her family.

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DANIEL SHEPARD, of Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, and prominent as a manufacturer of staves, heading and lumber, is a man formed to endure adversity and to overcome the obstacles of business life. Primarily he is of Danish descent, and from Denmark his forefather reached France, and from the province of Normandy reached England with William the Conqueror. Two brothers, Thomas and Richard, descendants of these Norman-invaders, were soldiers under Oliver Cromwell in his invasion of Ireland, and after the protector's conquest of that green isle, the brothers mentioned made their home there and founded the family which eventually found a home in America by settling in New Hampshire, where

Thomas Shepard, grandfather of our subject, passed his life as a farmer and died at the great age of ninety-seven years, or over, the father of the following children: Thomas, Richard, Joseph, Sarah and Elizabeth. Of these children, Richard, the father of our subject, was born in New Hampshire, and when a young man located one-half mile north of the Vermont line, in Canada, and cleared up a farm of 300 acres, on which farm he passed the remainder of his life. To his marriage with Christine Bresee, a daughter of Nicholas Bresee, were born six children, in the following order: Corinne, Electa, Richard, Charles, Daniel (our subject) and Thomas P. The father of this family died at the age of fifty-six, on his own farm, a member of the Episcopal church, while his wife was a Baptist.

Daniel Shepard, whose name opens this sketch, was born April 11, 1819, on his father's farm in Canada. At the age of eighteen years he forsook the parental roof to learn the cooper's trade at North Toronto, and, having learned it, followed it for twenty years or more at various places. He married, in Hamilton, Catherine McNamara, the result of the union being three children—Richard, Anna and Electa. After his marriage Mr. Shepard located in Antwerp, Ohio, and engaged in grist-milling, and in that town Mrs. Shepard was called to her final rest. In 1873 Mr. Shepard came to Convoy and engaged in his present business in partnership with his son Richard, under the firm name of D. Shepard & Son. Richard, however, died in 1891 and since then Mr. Shepard has been settling up the business of the firm.

Richard Shepard, the son of Daniel, was married in York state to Sarah M. Dunn, who bore two children, Daniel and Edward. The father of these two children was always associated with his own father in business and died at the age of forty-seven years, a member of the Masonic fraternity and a republican in politics. Anna Shepard was married to W. G. Edwards, a business man of Van Wert; Electa remained at home. Mr. Shepard may well be called a business man and a self-made one, as he began life with no capital, but, through determination, aided by a strong constitution, has won his present competency and reputation for integrity and business capacity.

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JOHN SHERBURN, a reliable and experienced farmer of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Fairfield county January 20, 1846. His grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and was born in Lancaster county, where he was reared and was married, and whence he moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he followed farming until the end of his days. Joseph Sherburn, father of our subject, was born in Fairfield county in December, 1818, and there married Mary Lutz, daughter of John Lutz; they now are ranked among the old and wealthy families of the county, and are leading members of the United Brethren church. Their children are nine in number, and were born in the following order: Eli, Sarah, Lydia, John, William H., Minerva, Ellen, Calvin and Isabel.

John Sherburn's patriotism was early aroused by the clang and crash of war, and as soon as old enough, at the age of eighteen years, he enlisted in defense of his country's flag, February 24, 1864, in company A, Seventeenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and gallantly served until the close of the war, participating in the entire Atlanta campaign and seeing eighteen months of active and severe service, being confined, however, at its close, for a few weeks in hospital. He married Catherine Huddle, daughter of Daniel and Barbara Huddle; and by this union became the father of seven children, named as follows: Ida B., Daniel E., Charles E., Joseph, Edith, Mamie and Earl; of these Ida B. graduated from the Middlepoint Normal college, and for eight terms was a most successful school-teacher.

Mr. Sherburn owns a well cultivated farm of eighty acres, improved with a good dwelling house and barn, and supplied with all modern conveniences and modern farm implements, and stocked with choice cattle and other farm animals. Mr. Sherburn has served as township treasurer, and is a leading member of the church of the United Brethren in Christ. Mr. Sherburn is not only honored for his early military record, but is esteemed for his usefulness as a citizen and for his moral and straightforward course as a neighbor. In politics he is a republican.

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M. F. RICHIE, deceased, was born in Beaver county, Pa., September 19, 1807, a son of Samuel, also a native of Pennsylvania and of Irish and French extraction. When but a mere child, M. F. Richie was brought to Ohio by his parents, who located in Columbiana county, where he was reared a farmer, was married and followed his calling until 1835, when he moved to Crawford county, farmed until 1839, then came to Van Wert county, and located in Harrison township, whence he moved, in 1860, to Ridge township; finally, in 1873, he returned to the town of Convoy, where his decease occurred October 14, 1892. Sarah Eaton, to whom he was married in Columbiana county, Ohio, was a native of that county, and a daughter of John Eaton, a native of the Buckeye state. The children born to M. F. Richie and wife were ten in number and named as follows: Olivia, wife of W. N. Longsworth; Catherine, wife of D. R. Bonewitz; John E., common pleas judge of Lima, Ohio; Ruth A., now Mrs. J. H. Bailey; George, who died in 1856; Permelia, deceased; Horace G., whose biography will be found below; Elmira, wife of Samuel Price; Walter B., one of the most influential and leading citizens of Lima, Ohio; and Eber, deceased.

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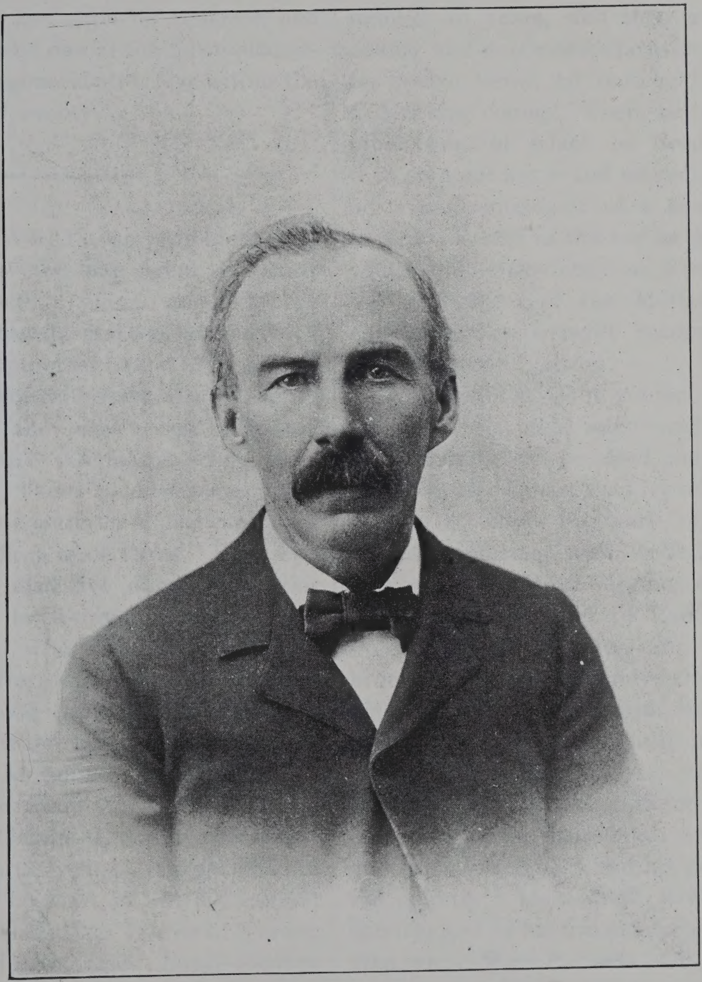
HORACE G. RICHIE, prominent as an attorney, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, August 18, 1844, a son of M. F. and Sarah (Eaton) Richie. He was reared on his father's farm and educated in the common schools of Harrison township, his birthplace, until sixteen years of age; he then attended two terms at the school in Ridge township; at nineteen he engaged in farming, which he followed until 1875, when he began the study of the law at home, and this he continued until 1877, passing less than three months in a law office; in May of this year he opened his office in Van Wert, and met with success from the start, his earlier clients being his boyhood friends, and these are still among his patrons. The marriage of Mr. Richie took place in Harrison township May 17, 1863, to Miss Mary M. Brittson, who was born in Adams county, Ind., November 30, 1842, a daughter of Isaac Brittson. This lady died March 24, 1892, and on May 30, 1893, Mr. Richie took, for his second wife, in Nevada, Iowa, Mrs. Minerva B. Scott, widow of John H. Scott, formerly of Van Wert and a manufactuer, who died in Story county, Iowa, in 1889. Mrs. (Scott) Richie was born in Ridge townshtp, Van Wert county,, Ohio, a daughter of Samuel Brown, who was one of the very early pioneers. Mrs. Richie, by her first husband, was the mother of three children, viz: Elizabeth, Lutie and Margaret Scott, who all make their home with Mr. Richie, at his pleasant residence on Washington street.



H. G. Richie

Mr. Richie is a Knight of Pythias, being the first past chancellor and first representative of that order in Van Wert. Outside of his family and fraternal relations, Mr. Richie's time is almost exclusively devoted to the duties pertaining to his large and growing practice, and he is considered to be one of the most successful and prosperous general attorneys within the limits of Van Wert county.

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J. R. SHOTWELL, a prominent real estate dealer and loan agent at Scott, Ohio, is a son of John C. and Elizabeth (Conn) Shotwell, and was born in Perry county, Ohio, September 18, 1855. The father, John C. Shotwell, was born in Pennsylvania in 1817, and was a son of Joseph Shotwell, a native of Germany, who, while still a young man, came to America and settled in the Keystone state on a farm, and took an active part in the war of 1812. To Joseph and his wife (who died five days, only, prior to her hundredth birth-day) were born two children—Clarissa. who died in infancy, and John C. The latter was reared to farming, and in early manhood came to Ohio, locating in Carroll county, where he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Conn, a native of Carroll county, the result of the union being ten children, viz: George C., who, after serving his country three years, was wounded in battle and died in hospital in South Carolina; Fannie, wife of Joel Nuzum, farmer of Vernon county, Wis.; Hester, now Mrs. Newton Deaver, of the same place; John W., of Oklahoma; Rebecca, wife of Henry Silbaugh, also of Vernon county, Wis.; J. F., a farmer of Lawrence county, Tenn.; Sarah E., wife of S. N. Shaw, of Oklahoma; Willie, who died in infancy; J. R., our subject, and Mary C., who also died in infancy. The mother of this family died in Wisconsin April 10, 1892, a devoted member of the Presbyterian church.

John C. Shotwell, upon locating in Carroll county, Ohio, bought a farm, on which he resided with his wife and elder children for a number of years, and then moved to Perry county and purchased a farm on which he lived for twelve years; he then sold out and moved to Hocking county, where he bought still another farm, on which he lived twenty years, then sold out again and went to Wisconsin, to act as superintendent of a farm belonging to Gov. Rusk, and at the end of four years died, while holding this position, a prominent member and officer of the Methodist Episcopal church, and universally recognized as an upright and useful citizen.

J. R. Shotwell, the subject proper of this biographical sketch, was reared to the pursuit of agriculture and received the education imparted at an ordinary country school. In Hocking county Ohio, February 13, 1878, he was united in marriage with Phebe Poling, a native of what is now West Virginia, born August 11, 1856, and a daughter of Remus and Nancy (Weaver) Poling. In 1865 this lady was brought to Hocking county, Ohio, by her parents, her father having been compelled to leave his native state on account of his Union sentiments. He had acted as a scout for Federals in West Virginia, was captured by his neighbors, and his life spared only on account of old and friendly relations and his promise to leave the country. He is still living in Hocking county, and of his five children three still survive, viz: Mary E., wife of E. H. Bennett, a merchant of Scott; Arinda, wife of B. Brian, and Phebe, the wife of our subject. Mr. Shotwell and wife continued to reside on a farm in Hocking county until 1883, when they came to Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, and purchased a farm about two miles from Scott, on which they lived until 1886, when they moved to their pleasant home in town. Here Mr. Shotwell established his present real estate and loan business, of which, through his native shrewdness, he has made a grand success, his transactions being carried on in Ohio, Kansas, and several other states.

Mrs. Shotwell is a sincere member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Shotwell is a republican and takes a deep and active interest in the success of his party. By his energy and enterprise, his foresight and innate business qualifications, he has greatly aided the growth of Scott, and has been a potent factor in promoting its general prosperity. Scrupuously just and inflexibly upright in all his transactions, he has won the respect of all his follow-citizens, and well deserves the high esteem in which he is held.

* * *

JOHN F. SIDLE, ex-county treasurer of Van Wert county, Ohio, and at present a prominent business man of the city of Van Wert, is a son of James and Elizabeth (Julien) Sidle, and was born in Hocking county, Ohio, November 30, 1851. James Sidle was born in Maryland in 1826 and was a son of Daniel Sidle, a farmer who came from Maryland to Ohio and located in Fairfield county, where he resided until 1872, when he came to Van Wert county with his son, James, and here expired in 1875, the father of seven children, viz: Harriet, John, Eliza, Henry, Jane, Isabella, and James, who was the father of John F. Sidle, our subject, and was reared on the home farm until eighteen years of age, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1865, when he re-engaged in farming, settling in Van Wert county, where his decease occurred September 19, 1885. His wife, Elizabeth, was a native of Piqua, Ohio, a daughter of Richard Julien, and bore her husband twelve children, as follows: Caroline, Zelda Jane, John F., Catherine, Mary, G. W., Malinda, Jacob, Charles, Josephine, Lucy and Hattie. The father of this family was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics was a democrat. He died possessed of a very comfortable fortune, and was a highly respected gentleman. The mother and companion was a member of the German Reform church.

John F. Sidle passed his early years in the usual training for the life of a farmer. He was educated in the district schools, and at the age of twenty-one years left the parental roof and for three terms taught school in Liberty township, Van Wert county; then married and engaged in farming in Pleasant township for a year on a lease of land in the woods given him by his father; then rented a tract known as the Johns Farm, which he occupied eight years; he next purchased eighty acres of timber land, which he cleared and cultivated, and on which he made his home until 1888, when he was elected by the democrats as treasurer of Van Wert county by a majority of 185, and so great was the satisfaction given by him in executing the duties of the office, that he was re-elected, in 1890, by a majority of 700 votes. On the expiration of his second term as county treasurer, Mr. Sidle, in company with S. Balyeat, engaged in the furniture business at Van Wert under the firm name of J. F. Sidle & Co., and in this trade he has met with the most flattering success, the stock invoicing at about $7,000. Mr. Sidle is also the secretary of the Van Wert Building & Savings company, one of the most prosperous in the state; he also owns 135 acres of finely improved land in Van Wert county, beside valuable city property, the result chiefly of his own industry and skillful management. The marriage of Mr. Sidle took place October 30, 1872, in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, to Miss Sarah Edson, who was born in

Portage county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of John and Sarah (Atwater) Edson, and by this marriage four children have been born and named Harry, Charles, Mabel and Norma. Mr. and Mrs. Sidle are members in the Presbyterian church, and in his fraternity relations he is a Knight of Pythias and a member of the National Union, and also of the Grange. He is a genial and popular gentleman, is practically self-made, and is prominent in all his relations with his fellow-citizens.

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**JOSEPH A. SIMPSON**, formerly a prominent farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, three and one-half miles west of Scott, was born in the historic old Mormon town of Nauvoo, Ill., in 1843, and is a son of Samuel and Elinor (Griffith) Simpson, and now resides in the township of Blue Creek, Paulding county, Ohio.

Alexander Simpson, our subject's paternal grandfather, was of good old sterling Scotch ancestry, and was one of the earliest settlers of the Green Mountain state. Alexander Simpson was a carpenter by trade, and also by occupation a farmer. He was born about 1766, and while still a young man came with his two brothers to Licking county, Ohio, at that time unorganized and a part of the great Northwest territory. There they probably entered a tract of government land upon which they built homes, and where the three lived until 1842. In that year Alexander Simpson sold his farm and moved to Hancock county, Ill., and entered a tract of government land adjoining the great Mormon settlement. Here he lived until his death, which occurred in 1846.

Samuel Simpson, son of the above mentioned, and father of our subject, was born in Vermont in 1821, and received his education in a little log school-house in Licking county, Ohio. He grew to manhood and became a mechanic, and accompanied his father to the new home of the family in Illinois. In 1846 he went to Peoria, where he built boats first for himself and afterward on contract, the boats being used for the Illinois river trade. In August of 1848 he sold his ship-yard and started for his old home, going by steamer. The boat, the Edward Bates, blew up at Hamburg Landing, Ill., and he was badly scalded, taken to St. Louis, and died there August 18, 1848. He was a man of genius, enterprise and ability, and at the time of his death was rapidly winning his way to the front rank of the business men of the day. In politics he was an old line whig, and ever took a deep interest in the public affairs of his country. Our subject's mother was born in Wales in 1816, and when twelve years of agr age came with her parents to Butler county, Ohio, where they were among the earliest pioneers of that section. In 1831 the family removed to the then new county of Allen, where she was married to Samuel Simpson in 1842 and became the mother of three children: Cylinda J., wife of James S. Zimmerman, of Nebraska; Josephine M., deceased wife of Horace Kohn of Van Wert county; Joseph A., subject of this mention. She was left a widow in 1848, and in 1849 was married to S. R. Morton, of Nauvoo, Ill. To them were born three children: Lucius W., Edwin W., (deceased), and Alonzo A. The husband died in 1892, since which time the widow has made her home with her family. In 1853 the family moved to Allen county, and the following year to Van Wert county. She is an earnest christian lady, and a member of the M. E. church, in which she takes a deep interest.

Our subject, Joseph A. Simpson, laid the foundation for his education in the common schools of Nauvoo, Ill., and Allen and Van Wert counties, Ohio, and then learned the carpenter's trade. At the early age of eighteen he enlisted, in April of 1861, for three months' service in company E, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and saw active duty for this length of time in West Virginia, until his discharge, August 28, 1861. October 18 of the same year he re-enlisted, this time in the Sixth Ohio independent battery, John Sherman's brigade, and was sent to Louisville, Ky., thence to blockade the Cumberland river. After the fall of Nashville they were sent to Pittsburg Landing, thence on to Corinth, Miss., doing continuous duty all of the way. After its evacuation they went across Alabama, to Louisville and Perryville, then to Nashville, having been on the march almost continuously for fifty days. Then they returned to Murfreesboro and fought the battle of Stone River, where our subject was captured, but released by Union cavalry in a few minutes. They took part in the Tullahoma campaign and the battle of Chickamauga. After this he received a furlough of thirty days, and visited his family, afterward rejoining his command at Chattanooga. Then he started with Sherman on the famous Atlanta campaign, and in the battle of Resaca he was wounded in the arm, but kept his post with his right arm disabled. After the fall of Atlanta he was sent back with his battery to Pulaski, Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., where they encountered Hood. After the numerous encounters in this vicinity he went to New Orleans, en route to Mexico after Maximillian. He received honorable discharge September 1, 1865, after having fearlessly and faithfully served his country all through the war. At Bull's Gap, April 8, 1865, he was run over by a heavy gun, and suffered a fracture of his ankle, but refused to go to the hospital, and was taken care of by the comrades of his battery. He was first a corporal and later a sergeant.

After the close of his military career he began farming in Van Wert county, but his disabled ankle caused him to give this up and return to the carpenter trade. Three years later he went to the vicinity of Vincinnes, Ind., as foreman for a lumber company, and in 1871 he engaged in the mercantile business at Vaughnsville, Ohio, being quite successful in this line. In 1874 he purchased a saw-mill, and in 1877 he added thereto a tile factory, continuing in the business until 1881. At this time he reentered the store and remained four years, after which he again engaged in the mill and tile business until the mill burned, July 14, 1894. Then he bought a farm of eighty acres in Union township where he resided until his removing to Paulding county, as mentioned in the opening paragraph.

Our subject was united in marriage, November 28, 1867, to Miss Rachel Collar, daughter of Joshua and Jane (Weddle) Collar, natives of Warren county, N. Y., and residents of Putnam county, Ohio. Mrs. Simpson was born in 1845. To them have been born three children, the order of birth being as follows: Jessie A., Effie and Joseph S. Mr. Simpson is a member of the Masonic order, by which he is held in high esteem. He is also a comrade of Joe Collar post, No. 192, G. A. R., and is reckoned as one of the successful business men and public spirited citizens of this section. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are members of the Methodist Episcopal society, to the support of which they contribute most liberally.

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WILLIAM SMITH, M. D., of Van Wert, Ohio, and one of the oldest practitioners in the county, was born in Washington county, Pa., February 28, 1822, and is the fifth of a family of twelve children born to William and Mary (Lyle) Smith, the former born November 5, 1788, and the latter February 1, 1794, and married in Washington county, Pa., June 23, 1814, where they resided until the summer or fall of 1822, when they came to Ohio and located in Richland county, near Mansfield, where the father was chiefly engaged in milling and farming until 1844, when he sold his farm of 120 acres and his mill and retired to Mansfield, where his death took place May 5, 1846, at the age of fifty-seven years and six months; the widow continued her residence in Mansfield until 1856, after which she made her home alternately with our subject and her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ann Clark, near Mansfield, dying at the home of the latter, October 3, 1876, at the age of eighty-two years and eight months. Her remains were interred beside those of her husband in Mansfield cemetery. The seven sons and five daughters of the deceased were born in the following order: James, February 7, 1815, married Ellen Hammer of Mansfield, emigrated to California in 1853, died in Sacramento August 9, 1863, leaving a widow and one son—Charles Ray Smith; the widow subsequently married but is now deceased; Sarah Ann (deceased), born April 1, 1816, married James Clark of Mansfield November 14, 1850, and had two children—Allen E. and Anna M.; Robert Lytle, third child of William and Mary Smith, was born April 11, 1818, died December 14, 1831; Abigail McF., born June 28, 1820, died October 6, 1831; William, our subject; David Lyle, born April 27, 1824, emigrated to California in 1850, and engaged in business with Weister & Co., of San Francisco, traveling most of the time on the Pacific coast; Mary Jane, born March 4, 1826, died July 3, 1828; Rebecca, born May 24, 1826, died August 29, 1828; Ebenezer, born August 1, 1829, was a schoolteacher and printer, emigrated to California in the spring of 1850, and died in San Francisco May 23, 1851; Robert Ray (deceased), born October 9, 1831, emigrated to California with his brothers, David and Ebenezer, in 1850, remained there until 1853, when he returned to Mansfield, Ohio, and cast his first vote, which was for John Sherman for congress. March 9, 1858, he married Esther Ann Grant, of Mansfield, who has borne four children, viz: George Ray, born March 7, 1859, a blacksmith; May Elizabeth, born November 3, 1861; Eleanor Eureka, born November 29, 1865, and Robert Grant, born September 1, 1877. After the birth of his first child, Robert Ray Smith revisited California, returned to Mansfield, Ohio, October 2, 1862, and followed his vocation of sign painter and stencil cutter until death. Samuel Lyle (deceased), the eleventh child of William and Mary Smith, was born December 26, 1833, near Mansfield, came to Van Wert county in 1856 and engaged in milling until the breaking out of the Civil war in 1861, when he enlisted in the Sixth Ohio battery and served throughout the entire struggle, and on his return, in 1865, resumed milling, which he followed until his death, November 17, 1874; he had married, November 12, 1860, Citney Ann Saltzgaber, who bore him four children, viz: Emma Gertrude, born October 10, 1861 — died April 25, 1878; Saphronia Grace, born December 13, 1865—died February 10, 1877; Manona Lyle, born February 1, 1868, and Samuel Saltzgaber, born January 11, 1871. The mother of this family died in Van Wert June 4, 1886. Issabelle, the youngest child of William and Mary (Lyle) Smith, was born May 18, 1836, and died March 29, 1837.

In May, 1846, on the first call for volunteers for the war with Mexico, our subject and his eldest brother, James, enlited at Mansfield, Ohio, James being at that time engaged in the photograph business, and William, our subject, in the study of medicine and its practice with his preceptor, Dr. A. G. Miller, of Mansfield, who gave him strong letters of recommendation to Gov. Bartley, of Ohio, and Gen. Curtis, for the position of assistant surgeon, but these letters were not used, as, on its organization, his company elected him their second lieutenant, and he stayed with them until mustered out at New Orleans, June 30, 1847; James acted as assistant in the commissary department. The doctor and his youngest brother, Samuel L., both enlisted at the breaking out of the great rebellion in 1861, Samuel L. attaining the rank of sergeant in the Sixth Ohio battery, and the doctor entering with the rank of second lieutenant, and advancing to captain, major and lieutenant-colonel in the Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry. In this last war the doctor carried the same saber that he wielded at Buena Vista, and still has it in his possession.

To revert to the medical career of this soldier-physician, it may be stated that, on his return from Mexico, he resumed his study of the science and attended lectures at Cleveland, Ohio, and after graduation located in the village of Ganges, Richland county, Ohio, where he practiced his profession from the first day of April, 1848, until April first, 1856, when he came to Van Wert. While a resident of Ganges the doctor wedded Miss Almira Mulford, of New Haven, Huron county, Ohio, December 5, 1848, died July 4, 1892, the result of this union being eight children, viz: Mary Eveline, born December 14, 1849; she was married to George W. Clark, July 21, 1870, and their only child, Emma Georgianna, was born December 27, 1872, and died April 7, 1873. Mr. Clark died December 12, 1872, of pulmonary consumption; his widow then made her home with her parents until June 20, 1883, when he married Henry Butler, a manufacturer of staves, at Van Wert. Harriet Loretta, the doctor's second daughter, was born March 18, 1852, and married George Martin Hall, May 28, 1873; Mr. Hall is a dry-goods merchant of Van Wert and he and wife are parents of six children, viz: Eva Barbara, born April 9, 1874; Jessie Lucille, born September 29, 1878; Grace Mulford, born March 8, 1883, and Mabel Loretta (deceased), born January 17, 1885; Erma Joyce; Raymond Richards; Mira Bell, the doctor's third daughter, was born November 18, 1854; she married, July 3, 1880, Aaron Lewis Doram, a stave manufacturer of Van Wert. William Mulford, the doctor's eldest son, was born July 19, 1857, studied medicine, graduated in the spring of 1880, and on November 18, 1880, married Harriet Lucretia Harnley; they have two children, Roxana Burt Smith, born December 1, 1881, and Donald Harnley, born January 4, 1891. Wilbur Simpson Smith, the doctor's second son, was born May 5, 1859, and died of brain fever, May 3, 1860. Ida May, the fourth daughter of the doctor, was born November 26, 1864, and married Charles W. Webster, June 26, 1895. Thomas Morton Smith, the third son, was born September 30, 1866—married Hannah Brenner, October 16, 1889, and has one son, Roy Brenner, born November 16, 1890. Zora Lyle Smith, the fifth daughter and youngest child of the doctor, was born February 14, 1871, and is still at home, unmarried.

CAPT. TOM M. SMITH, of company D, Second Ohio state infantry, (Gilliland Guards), was born in Van Wert, September 30, 1866, and is a son of Dr. William Smith, whose biography appears in close proximity to this sketch. Tom M. Smith was educated in his native city, in the high-school, and when but eighteen years of age, while yet a student, began his business life as an assistant to A. W. Scott in the grocery trade during vacations, continuing in this employment until July, 1881. Leaving school in 1884, he engaged as clerk with G. W. Sidle in the restaurant and grocery business, with whom he remained until July 14, 1886, and then clerked for S. K. Ream & Co., in the grocery line of trade, until 1888, when he entered the store of his brother-in-law, G. M. Hall, a dry-goods merchant. July 22, 1884, Mr. Smith began the study of military tactics under Capt. D. M. Boreland, of Van Wert. In eight months after entering Boreland's company he was promoted from private to corporal; in 1886 he was elected second lieutenant, and as such served two terms, and on July 14, 1889, was elected captain. He has proven to be an efficient disciplinarian as well as tactician, and is, withal, very popular with his company and in general military circles. The marriage of Capt. Smith took place October 16, 1889, in Van Wert, to Miss Hannah Brenner, who was born in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, July 13, 1871, a daughter of John and Mary (Kreiselmeyer) Brenner, the fruit of the happy union being one son—Roy B. Capt. Smith is a member of lodge No. 130, Knights of Pythias, also of the National Union, and with his wife, is a member of the German Lutheran church. He has a large side interest in the poultry business, and resides in a pleasant residence on West Main street, where he and wife enjoy to the fullest extent the respect of their neighbors.

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DAVID SMITH, one of the pioneer farmers of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Washington county, Pa., June 5, 1826. His grandfather, Nicholas Smith, came from Holland when a boy, lived several years near Philadelphia, and then settled in Washington county, Pa., where his death occurred. His son, John A. Smith, was born in Washington county, Pa., April 23, 1798, and was reared on his father's farm. April 19, 1818, he married Mary Zedeker, daughter of Lewis and Catherine (Smith) Zedeker, and by this marriage became the father of the following children: Sarah A., Lewis (deceased), Margaret, David, John, Elizabeth and Catherine. In 1838 the family came to Ohio and lived for some time in Franklin county, but later, about 1847, came to Van Wert county and settled on eighty acres in Willshire township. Here the mother died, October 29, 1854, and the father died January 7, 1870, both in early life having been members of the Presbyterian church, but later becoming associated with the United Brethren.

David Smith, subject of this sketch, was twenty-one years of age when he came to Van Wert county with his parents, and here he has since been identified with the agricultural interests of Willshire township, besides having rendered for some years his services as an educator. In February, 1849, he married Mary Hartzog, daughter of Solomon and Catherine (King) Hartzog, originally from Pennsylvania, but later pioneers of Fairfield county, Ohio, and finally settlers of Van Wert county. To David Smith and his wife were born the following children: Mrs. Mary L. Walters; John H., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church; Wilbur P., deceased; Mrs. Eliza H. Harrod; Emma J., deceased; Mrs. Clara A. Johnson (her husband being an assistant professor in the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Law school, and also ex-representative in the Ohio legislature); Jesse M., deceased; and the remaining two are King B. and Barda M. Soon after marriage our subject and wife settled on his present farm of 160 acres, which is now well improved, but which he wrenched from a state of wilderness. Mr. Smith had the misfortune to lose his wife August 15, 1876, and after his children, who felt disposed to do so, had married, Mr. Smith took for his second wife, April 21, 1892, Mrs. Sarah A. Byer, widow of George Byer, and daughter of Peter Fisher.

In politics Mr. Smith is a republican, and for three terms has served as township trustee; for fifty years he has been a class leader in the Methodist church, in which he has taken great interest since the days of his youth. He is one of the oldest pioneers of Van Wert county, and stands very high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens.

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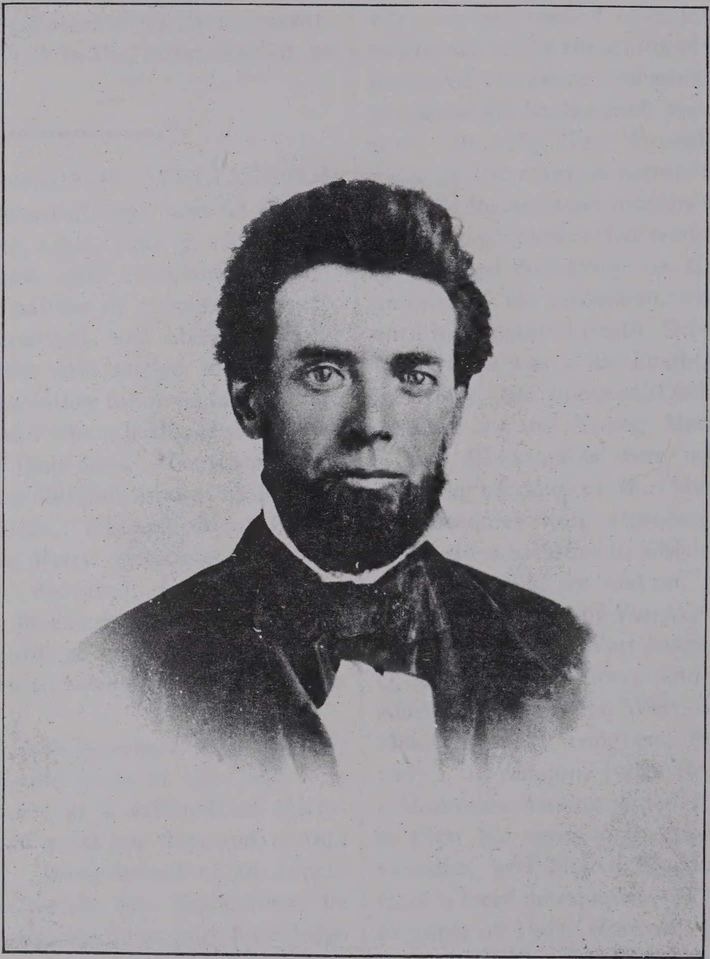
JUDGE OBADIAH WELLINGTON ROSE, deceased, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, June 9, 1820, a son of Robinson and Elizabeth (Mosier) Rose, who were natives of Somerset county, Pa., were there married, and about the year 1818 came to Ohio and settled in Guernsey county, where the father followed farming and stone-masonry, and where both parents passed the remainder of their days. There had been born to them nine children, named as follows: Chilnissa, Abraham, William, Obadiah W., all now deceased; Perry, of Kansas City, Mo.; Carolina; John, deceased; Joseph, of Van Wert; Johnson, deceased. The father of this family was a republican in politics and in religion a Presbyterian, while the mother was a Dunkard.

Obadiah W. Rose remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, and then worked as a laborer in a saw-mill at thirty-seven and one-half cents per day, and at odd jobs, until 1845. Being devoid of an education, and keenly feeling this deprivation, he formed a rigid resolution to acquire knowledge sufficient, at least, to enable himself to be of some use to society, and, if possible, to make his mark in the world. Accordingly, from his meager earnings he saved sufficient money to purchase books, and with indomitable will began a course of self instruction, which resulted in his becoming competent to be a school-teacher, which vocation he followed for several winters, and continued at hard-labor work in the summers. In the meantime, also, having come to Van Wert county in 1844, he began the study of the law in 1846, and in 1848 was admitted to the bar. In the interval, in 1847, he was elected county recorder, served two terms, and in the spring of 1848 was elected justice of the peace, but persisted continuously to pursue his studies and practice his profession. In 1865 Gov. Brough appointed him judge of the court of common pleas, an office he filled for eighteen months with an unswerving sense of justice that won the approbation of the legal fraternity; he then resumed the practice of his profession, which he followed until his lamented death, September 23, 1867. Judge Rose was a sir knight of the Masonic fraternity, an honored Odd Fellow, and a member of the Young Men's Literary congress. His remains were interred under the imposing auspices of the Masonic order, and the obsequies were attended by members of the various societies to which he belonged, including the Bar association. Suitable resolutions were passed by Van Wert lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M., Van Wert lodge, No. 257, I. O. O. F., by the officers and members of the court and bar of Van Wert, and by the Young Men's Literary congress, held November 1, 1867. In religion, Judge Rose had first been a Methodist, having joined that denomination in 1850, but seven years later became a Universalist, and died a Spiritualist. To quote from a local newspaper, "To young men the example of Judge Rose will furnish the highest motives to diligence and a noble spirit of emulation. To will and to do were the main-springs of the judge's success in life. Such efforts must ever succeed." In politics the judge was a republican.

The marriage of Judge Rose took place in Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, January 11, 1847, to Miss Nancy Slater, who



O M Rose

Mrs O.W. Rose

was born in Somerset county, Pa., February 11, 1828, a daughter of John and Phebe (Dull) Slater, pioneers of Van Wert county, Ohio. To the judge and his wife were born three children, viz: Orlando P., deceased; Ora Cumberland, at home; and Maud P., deceased. The estate of the deceased comprises twenty acres within the corporate limits of Van Wert, and a residence on South Washington street. The wife and daughter are enthusiastic members of the Christian Spiritualist church.

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HENRY SCHUMM, one of the leading farmers of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the place, and was born November 2, 1844. His father, Louis Schumm, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1817, and was sixteen years of age when he came with his father's family to America—said family then consisting of the father, John Schumm, and his five children, viz: Rosanna, George M., Frederick, Jacob and Louis—the mother having died in Germany. After passing about five years in Holmes county, Ohio, Louis, about 1839 or 1840, came to Van Wert county, about two years later than an elder brother, who had settled here, bringing his wife, Barbara Pflueger, whom he had married in Holmes county. This lady was a daughter of Christian Pflueger, who lived to the remarkable age of ninety-six years. Louis and his wife immediately settled on a farm of 160 acres in the primeval forest, erected a log cabin, and after undergoing the inevitable hardships attendant on pioneer life for fifteen years, succeeded in making a beautiful home, embellished with a fine frame dwelling and all other necessary improvements. Here Mr. Schumm continued diligently to labor at his vocation until his death, which occurred August 22, 1855, at the comparatively early age of thirty-eight years.

Henry Schumm. who was reared on the home farm, received an excellent education both in the German and English languages. October 20, 1872, he was united in the bonds of wedlock, first with Miss Rosa A. Schinnerer, daughter of Frederick Schinnerer, and this marriage resulted in the birth of the following children: John M., Clara R., Minnie M., Hannah B., Edward Z. (deceased), Gustavus J., William I., Tillie S., Joseph H. and Charles F. (the last named also deceased). Mrs. Rosa A. Schumm was called to her final rest January 15, 1890, in the faith of the Lutheran church, of which she had long been a devout member. The second marriage of our subject took place January 27, 1891, to Anna M. Geisler, daughter of George and Rosanna (Hoffman) Geisler, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two children: Lewis F. and Andrew, both being trained to speak in German and English. In politics Mr. Schumm is a stanch democrat, but has never been ambitious for public office; with his wife he is a member of the Lutheran church, of which he is a trustee, and in which he has held several other offices, contributing, at the same time, liberally toward its support. Mr. Schumm's farm comprises 171 acres, is well improved and stocked, and is in all respects thoroughly cared for and cultivated. The social standing of Mr. Schumm and family is inferior to none in the county, as throughout his life he has been a rigidly honest gentleman and has been a credit to his pioneer ancestry.

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AMOS SLATES, a skillful and successful carpenter of Van Wert, Ohio, was born December 30, 1846, and is a son of Adam Slates, a native of Carroll county, Ohio. John Slates, grandfather of our subject, was born in Loudoun county, Va., August 2, 1784, and was married April

10, 1807, to Miss Elizabeth Ruse, also a native of Loudoun county, the union resulting in the birth of seven children, viz: Mrs. Catherine Albaugh, Mrs. Elizabeth Shanover, Mrs. Margaret Woods, Mrs. Mary Richey, Adam, John and Frederick Slates. In 1811, John Slates came to Ohio and entered the land in Loudon township, Carroll county, now occupied and owned by Adam Albaugh. He was by trade a shoemaker and was also a farmer; he accumulated considerable property, gave to each of his children an eighty-acre tract, and still had enough left for his own needs. In politics he was a democrat, and in religion was a member of the Lutheran church, in the faith of which he died in 1859, having lost his wife in 1855.

Adam Slates was a farmer by occupation, and resided in Carroll county until his death. Being a man of industrious habits and an excellent manager of his property, he left his family in comfortable circumstances. His death occurred in Carroll county in 1851. Politically he was a democrat, and he was a Lutheran in religion, and always a straightforward and upright man. He married Miss Mary A. Sawvel, of Harrison county, Ohio, by whom he had four children, viz: William, John, Amos and Martha, two of whom are still living, viz: William and Amos, the latter the subject of this sketch.

Amos Slates was born in Carroll county, Ohio, was brought up on his father's farm, educated in the common schools, and at an early age learned the carpenter's trade, for which he was found to possess especial fitness, and at which he has always been unusually successful. In 1872 he removed to Van Wert county, where he has resided more than twenty years, successfully following the trade he early took a fancy to, and he has long been considered one of the most skillful carpenters of the city of Van Wert. He has also given some attention to architecture, and is now one of the principal reliances of Mr. Rumph, of Van Wert, in this line.

After arriving in Van Wert Mr. Slates married Miss Mary Jane Goff, October 5, 1872. She is a native of Harrison county, Ohio, was born March 27, 1849, and is a daughter of William Goff, who was born in Carroll county, January 13, 1812. Mr. Goff was a farmer and followed that occupation all his life. In 1848 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Markley, of Harrison county, and by her he became the father of seven children, viz: Mary J., only child of his first wife, and the rest by his second wife: Elizabeth, William, Samuel, Franklin, Edgar and John. Elizabeth died in infancy, and Franklin on October 5, 1877. The rest are still living. Mary Jane Goff was four years old when she was brought to Van Wert county by her parents. She and Mr. Slates, as stated above, were married in 1872, and they are the parents of one child, Lelia Maud, who is at present attending school in Van Wert. Mr. Slates is a democrat in politics and a Lutheran in religion, while Mrs. Slates is a faithful member of the Presbyterian church. This small family live in their beautiful home in Van Wert, mingling in its polite and fashionable society, and enjoying the respect of all. Independence and self-reliance are the principal characteristics of the American people, and these two qualities have been the combined cause of whatever of success has fallen to the lot of Mr. Slates. These, together with honesty and integrity of motive, will in most cases lead to success in life, and are what those who desire independence must cultivate and rely upon.

Miss Lelia Maud Slates was born in 1878. She is a beautiful young lady of rare accomplishments and of most charming disposition and engaging manners. She has fine musical talent, and takes great delight in entertaining her friends, all of whom are strongly attached to her. Being the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Slates, she is the idol and the comfort of their declining years.

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CHRIST SPARBER, one of the oldest and best-known farmers of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Germany in 1819. His father, Conrad Sparber, also a native of Germany, was born in 1789, married Barbara E. Kerfes, and of the six children born to this union two only now survive, Christ and Mary—the latter now the wife of Franz Halfridge, of Dayton, Ohio. After having served three years in the German army, in which he took part in the famous battle of Leipsic, Conrad Sparber, in 1846, brought his family to the United States, and located in Dayton, Ohio, where he died in December, 1855, a member of the Lutheran church. Mrs. Conrad Sparber, also a native of Germany, was born in 1791 and died in Dayton, Ohio, December 25, 1855, preceding her husband to the grave one week, and also dying within the pale of the Lutheran church.

Christ Sparber, whose name opens this biographical sketch, was educated in his native land, learned the trade of weaver, served two years in the army in 1839-40, and in 1845 married Elizabeth Wollenhaupt. To this union were born ten children, of whom none are now living. In 1846 Mr. Sparber came to America and for twelve years made his home in Dayton, Ohio, where he was employed in various sorts of labor. In 1859 he purchased the farm in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, on which he still has his home, but which was then an almost unbroken wilderness. Although not one of the earliest pioneers of the county, he was an early settler of his township, and underwent all the hardships and deprivations incident to pioneer life, through which, however, he succeeded in clearing up one of the best farms in the township. This farm consists of eighty acres and is located about a mile and a half from the city of Van Wert, and here he is passing the quiet and happy days of his declining years. Mr. and Mrs. Sparber are members of the Lutheran church of Van Wert, in the work of which he takes a deep interest. In politics Mr. Sparber, although taking a deep interest in the affairs of his adopted country, is conservative in his views and votes as his conscience dictates, and not according to the platforms of any party.

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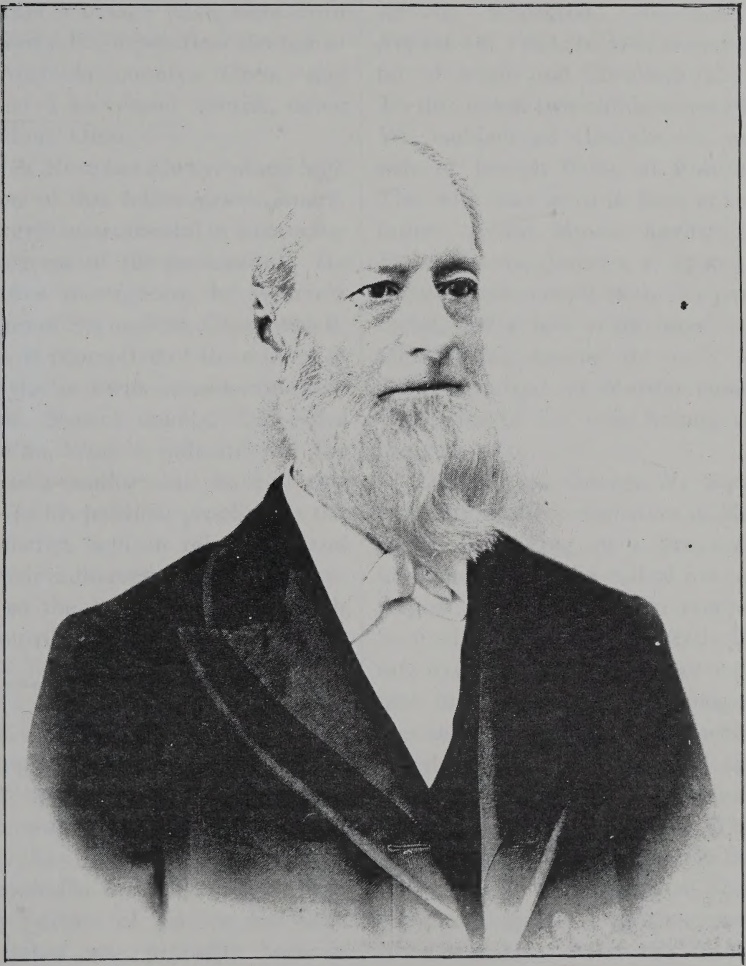
BENJAMIN F. SLATER, an artistic house and sign painter of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Stark county, in the same state, and was born July 5, 1837. John Slater, his father, was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, a son of Henry Slater, also a native of that state and of Irish descent. John Slater married, about 1825, Phebe Dull, of German extraction, was engaged in farming in his native state until he moved to Stark county, Ohio, where he continued to follow farming until 1838, when he came to Van Wert county and settled on a farm in Liberty township, on which he resided until his death, which occurred September 18, 1845—his mortal remains being interred in the Slater cemetery, Liberty township. In 1865 his widow removed to Van Wert city, where her days were ended August 11, 1883. To John and Phebe Slater were born the following large family of children: Joseph, of Van Wert; Mary A., deceased; Mrs. Nancy Rose, widow of O. W. Rose, a sketch of whom will be found on another page; Mrs. Sarah Balyeat, widow of Abraham, whose biography will also be found elsewhere; Mrs. Catherine Conn, widow of R. Conn, a biography of whom may also be found on another page; an infant, deceased; Hannah, wife of Z. A. Smith, of Kansas; Judith, deceased; Benjamin F., whose name opens this sketch; Elizabeth, widow of G.W. Edson, to whose sketch the attention of the reader is invited; Jane, wife of H. McGaugh, of Willshire, Van Wert county; Samuel, of Washington, Ind, and John, of St. Louis, Mo. The parents of this family were sincere believers in Christian Spiritualism, and the father was a very industrious man, who made a host of friends.

Benjamin F. Slater was an infant of one year when brought by his parents to Van Wert county, and here he was reared on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when for two terms he taught school in Liberty township and in Mercer county; he then passed a year in Hartford academy, Licking county, Ohio, after which, for twenty-seven successive years, he taught school in the winter season in Van Wert, Mercer and Licking counties, Ohio, and followed painting during the summer seasons. In 1887 he abandoned school-teaching, and has since devoted his entire time and attention to painting.

In 1861 Mr. Slater enlisted for the war and was taken to Mansfield to be mustered into the service, but was rejected on account of disability. April 21, of the same year (1861), he was united in marriage, in Liberty township, Van Wert county, with Miss Delilah Fortney, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, March 21, 1843, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Fortney. To this marriage were born three children, viz: Victor V., deceased; Charles C., editor of the Mechanicsburg (Ohio) News, and Claudia Marie, who keeps house for her father and is also a stenographer of skill and experience, now in the employ of C. C. Gleason's Sons, commission merchants. The mother of these children was called to the spirit land November 7, 1883. She was a member of the Lutheran church and her mortal remains now rest in Woodland cemetery, at Van Wert. Mr. Slater is a sincere believer in Christian Spiritualism, and is a trance medium and clairvoyant. In politics he is a republican, and for the past ten years has been a member of the board of health of Van Wert. He has a fine residence property on West Main street, and counts his friends by the score.

* * *

BUCKLEY A. ROSE, the leading dentist of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, having been born in Washington, Guernsey county, September 2, 1826, a son of John and Lydia (Luellen) Rose. The father, John Rose, was born in Washington county, Pa., was there reared to manhood and served throughout the war of 1812, at the close of which he located in Washington, Guernsey county, Ohio, where he was engaged in the manufacture of fine hats until his death, in 1847, his widow surviving him until 1854. Their only child, Buckley A., our subject, at the age of eighteen began learning the stone-cutter's and mason's trade, becoming an expert. He laid the first stone in the foundation for the suspension bridge across the Ohio river at Wheeling, Va. (now West Virginia), and continued to work on this structure until 1850, when he began a three years' course of study in dentistry under S. P. Hullihan, D. D. S., of Wheeling. Becoming proficient, he located at Logan, Ohio, and practiced his profession until 1856, and then removed to Urbana, Ohio, where he occupied the same suite of dental parlors until 1888, at which period he came to Van Wert, where he has won a high reputation as a dentist and is still actively engaged in the practice of his art, making a specialty of bridge and crown work, which, it is well known, is the acme of, or superlative process in, the art of odontology.



Dr. B. A. Rose

Dr. Rose was joined in the bonds of wedlock June 30, 1862, in Champaign county, Ohio, to Miss Isabella L. Fielding, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., April 9, 1842, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Whittaker) Fielding. To this marriage have been born two children—Harry F., a practical dentist of Wapakoneta, Auglaize county, Ohio, and Charles W., also a successful dentist, doing business in Paulding, Ohio.

Dr. Buckley A. Rose has always stood high in the estimation of his fellow-practitioners, and has been largely instrumental in advancing the material progress of the profession. He was one of the five to organize the Madriver Dental association of Springfield, Ohio, which, like its cogeners, is promotive of the science of dentistry. The doctor owns considerable real estate in Fostoria, Seneca county, Ohio, and his standing in Van Wert is indicative of the possession here of a comfortable share of this world's goods. In his political proclivities the doctor is a democrat, and in religion he and his wife give their adherence to the Presbyterian church, to the maintenance of which they liberally contribute.

GEORGE W. SQUIBB, of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, son of William and Nancy (Hines) Squibb, was born in Morrow county, Ohio, August 9, 1843, and is a gentleman well and favorably known in this portion of Ohio, where a goodly portion of his life has been passed. His father was probably born in Pennsylvania, the date of his birth being December 21, 1816. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Caleb Squibb, was of stanch old Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and one of the early pioneers of the old Quaker state. He afterward settled in Marion, now Morrow, county, Ohio, where our subject's father grew to manhood on the home farm. The latter, William Squibb, there learned the trade of cooper, and in addition to this business owned and operated a small farm. In politics he was an old line whig, and a man who was universally respected. William was married August 18, 1842, to Miss Nancy Hines, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Hickman) Hines. To this union two children were born—George W., subject of this sketch, and Charlotte, wife of Joseph Goss, of Fulton county, Ind. The wife was born in Ross county, Ohio, her father, Adam Hines, having been born in Pennsylvania, January 2, 1790. When a boy Adam Hines moved with his parents to Kentucky, and a few years later to Ross county, Ohio, being among its early settlers. His death occurred in Marion county, Ohio, in 1878, that of his wife having taken place in the year 1850.

Our subject, George W. Squibb, laid the foundation of his education in Morrow county, and after working on a farm for a short time, he responded to the call of his country, and in August, 1862, enlisted in company E, Capt. Samuel Coulter, Ninety-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years' service. He served first in the Kentucky campaign, then in the Mississippi river campaign, where he participated in the battle of Chickasaw Swamp, where his regiment suffered defeat. After capturing Arkansas Post on the White river, they returned to Young's Point, in front of Vicksburg, where they remained four weeks, the command in the meantime suffering greatly from sickness. After the blockade was run they were transferred to the opposite side of the river, below the city, where they fought the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hills and Black River, and May 22 took part in the charge on Vicksburg. They participated in the siege and remained there until the capitulation of the city. Then they were sent to the siege of Jackson, and after its surrender went to New Orleans. After an attack at Bayou Island they were sent by steamer to Texas, where they remained for several months, afterward returning to Franklin, La. March 16 they started on the Shreveport campaign, marching continually until April 8, when they encountered the enemy at Sabine Cross Roads, where a battle was fought, in which our subject was taken prisoner with 1,100 others. He was imprisoned at Tyler, Tex., until October 23, when he was exchanged, taken to New Orleans and given a furlough. After a few days' visit with the folks at home he rejoined his command at the mouth of the White River, Ark., and from there went to New Orleans and Fort Morgan. There he took part in the Mobile campaign, besieged Spanish Fort, which soon capitulated, then charged Fort Blakeley, which they captured—this being his last battle. He was mustered out of service July 7 at Mobile, and received honorable discharge at Columbus, July 29, 1865. For a time thereafter he worked as a farm hand, and was identified with the farming interests of Marion and Morrow counties until 1873, when he came to Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, where he purchased a farm of eighty-seven acres, which he proceeded to clear and improve. In 1891 he embarked in the grocery business, in Scott, in which he was quite successful. Two years later he sold his grocery business, since which time he has been engaged in looking after his property.

He was united in marriage, April 19, 1866, to Abigail Rogers, daughter of William H. and Mary (Curtis) Rogers. To them four children have been born, as follows: Mary, wife of J. C. Sells, of Scott; Della M., wife of J. P. Glover, of Van Wert; Deborah, wife of John H. Hyman, of Scott; and an infant who died unnamed. The wife was born in Morrow county, December 10, 1844, her father being a native of Pennsylvania, and a prominent farmer of Morrow county.

Mr. Squibb is quite conservative in politics, taking no great active interest, but supporting the national democratic platform. He is a prominent member of Vance post, G. A. R., of Scott, and is also a member of the Improved Order of Red Men. Mrs. Squibb is a member of the Evangelical church, to which both Mr. and Mrs. Squibb contribute liberally. Upon the death of their infant son they adopted and reared a nameless orphan, to whom they gave the name of Harley M. Mr. Squibb is recognized as a successful farmer and an honorable business man, who stands among the foremost in the community.

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MRS. MAGDALENA STEMPFLEY, widow of the late Nicholas Stempfley, is a native of Switzerland, born in the city of Berne, in the year 1828. Her father, John Schoeyer, also a native of Switzerland, where he was born in the year of 1800, and where he spent his youth and early manhood, was united in marriage, in 1826, to Christina Stempfley—daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Schiller) Stempfley. Four children resulted from this union—Magdalena, Christian, of New Philadelphia, and Rosanna, wife of Peter Tschenbern, also of New Philadelphia. In 1847, having in the meantime brought his family to America, Mr. Schoeyer located in Tuscarawas county, where he spent the remaining years of his life, dying in 1875. His wife was born in Switzerland in 1798, was a life-long member of the Reform church, lived a useful life, and died, in the Christian faith, in 1848.

Mrs. Magdalena Stempfley, the subject of this sketch, attended the schools of her native country, in her youth, and in 1847 was brought by her parents to the United States, and on the 16th day of January, 1855, became the wife of Nicholas Stempfley. He was born November 16, 1826, in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, and the names of his parents were Benedict and Magdalena (Craig) Stempfley. After attending school for some time in his native land, Mr. Stempfley there learned the trade of sawyer, and about the year 1847 came to the United States, stopping in Tuscarawas county, where, for some time, he found employment as a farm laborer. Later he purchased a farm upon which he lived until 1865, when he disposed of the same and invested his means in a tract of woodland, in Van Wert county, to which he soon afterward moved his family. The task of clearing this land was by no means an easy one, but by dint of constant labor he succeeded in removing the forest growth, and lived to see his place one of the best cultivated and valuable farms in Pleasant township. Mr. Stempfley was a self-made man, and began the battle of life with no capital save his own strong arm and a determination to succeed. Politically he was a democrat, worshiped with the Reform church, and in his death, which occurred on the 29th of November, 1889, the community lost one of its most valued citizens.

The following are the names of the children of Nicholas and Magdalena Stempfley: Mary E., wife of Peter Hoverman; Caroline, wife of Martin Lindermuth; Emma A., wife of George Roder; Tilda; Christena, wife of Eugene Lewis; Victoria T. M., wife of Charles Gerhiser; Seymour, deceased; and James N. Mrs. Stempfley has for years been interested in the success of the Reform church, to which she belongs, and her life in the community has wielded a potent influence for good upon all with whom she has come in contact; she has done well her part in the rearing of her family, and has been rewarded by the words of her children as they rise up to call her blessed.

PHEBE STEWART, widow of Samuel P. Stewart, and daughter of John and Nancy (Spence) Boyd, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on the present site of the city of Findlay, in the 1827. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, near old Lancaster, in 1799, the son of David Boyd, who was a descendant of a well-known Scotch-Irish family of eminent respectability, which settled in the Keystone state at a very early period of its history. David Boyd married Phebe Clark and became the father of four children, two sons and two daughters. John, the eldest, received a good education in his native state, early learned the blacksmith trade, and in 1826 was united in marriage with Nancy Spence, above mentioned. This marriage was blessed with the birth of three children: Phebe, whose name introduces this sketch; William, a resident of Kansas, and Joseph, of Lawrence county, Ohio. The mother was born in 1794, grew to womanhood on the country home of her parents, was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in 1830. Subsequently Mr. Boyd married Mary Foglesong, of Richland county, Ohio, who bore him eight children, whose names are as follows: Ruth, deceased; Mrs. Matilda J. Wilkins, deceased; David J., deceased: Mrs. Mary F. Wright; Mrs. Hartiet A. Hughes; Sarah F; Emma, and James E., who lives in Michigan. The mother was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1814, and is still living.

In 1826 Mr. Boyd brought his young wife to Hancock county, Ohio, where he purchased a forty-acre tract of land, which he subsequently improved, and to which, from time to time, he made additions, in the meantime working at his trade. About 1830 he moved to Richland county, thence several years later to Michigan, in which state he spent the remainder of his life, dying in April, 1881. In religion he was a member of the Adventist church, and politically was first a democrat and later, on account of his intense opposition to slavery, became a republican, remaining a member of that party from its formation until his death. He is remembered as quite a successful business man and upright and honorable citizen, highly esteemed by all with whom he came in contact.

Phebe, eldest daughter of John Boyd, received a fair English education in the common schools, and in her twenty-third year was married, in Richland county, Ohio, to Samuel P. Stewart. Five children were born of this union: Perry E., who died in infancy; George W., an artist of Montpelier, Ind.; William L., deceased; Edward E., killed in a railroad accident in March, 1890, and John L., who lives on the old home place.

Samuel P. Stewart was a native of Ohio, born in the county of Richland September 9, 1825, the son of Samuel and Hannah (Perry) Stewart. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, and after his marriage worked at the same very successfully for a period of seven years, or until his removal to the county of Van Wert, in 1857. On coming to this county he located on a farm which he had previously purchased, and which, through his untiring industry, was cleared and brought to a successful state of cultivation. At intervals he worked at his trade in the neighborhood, and in May, 1864, entered the army, as a member of company I, Twenty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, for the 100-day service. He was sent to the army of the Potomac, and did guard duty until August 19, 1864, at which time his death occurred. Mr. Stewart was highly respected in the community where he resided, was a strict member of the Baptist church, and contributed liberally of his means toward the advancement of all moral and religious movements. Politically he was a republican, but, while an earnest supporter of his party, never sought nor desired official preferment at the hands of his fellow-citizens.

John L. Stewart, who resides on the home place in Pleasant township, was born October 14, 1862, and received his education in the country schools of Van Wert county. Like many other sons of Ohio, his early life was passed amid the uneventful scenes of the farm, and he grew to manhood possessed of a rugged vitality and sterling honesty, factors necessary to successful citizenship. Early deprived of the father's care, he assumed the management of the farm, in which he displayed wise forethought, and soon became one of the intelligent and progressive agriculturists of the township. He has given his whole attention to farming, believes in the nobility of his calling, and belongs to that large and intelligent class of people who, in a quiet way, have done so much toward developing and building up our great western country. Mr. Stewart and Margaret E. Callendine, daughter of George and Samantha (Bodkin) Callendine, of Van Wert county, were united in marriage in the year 1889, and to them have been born the following children: Adessa, Verda, Royal P. and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart are members of the Baptist church, and take an active part in the work of their home congregation.

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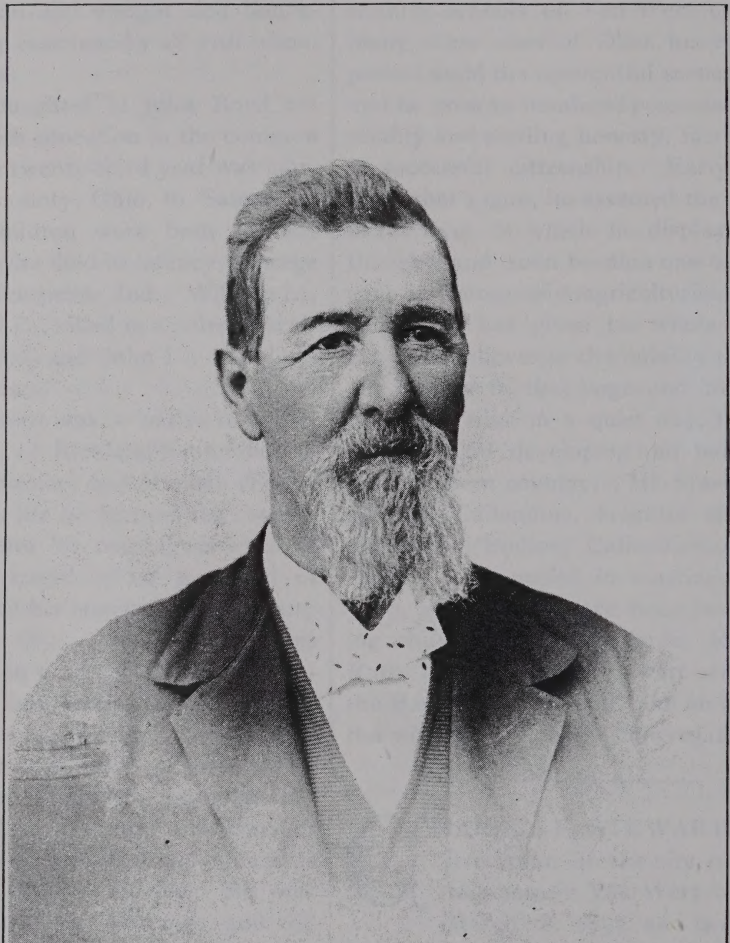
CHARLES F. STEWART, the popular liveryman of the city of Van Wert, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, March 28, 1855, and is a son of Ebzon and Elizabeth (Capper) Stewart, the former of whom was a native of Carroll county, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming, and where he was married. On coming to Van Wert county he located in Harrison township, where he entered 160 acres of land, which he cultivated and made his home until 1869, when his wife was taken away. His home be-



HENRY RUMBLE.

ing thus broken up he removed, in 1871, to Ridge township and bought 470 acres, where he resided until his death. The children born to these parents were sixteen in number, of whom thirteen were named, Edward, Mary (deceased), Ellen, Jane (deceased), David, Mahlon (deceased), John (deceased), Charles F., Alonzo (deceased), Amanda (deceased), Milton, Newton, Emma and two twins, unnamed. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Stewart was a republican; he held the office of township assessor and trustee, was an organizer of grange No. 72, and died worth at least $20,000.

Charles F. Stewart was reared and educated in Ridge township, and at the age of twenty-one years hired out for two years as a farm laborer; he then married and engaged in farming on the old homestead until 1880, when he bought ninety-five acres in Harrison township, but at the end of a year sold out and purchased seventy-eight acres in Ridge township, on which he lived until 1865, and then, in 1866, returned to the old home farm; shortly afterward he again bought a farm of small dimensions in Ridge township, on which he made his home until 1892, when he moved to Washington township, Paulding county, and purchased a farm on which he resided until 1894, when he came to Van Wert city, in the month of September, and bought his present livery stock and barn on North Market street, which he has successfully conducted to the present time.

The marriage of Mr. Stewart took place in Ridge township, Van Wert county, May 22, 1877, to Miss Julia B. Hill, who was born in the same township May 11, 1824, a daughter of Harrison Hill, the result of this union being two children—Homer F. and Viola Pearl. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a republican. He is the owner of eighty-four acres of good land in Paulding county, and his livery and feed barn in Van Wert, which is the most popular establishment of the kind in the city.

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HENRY RUMBLE, a retired farmer and now residing in the city of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Fayette county, Pa., April 3, 1825, a son of Jacob and Susanna (Gans) Rumble, an old-settled family of that state. Jacob Rumble, also a native of Fayette county, Pa., was born January 1, 1795, and was a son of Henry Rumble, who was born in the same county and was a son of Jacob, who came from Germany in the earlier part of the century, bringing his wife, and founded the family in the county spoken of. Henry Rumble, grandfather of our subject, married early in life and moved to Virginia, where he farmed until 1825, when he returned to Fayette county, Pa., where he followed charcoal burning until his death, which occurred in 1855; his widow following him about the year 1858. Their five children were named Jacob (father of our subject), Godfrey, David, Rosanna and Catherine. They were Protestants in religion and in politics the father was a democrat. Jacob Rumble grew to manhood on the home farm, and at twenty-one years of age married Susanna Gans, began farming on his own account, and followed the calling until his death in 1833. The children born to Jacob and Susanna were six in number and were named Elizabeth, Henry (our subject), Catherine, Alexander, Bathsheba and Anna. The mother of this family died in Fayette county, Pa., January 1, 1868, a member of the Protestant church, of which her husband had also been a member; politically he was a democrat.

Henry Rumble, whose name introduces this biography, was reared to manhood on the home farm in his native county, and was there first married, November 14, 1849, to Pauline Leech, who was born in West Virginia, March 16, 1831, a daughter of Jessie Leech, and this union was blessed with five children, viz: B. W., a merchant of Ironton, Ohio; Anna, wife of P. F. Remagen, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county; A. C., a civil engineer of California; Susie, wife of C. H. Hymen, of Hoaglin township, and James W. of the same township. The mother of this family died February 1, 1875, and her remains were interred in the Smithfield cemetery, Fayette county, Pa. At his first marriage Mr. Rumble located on a farm in his native county, on which he resided until 1875, when he came to Ohio and bought 120 acres of land in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, to which he afterward added eighty acres, making 200 acres, which he still owns and which he retrieved from the forest and made to "bloom like the rose." He there married, January 31, 1884, Maria Sealscott, who was born in Hocking county, Ohio, May 8, 1841, a daughter of L. W. and Sarah (Hoffman) Snyder and widow of Henry Sealscott, who was a native of Ohio also, and to whom she bore four children, viz: Charles, deceased; Sarah, wife of A. Schickedantdz, of Union township, Van Wert county; William, of Hoaglin township, and Benjamin F., deceased. Henry Sealscott was a farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, was a Lutheran in religion, and in politics was a democrat; he died February 1, 1875, the owner of sixty acres of good farm land, well improved. Mr. Rumble was a man of much prominence in Hoaglin township and served his fellow-citizens as county commissioner three years, as justice of the peace six years, and as trustee two terms. With his wife he resided on the farm until March, 1895, when they came to the city of Van Wert and purchased a fine residence on Water street, where they are passing their declining days in ease and comfort and in the enjoyment of the love and esteem of all who know them.

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W. J. STITES, one of the prominent farmers of Van Wert county, and a manufacturer of brick and tile, was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1856, and is a son of Hiram and Emeline (Lewis) Stites. Hiram Stites was born near Madison, Ohio, in 1828, and is of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. Reared a farmer, he naturally adopted that calling for his own and followed it through life, though for some years in his youth he was a butcher in Cincinnati. His education was received in the common schools, and was sufficient for all the practical purposes of life. In 1854 he married Emeline Lewis, born in 1838, and daughter of James and Nancy (Bone) Lewis, a fuller mention of whom reference is made to the biographical sketch of George Lewis, elsewhere in this volume. To Hiram and Emeline Stites there were born three children, viz: W. J., the subject of this sketch; Nannie, widow of John Owens, and Emma, wife of Samuel Montfort, of Lebanon, Ohio. It is believed that Hiram Stites was a member of the Universalist church, and politically he was an old-line whig in his early days, but later he became a republican. He was a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity, by which he was highly esteemed. He was industrious, even a hard-working man, and it is thought that his hard work hastened his death, which occurred in 1861. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in 1868.

W. J. Stites, being thus left an orphan by the early death of his parents, lived with relatives for some years, receiving his education in the common schools of Perry county. At the age of fourteen he began working as a farm hand for his uncle, David Stites, and remained with him several years. Then he removed to Van Wert, and in 1882 purchased the farm upon which he still lives. In 1892 he married Miss Hannah Thompson, daughter of Theodore and America (Hart) Thomson, of Warren county, and to this marriage there has been born one child, viz: Nannie May. Mrs. Stites was born in Warren county in 1872. Her father was a native of the same county, having been born in 1842, and followed farming in that county. There she was reared and educated, and became a woman of bright intellect and most excellent character and disposition. Mr. and Mrs. Stites, though not members of any church, always take great interest in everything pertaining to the moral and material welfare of the community in which they live, and are highly esteemed members of society. Mr. Stites is a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 251, I. O. O. F., and is a prominent member of Van Wert County grange, No. 399, P. of H.

In 1883 Mr. Stites added a tile manufactory to his business of farming and has carried on the manufacture of tile and brick for some thirteen years. Taken all in all, he has been a very successful man. His farm is in a high state of cultivation and bears everywhere the indications of his careful industry and attention. Having been left an orphan at an early age and having by his own efforts acquired a comfortable competency, he has set an example to all young people, well worthy of their imitation and emulation.

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JOHN STRANDLER, dealer in harness and saddlery, Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Bensheim, Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, March 19, 1841, a son of John and Barbara (Heilman) Strandler. At the age of four years he lost his father, and until sixteen years of age he remained with his mother. In April, 1857, he sailed from Havre, France, on a sailing vessel, for America, and after a voyage of forty-two days was safely landed in New York. A week later he reached Tiffin, Ohio, where his uncle, Jacon Heilman, was engaged in the manufacture of brick. For one season our subject worked in the brick-yard, and was then apprenticed for three years to Jacob Ebert, to learn harness-making, remained with him for three months only, when he went to Attica, Ohio, where he worked in a harness shop until 1860, and thence went to St. Louis, Mo., where he worked under instructions at the same trade until April, 1861. The Rebellion having now become an assured and serious fact, he enlisted, at St. Louis, April 21, 1861, in company A, First Missouri infantry, for three months, and, having served out his term, re-enlisted at the same place for three years, and was assigned to company A, First Missouri light artillery. With this company, of which he was quartermaster sergeant, he participated in the battles of Camp Jackson, Boonville, Duck Springs, Wilson's Creek, Fredericktown—all in Missouri—and at Cache River, Bolivar, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, and siege of Vicksburg, in Mississippi, and was finally discharged at Greenville, La., October 8, 1864. He then returned to Attica, Ohio, where he worked as a journeyman at harness-making until January, 1865, when he bought his employer's store and stock and carried on the trade until January 5, 1867, when he came to Van Wert and opened a shop on West Main street, which he conducted until some time in 1868; he then moved to Monroeville, Ind., carried on his trade until the spring of 1870, then returned to Van Wert and spent one summer at farming; then worked a year and a half at his trade for B. F. Shoop in Van Wert as a journeyman, and then became his partner. In 1873 this partnership was dissolved and the stock equally divided. Mr. Strandler then purchased the lot at No. 10 North Washington street, at that time occupied by a frame building, in which he carried on his trade until 1889, when he erected his present brick building, 22 x 97 feet, in which he has his store and workshop. Here he is doing a thriving trade in light and heavy harness, rob blankets, saddles, whips, trunks, valises, bicycles, and everything usually found in an establishment of that kind, his stock being full and varied and worth several thousand dollars. Mr. Strandler is what is termed a self-made man, commencing with but a small capital, and has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence. In politics Mr. Strandler is a republican, but has never been an office-seeker. His marriage took place in Attica, Ohio, November 13, 1866, to Miss Fannie A. Moltz, a daughter of M. R. Moltz, and born in Attica, June 28, 1844.

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WALTER L. SCOTT, manager of the Union Mills Flouring company, Van Wert, Ohio, was born October 6, 1829, in the shire of Banff, Scotland, a son of James and Jane (Findley) Scott. The father, James Scott, was born in Banffshire, in 1773, and was the son of James, a native of the same place, a farmer, and the father of five children, viz: John, Alexander, James (father of our subject), Jane and Ellen, the majority of whom were members of the old Scotch Presbyterian church. James Scott, a son of James and father of Walter L. Scott, at the age of sixteen years, was apprenticed by his parents to an architect and builder, for four years, and after having served his term of apprenticeship followed his profession throughout the south and north of Scotland all his life. He married in Banffshire, in 1807, Jane Findley, who was born in 1763, and became the father of nine children, viz: James and John, now deceased; Alexander, a builder in Banffshire, Scotland; Jane, in Ireland; Jessie, deceased; William, a merchant tailor in Scotland; Walter L., subject of this sketch; George, who was a soldier in the Crimean war and is now a teacher of military tactics, at Woolwich arsenal, England; Ellen, deceased. These parents lived to the good old age of ninety-three and eighty-three years, and died in the place of their nativity.

Walter L. Scott, the subject of this sketch, at the age of fourteen, was apprenticed to a miller at a point about five miles from the place of his birth, served out his term and followed milling until he left Scotland in 1854. He was united in marriage in January, 1854, with Miss Mary E. White; they immediately afterward came to America, and located near Toronto, Canada, where Mr. Scott was employed in milling until 1862. They then came to Ohio, where Mr. Scott followed his vocation at Fremont for six years and then at Sandusky from 1868 to 1871, when he came to Van Wert and purchased an interest in the People's Mill, of which he took general management. He at once set about to overhaul the milling department and put it into repair to do fine custom work, and early in March, 1872, the mill began doing business, Mr. Scott acting as miller for three years' time, after which he assumed general management until 1879, at which he purchased an interest in the Union mills, which were owned by a stock company composed of the following-named gentlemen: D. R. Bonewitz, Samuel Swineford, O. D. Swartout, William Snashall, and Mr. Braham. The capital stock at this time was $16,000, but which has been reduced by cancelation, so that the capital stock of the company is now $12,450, of which Mr. Scott owns about one-third. Upon purchasing the interest in this mill he was chosen as general manager, which position he has held ever since, and, under his intelligent supervision, the enterprise has proven a success and is known as one of the leading industries in the city of Van Wert. Mr. Scott also owned an interest in the Fire and Burglar Proof Safe business, with headquarters at No. 155 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill., which he recently sold; he also was one of the promoters and was largely interested in the manufacture of furniture in Van Wert.

In politics Mr. Scott is a republican, has served his fellow-citizens four years as councilman, and has been president of the board of education for twelve years. He is a knight templar Mason, and his high social standing is with the best people of Van Wert. He is one of the conservative, safe business men of the city, affable, and interested in all benevolent and worthy enterprises, to which he contributes liberally of his means and time as well. He and wife are members of the church of his forefathers—the Presbyterian—and the children of whom they are the parents were named Edward J., and Mima J., deceased; Alfred, of Chicago; Minnie, wife of H. Kemper; and Walter H., in the hardware business at Greenfield, Ohio. Mr. Scott owns a fine residence at No. 13 South Avenue, where his domestic life in passed in the companionship and friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

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GEORGE W. STRIPE, one of the most progressive and prosperous young farmers of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is "native here and to the manor born," October 11, 1860. His grandfather, Jacob Stripe, a native of Pennsylvania, was of English descent, and was an early settler of Fairfield county, Ohio, and, when married, all his earthly possessions could be carried in a common pocket handkerchief, but at his death in that county his landed possessions entitled him to the appellation of a substantial farmer and citizen. His son, also named Jacob, the father of our subject, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 17, 1811, was reared to farming, a vocation he always followed, and with success. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Sarah Harvey, and had born to him the following children: John, William H., Jacob L., and George W., all born in Van Wert county, where the parents were married. The father of this family, Jacob Stripe, Jr., at his marriage was the owner of a farm of eighty acres, but later, in partnership with a brother, acquired 1,600 acres, of which at the time of his death, May 16, 1882, he bequeathed to his children eighty acres each. He was a Jacksonian democrat and a strictly moral man. His widow still resides on the homestead, respected and honored by all her neighbors.

George W. Stripe, our subject, who has been thoroughly trained to farming and well educated in the district school, on January 21, 1885, married Miss Hermia A. Hattery, daughter of Nathanial and Ellen (Atchison) Hattery, and a sister of Mrs. Addison A. Giffin, whose name will be found in the sketch of her husband on another page. Three years after marriage, Mr. Stripe and wife located on their present farm of eighty acres of most fertile land, improved with modern farm residence, barn and other necessary buildings, and well stocked and highly cultivated. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Stripe has been blessed by the birth of one child, Marie, now attending school, the parents being ardent advocates of popular instruction and admirers of educating the young under all circumstances. Mr. Stripe is in politics a stanch democrat and is energetic in his aid to his party. He is a member of grange No. 400, of which he has been assistant steward, and through his township stands high in the estimation of his neighbors, not only as a useful citizen but as a progressive farmer.

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WILLIAM H. STRIPE, a native of Hoaglin township, Van Wert couuty, Ohio, and a most prosperous farmer, was born November 14, 1847, and is a brother of John and George W. Stripe, the biography of the latter being in immediate juxtaposition with this sketch, and in which the genealogy of the family will be found in full. William H. Stripe, our subject, was reared to practical farming, receiving, in his boyhood, a sound education. January 14, 1869, he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Sarah D. Lamson, daughter of Alfred and Avaline (Scott) Lamson, who were, until 1850, residents of Geauga county, but who, since that date, have made their home in Van Wert county, the parents of two children, Sarah D. (Mrs. Stripe) and Horace A. To the union of William H. and Sarah D. Stripe, have been born a family of six children, named Frank E. (deceased), Charles S., Leola I. (deceased), Ada L., Clarence O. (deceased) and Ethel A. After his marriage Mr. Stripe at once settled on part of the old homestead, of which he now owns fifty-five acres, improved with a good new modern house and other farm buildings, and under such a state of cultivation that no one, excepting an experienced farmer like himself, could have placed it.

In his party affiliations William H. Stripe is a pronounced democrat, and has been honored by his party with election to several local offices, including those of township trustee, township clerk and township assessor, and under the old law he served as school director fifteen years. Mrs. Stripe in religion adheres to the faith of the Seventh Day Adventists. For twenty years Mr. Stripe has been a member of the Patrons of Husbandry, grange No. 400, of Hoaglin, and has filled all the offices —his wife being also a member of this organization. Mr. Stripe is an intelligent and progressive agriculturists, and understands the needs of the farmer as well as he comprehends the needs of the soil.

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SAMUEL STUMP is among the self-made men and successful farmers of Pleasant township, few are as widely and as favorably known, and the leading facts of his life are herewith presented. Mr. Stump's paternal ancestors came originally from Holland and settled in Pennsylvania at a very early period in the history of that state, and there his father, Peter Stump, was born on the 21st day of May, 1787.

Peter Stump was one of the pioneers of Pickaway county, Ohio, and served in the war of 1812, participating in a number of battles during that struggle and making for himself the reputation of a brave and gallant soldier. At the close of the war, he returned to his farm in Pickaway county, where he resided until about 1822, at which time he moved to Fairfield, now Hocking county, where he continued the pursuit of agriculture until his death, December 10, 1873. About the year 1815, Peter Stump was united in marriage to Mary Culp, daughter of Peter and Mary Culp, to which union the following children were born: Lydia, wife of James Deffenbaugh; Sarah, wife of Samuel Miller; Esther, wife of George Deffenbaugh; Abigail, deceased; Mrs. Mary Bryner; Joseph C., and Samuel, the subject of this mention. The mother of these children were born in Pennsylvania, February 13, 1795, of German parentage, was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and died October 11, 1884. In his church relation, Peter Stump was for many a Lutheran, and he contributed liberally toward the promotion of all religious, moral, and charitable movements. Politically he was a democrat of the old school, but never took a very active part as a partisan, having been somewhat conservative in political matters, yet voting when so disposed.

Samuel Stump was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, June, 10, 1819, and, like the majority of our western people, was largely deprived of educational advantages in his youth, having been permitted to attend the indifferent schools of that period at intervals during the winter season only. At the age of fifteen he left the parental roof and returned to his old home in Pickaway county, where he learned wool-carding and the saw-milling business, at which he worked in one place for a period of sixteen years. About 1846, thinking to better his condition by moving further westward, he came to Van Wert county and purchased forty acres of woodland, to which he subsequently made an addition of a like number of acres, previously taken up on his father's soldier's warrant. After improving his place to some extent, Mr. Stump, in 1851, moved his family from Pickaway county to the new home in Van Wert, making the trip by wagon over almost impassable roads, camping at night by the roadside, and consuming a number of days in the journey. His life for the first few years in Van Wert county was by no means an easy one, and he was obliged to toil early and late in order to remove the dense forests, underdrain the land, and otherwise fit it for cultivation. Knowing no such word as fail, he persisted in his labor, and was finally rewarded with a home much better than that of the majority, and he now owns a fine farm of 160 acres, which, with other wealth, represents his own unaided efforts.

In 1840 Mr. Stump and Elizabeth Resslar, daughter of George Resslar, were united in marriage, and the union was blessed with the birth of the following children: Isaac, deceased; Rufus; Lewis; Mary, wife of David Weagley; Peter, deceased; and Abigail, also deceased. Mrs. Stump was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1816, was descended from German ancestry, and departed this life in February, 1893. Religiously she was a Methodist, and she proved a true companion and valuable helpmate to her husband during their long married life, contributing not a little to his success during their early struggle in making a home. As already stated, Mr. Stump is essentially a self-made man, and is noted for his upright character, honorable dealings and strict integrity of purpose. He is a man firm in his convictions of right, intensely practical in business affairs, and has decided opinions, which he has the courage to express. His has indeed been an active and prosperous life, and this tribute to his worth well deserves a place among the biographies of Van Wert county's representative men.

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LEWIS STUMP, a successful farmer and representative citizen of Pleasant township, and son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Resslar) Stump, was born in the year 1844, in Pickaway county, Ohio. When but seven years of age, he was brought by his parents to the present family home in Pleasant township and has since been one of the leading citizens of the same and a man whose reputation is well known throughout the county of Van Wert. For some years he attended the common schools and received a fair English education, which, supplemented by intelligent observation and contact with men in business capacities, has enabled him to accumulate a fund of practical knowledge such as schools and colleges fail to impart. He early selected the noble calling of agriculture as a life-work, and has followed the same with encouraging success over since. In politics Mr. Stump is conservative, but always supports the democratic party, though never asking or desiring official preferment at the hands of his fellow-citizens. All objects for the general welfare of the community find in him a friend and liberal patron, and, while not identified with any religious organization, he believes in the work of the church and is by no means scant in his contribution towards the success of the same.

In 1868, Mr. Stump was united in marriage to Mary E. Tomlinson, daughter of James and Nancy (Smith) Tomlinson, and to their union have been born the following children: Samuel T.; Effie B., wife of Elmer Smalley; Francis H., Ethel B., Claude, Florence M., Grace E., Gertrude and Harriet R. Mrs. Stump was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1850; she is a consistent member of the Society of Friends, in which she takes a deep interest and is widely and favorably known throughout the township.

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WILLIAM SHEETS, deceased, in his day a most able farmer and useful citizen, was a son of Samuel Sheets, a biography of whom is on page 673, and was born in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, February 14, 1843. His youthful days were spent on his father's farm, on which he was thoroughly trained to agriculture, receiving at the same time the education that the common schools of his district afforded. At about twenty-six years of age he married, April 23, 1869, Miss Rachael Bower, daughter of William and Sarah (Tenner) Bower, whose sketch may be likewise found on another page. The children resulting from the union of William and wife were three in number, named Ettie I., Cora A. and Sarah M.

After marriage Mr. Sheets settled on the farm now occupied by his family, and which then comprised 142 acres. This farm he succeeded in clearing up and in placing under a fine state of cultivation, securing for his family a good home and a source of income. In politics Mr. Sheets was a republican, and during the late war enlisted in the 100-day service, and took part in the battle of Point Lookout, and the fight at Youngstown. In religion he was a Lutheran, and a deacon in his church. He was industrious, skillful and frugal, and honest to the core, and his death, which took place May 8, 1886, was deeply mourned throughout the whole community, in which he was known to be a gentleman of the strictest integrity and at the same time of a most charitable and benevolent disposition. He was a kind and loving husband and father, and a faithful friend, as well as a public-spirited and useful citizen. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Sheets has managed the farm with a practical knowledge of the details necessary for the purpose, and has made a thorough success of her undertaking, and when it is remembered that she had no sons to render her aid or assistance, the more credit may be given her for keeping out of debt. She has had her daughters well educated, and has brought them up in the Lutheran faith, of which church Mrs. Sheets has long been a strict and ardent member, and of which her daughters have more recently become communicants. Ettie Sheets is now the wife of Henry R. Ainsworth, and has one child, Homer C.

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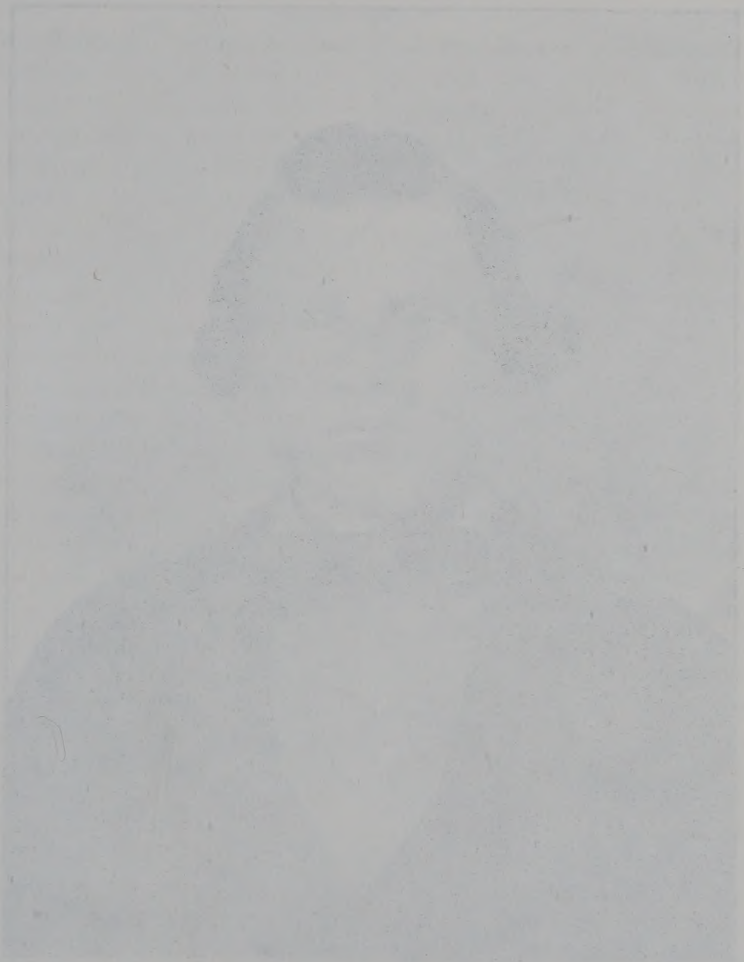
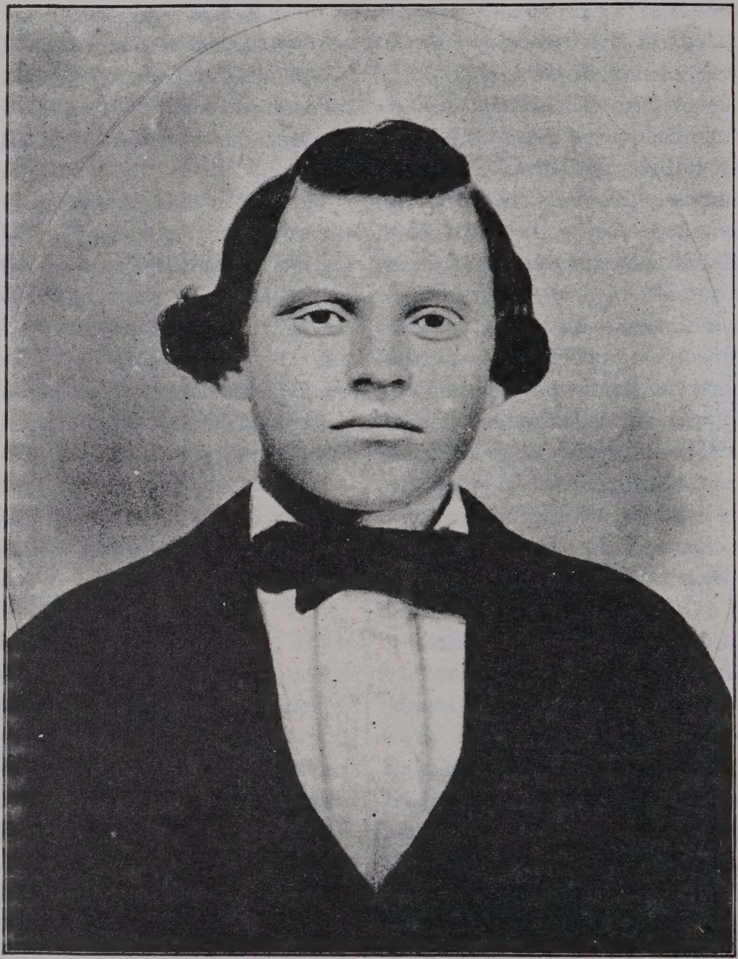
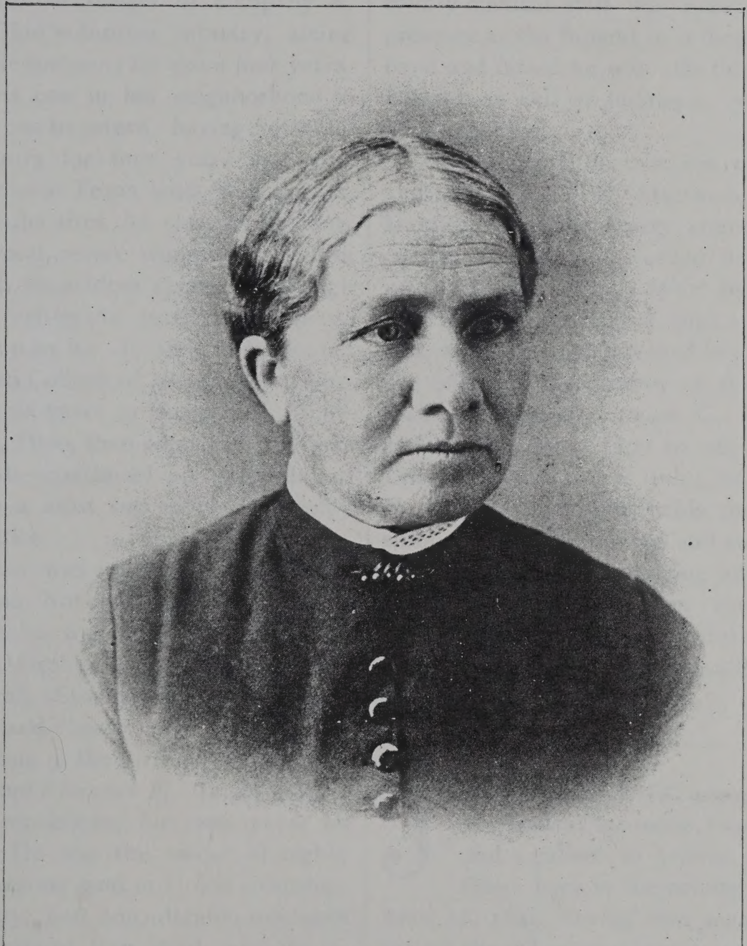
JOHN M. STUTSMAN, M. D., deceased, was born in Greene county, Ohio, January 12, 1840, a son of David and Elizabeth (Merrick) Stutsman, and was the eldest son in a family of nine children born to his parents. David Stutsman was a native of Pennsylvania, but a pioneer of the Buckeye





WILLIAM SHEETS,
DECEASED.



MRS. RACHAEL SHEETS.

state. Our subject was reared to manhood on the home farm in his native county, and prior to his remarkable professional career experienced a military record equally as remarkable. On June 10, 1861, he enlisted as private and was chosen first lieutenant of company A, Twenty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, acting as captain of the company for about four years. He was the first one in his neighborhood to enlist, and last one to return, having faithfully served his country for four years and nine months. He was in Texas with Wagner's division nine months after the close of the war, and carried several severe wounds received in battle, of which he seldom spoke. Although he merited a high-grade pension, he never made application for it. In 1869 he graduated at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, practiced six years in Harrisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, then came to Van Wert in 1877, where he continued up to the day of his death to do a most successful and highly honorable practice.

Dr. Stutsman was united in marriage in Harrisburg, Ohio, November 6, 1869, to Miss Ella N. Hyre, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, March 5, 1851, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Stouder) Hyre, natives of North Carolina and Pennsylvania, respectively, the union resulting in the birth of two children —Albertus C. and Florence E. In politics the doctor was a republican, but was never an office seeker. He was the owner of eighty acres of good farming land in Union township, Van Wert county, and considerable residence property in the city of Van Wert, and the income derived from the practice of his profession formed a competence for his family. He died at his home in Van Wert June 19, 1894. He was a good physician, a safe prescriber, a faithful counselor, a zealous student and an honored gentleman. He was an honest, independent and bold thinker on all subjects likely to engage the thoughtful mind. For fifteen years or more he had been an active member of the Van Wert Medical society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical association. The high esteem on the part of the Van Wert county medical staff was manifested by their presence at the funeral in a body. As a husband and father he was affectionate, pure and faithful, as well as indulgent, yet firm, in his life's amenities.

Albertus C. Stutsman, son of Dr. John M. and Ella N. (Hyre) Stutsman, was born in Harrisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, December 3, 1871, and was but five years of age when brought to Van Wert by parents, and here he attended school until sixteen years of age, when he was employed in clerical work in the office of the auditor of the C., J. & M. Railroad company, under G. H. Wappner, and as chief from 1890 to 1892 under F. C. Cheney, and then, in July, 1892, succeeded H. A. Keller, and now holds the auditor's position. He is industrious and competent, neat and accurate, and is obliging and courteous—qualities that render him exceedingly well adapted for the position, the duties of which he is performing to the entire satisfaction of the company and to the public.

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JOHN W. SWARTZ, a prominent farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and a gallant ex-soldier, is a native of Ohio, born in the county of Van Wert, April 17, 1844, having first seen the light of day on the old paternal homestead in the township of Willshire. His father, William Swartz, was born in Lycoming county, Pa., about the beginning of the present century, and was a descentant of the stanch old German settlers who did so much toward the development of the latter state.

When a young man, William Swartz emigrated to Richland county, Ohio, being one of the earliest pioneers of that section, and was there united in marriage with Elizabeth Mozier, also a descendant of an old Pennsylvania family, who bore him the following children: Henry, deceased; John W., Jacob A., Lewis P., and Lydia J., wife of Samuel Young. Mrs. Swartz was born in Pennsylvania about the year of 1818, and her marriage with the subject's father occurred in the year 1841, she being his second wife. She is remembered as a woman of excellent character, a devout member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, in which she always manifested a great interest, and her death occurred in 1856. Mr. Swartz's first wife was Peggy Mozier, also a native of Pennsylvania. The issue of this marriage was three children—George, William and Katie, all deceased. In 1858, Mr. Swartz was married a third time, choosing for his wife Mrs. Laura Allen, who died in 1873. Subsequently he was again married, his last wife being Mrs. Eliza Johns.

William Swartz was identified with the farming interests of Richland county for a period of five years, at the end of which time he became a resident of the county of Van Wert, locating upon a tract of wild land which he previously purchased from the government. At that time the country was in a wilderness state and the town of Van Wert contained but three or four rude log cabins, giving little promise of the development which it subsequently attained. Mr. Swartz built a rude cabin on his land, set to work with a will to remove the forest growth and make a home for his young family. That he succeeded in his new undertaking goes without saying, and in due season a good farm was cleared and put under cultivation. In 1850, actuated by a desire to acquire a fortune in the gold fields of of California, he made an overland trip to that far-away state, spending several months on the road, enduring many harnships, and meeting with numerous adventures during the journey. After spending a year in the mines with but fair success, he returned to Ohio, making the trip from San Francisco to New York by the long and perilous passage around Cape Horn. He remained upon his farm in Van Wert county until 1875, at which time he disposed of the same and removed to Kent county, Mich., where he spent the remaining years of his life, dying there at the age of eighty-five years. In his early life he was identified with the democratic party, but at the breaking out of the Rebellion changed his political faith, and until his death supported the principles of the republican party. He was a man of energy, enterprising in everything he undertook, and was public spirited in all matters pertaining to the moral and material well being of the community in which he lived.

John W. Swartz, some of the leading facts of whose life are herewith presented, laid the foundation of his education in the common schools of his native county, and grew to manhood on a farm, assisting his father in the work of the same. At the breaking out of the great Rebellion he responded to his country's call for volunteers, enlisting, October 12, 1861, in company F, Sixteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war. His command was at once sent to the front, and in January, 1862, he participated in the battle of Mill Springs, Ky., from which time until June 18 he was almost constantly engaged in skirmishing with the enemy. He took part in the battle of Tazewell, Tenn., September, 1862, and the same year was captured and remained a prisoner of war for about one month. Subsequently he was exchanged, and, rejoining his command at Vicksburg, took part in the siege of that city; he also distinguished himself in the bloody engagements of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, and the general charge at Vicksburg. Later, his command was sent to New Orleans, and took part in the Bayou Tesche campaign; was afterward transferred to Texas and the Red river country, with almost continuous fighting for several months. His next move was again into Louisiana, where on the Atchafalaya river, his command was engaged in skirmishing for some time, and then went by river to Cairo, Ill., thence to Columbus, Ohio, where he was honorably discharged in September, 1864. Mr. Swartz feels justly proud of his military record, as he gave freely and unreservedly some of the best years of his life to the service of his country. His was, indeed, a trying experience, and for injuries received while doing battle for the national Union, he now receives from the government a liberal pension. On quitting the service, Mr. Swartz returned to Van Wert county, and on the 22d day of December, 1864, was united in marriage to Matilda E. Walters, daughter of William aud Harriet (McDermot) Walters, to which union the following children have been born: William E., of Farmers City, Ill., Kerenhappuch, wife of Frank Johnson, of Willshire township; John C., of Decatur, Ind.; Ersa V., Mary M. and Charles W. Mrs. Swartz was born in Petersburg, Ohio, in 1834, her father being a native of Pennsylvania and one of the earliest settlers of Richland county, Ohio, where for many years he followed the trade of tanner, and was also engaged in general farming.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Swartz settled on a farm in Liberty township, Van Wert county, where he resided until 1884, in which year he purchased his present place in the township of Pleasant, where he now lives. He is a progressive man in all the term implies, and an example of what may be accomplished by industry and energy, when directed and controlled by good judgment. Politically he is a republican, in the success of which party he has manifested an active interest ever since he attained his majority.

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HENRY SAUM, one of the original pioneer farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in Licking county, July 14, 1828. Louis Saum, his grandfather, came from Germany when about seventeen years of age, served five years under the old apprenticeship system to reimburse his passage money and expenses, and found a home near Richmond, Va. His son, Adam Saum, the father of our subject, was born in the vicinity of Richmond; in the Shenandoah valley, Va., was reared to farming, and in that state married Margaret Miller, a daughter of George and Margaret Miller. The father, George Miller, served through the Revolutionary war and later was held a captive by the Indians of Kentucky for three years, he having been one of the compatriots of the famous Col. Daniel Boone.

Adam Saum and wife were the parents of thirteen children, named as follows: Levi, David, Gideon, Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, Leah, Rachael, Henry, Adam, Jacob, John and George, all of whom lived to become adults, with the exception of Rachael, who died in infancy. The father, Adam Saum, lived in the Shenandoah valley until after the birth of his eighth child, when he came to Ohio and settled in Licking county, where he cleared up a farm from the woods, but later moved to Knox county and purchased a farm of 160 acres near Centreburg, and also cleared it from the wilderness. November 4, 1847, he came to Van Wert county, and settled on eighty-eight acres near Middlepoint, Washington township, and while he had his residence on this farm fell dead at Delphos, in April, 1854, of heart disease, at the age of seventy-one years. He and wife were members of the Lutheran church; in politics he was a democrat, and as a citizen no man was more respected.

Henry Saum, our subject, received the usual schooling granted to farmer lads, and in 1847 came to Van Wert county with his father. Before he had reached his twenty-fifth year he had purchased 129 acres of his present farm, and at the age named he married Miss Rebecca Clendening, who was born September 27, 1828, in Vermont, a daughter of John Clendening, of Irish birth and a resident of Montreal, Canada, after coming to America, and later of Vermont, and then of Holmes county, Ohio, and then, about 1847, settled on eighty acres in Van Wert county. He was a whig in politics, and for eight years a postmaster, and for many years a member of the school board. A highly respected citizen at all times, he died at the age of seventy-six years.

After marriage Mr. Saum worked at his trade as cooper, also followed farming, and by thrift and industry acquired 202 acres of good land, which he tiled and fenced, cultivated and made to "blossom as the rose." He erected a first-class brick dwelling in 1866, and made every out-building on his premises correspond in appearance and substantiality with his mansion. He has been blessed with a family of seven children, who have been named, in order of birth, as follows: Nettie, Frank, Elnora, Vasta, John, Jennie, and Bell. Mrs. Saum always led a christian life as a member of the Methodist church, and died, in 1875, at the age of about forty-five years, in the full hope that simple faith imparts. By a second marriage Mr. Saum had two children—Beuben and Garfield, and his third marriage was to the widow Pott, who bore the maiden name of Jennie Reding. Mr. Saum is a typical pioneer, has expended a very large amount of capital and intelligently applied labor in developing the material prosperity of his township, and he deserves the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen.

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CAPT. WILLIAM C. SCOTT, deceased, was born in Washington county, Pa., July 1, 1833, a son of William and Rebecca (Hughes) Scott, both natives of the Keystone state, in which they were married and in which the father was a prosperous farmer, until his removal, with his family, to Richland county, Ohio, where he followed his vocation until the end of his days and where his wife also died.

William C. Scott was the eldest in a family of eight children, and was a mere child when brought by his parents to Richland county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood, and received a sound preparatory education, which was supplemented by a three years' course in Haysville college (Dubois county), where he was prepared for school-teaching, which profession he followed in Richland county until 1853, when he came to Van Wert and taught until 1859, including two years in high school. During this period he began reading law, in 1857, with his brother-in-law, Judge I. D. Clark, and was admitted to the bar in 1858, but never entered upon active practice. In 1859 he bought the Van Wert American, but changed the name of the paper to that of the Van Wert Bulletin, which he edited until the spring of 1861, when he sold out and assisted in recruiting a company of infantry, with which he served as first lieutenant, in the late Civil war, until after the battle of Pittsburg Landing, when he resigned and came home, animated with a nobler, higher, and more patriotic ambition, and recruited company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, was elected and commissioned captain of the company, and was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, with which he marched and fought until the battle of Stone River, January 2, 1863; here he was mortally wounded, surviving only two days after sustaining the fatal injury. For meritorious conduct on the field and for other valuable service rendered, Capt. Scott had been brevetted major; the commission had been prepared and would have been presented to him, had he survived his wounds.

Capt. Scott had married, in Van Wert county, Ohio, August 25, 1856, Miss Missouri T. McConahay, who was born in Lewistown, Mifflin county, Pa., October 10, 1833, a daughter of John and Margaret (Lovell) McConahay, who were also natives of the Keystone state. To the union of the captain and Miss McConahay were born two children—Avery Wasson, now an engineer on the C., J. & M. R. R., and Jennie A., deceased. The captain was mild in his disposition, was self-contained, and was a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he was a republican, had served as special school-examiner. He left a comfortable home to his widow and orphaned children, and his untimely death was deeply deplored by a large circle of devoted friends. The marriage of his widow to C. P. Richey has been duly recorded elsewhere.

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CHARLES C. SHEETS, a well-known veterinary surgeon of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Ashland, in the same state, in October, 1849. His father, William Sheets, was the first white male child born in Ashland county, and his mother, Mary (Swineford) Sheets, was born in Pennsylvania, a sister of Simeon Swineford, of whom a biography is given elsewhere in this work. These parents were married in Ashland county in 1840 and there resided on a farm; the mother died in October 1886, a member of the Presbyterian church. Their family consists of the following children: Joseph, Alfred M., Almond, Eli, Charles C., John S. and Emma.

Charles C. Sheets was reared on the home farm in Ashland county, and attended the public schools until twenty-one years of age, when he came to Van Wert (in 1871) and for six years clerked in the dry-goods houses of J. S. Brumback & Co., and McKim & Hall, following which he returned to Ashland county and resumed the vocation of farming, which he pursued until the spring of 1887. He then entered the famous Ontario Veterinary college, studied diligently, and graduated in the spring of 1889, locating at once in Van Wert. While in college he made a specialty of the study of dentistry as applied to his particular science, in the practice of which he has achieved an enviable reputation.

Mr. Sheets was auspiciously united in wedlock in Van Wert, October 18, 1876, with Miss Lizzie McGavren, a daughter of Judge McGavren, and this felicitous union has been crowned by the birth of one child—Fred F. Dr. and Mrs. Sheets are members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally the doctor is a member of the Royal Arcanum and of canton No. 251, I. O. O. F. The doctor resides in a neat modern home on Sycamore street, is connected with the best families in the county, and is personally quite popular. In politics, like his father, who still resides in Ashland, he is an ardent republican. He was elected to fill a vacancy on the school board in the spring of 1894, and again elected in the spring of 1895 by a large popular vote.

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SAMUEL W. SHAFFER, the obliging proprietor of a line of drays at Van Wert, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, March 20, 1859, a son of Francis M. and Maria (Putnam) Shaffer. The father, Francis M., was born in Carroll county, Ohio, and the mother, Maria (Putnam) Shaffer, was born in Stark county, Ohio. They were married in Van Wert county, in 1857, and soon after this event located in Mercer county, where the father was engaged, in a saw-mill until 1873, when he was given the position of foreman of the Middlepoint stave factory, in Van Wert county, which position he held about two years; he then engaged in the sale of machinery, a calling he still follows, making his home in Van Wert, to which city he came in 1874. He is the father of two children—Samuel W., whose name opens this sketch, and Mary B., who resides with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer are members of the Friends' church. In politics Mr. Shaffer is a republican; was assessor of Pleasant township several terms, was assessor in Mercer county two terms, and has served as councilman two terms in Van Wert.

Samuel Wellington Shaffer was reared in Mercer county and was educated in the common schools. At the age of twenty-one he engaged in general labor and so continued until 1886, and then entered into general merchandising, which he followed nine months; in 1887 he purchased a dray line, which has since claimed his attention, and he now owns four drays and is one of the most accommodating teamsters in the county. He also buys and sells horses, as opportunity offers. The marriage of Mr. Shaffer occurred in Van Wert, October 29, 1884, with Miss Minnie Hott, a native of the city, born April 23, 1866, a daughter of Philip and Mary (Hoffman) Hott. This union has been blessed with two children—Frances R. and Frederick Earl. Mrs. Shaffer is one of German descent and is a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Shaffer is in politics a republican, and in 1891 was elected a member of the city council, was re-elected in 1893, and is one of the leading men of his party in the city and county. Fraternally, he is a member of the I. O. R. M., and he and family enjoy the esteem of the entire community. He owns two residence properties on Chestnut and Franklin streets, and also four vacant lots.

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DAVID SHINDOLLAR, a prosperous farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, and a gallant ex-soldier, was born February 2, 1842, in Delaware county, Ohio, son of Michael and Frederica (Yager) Shindollar, both parents natives of Germany. Michael and Frederica Shindollar were acquaintances in the old country, but were not married until after leaving the fatherland and coming to the United States. They resided in Delaware county, Ohio, where the husband's death occurred in 1846; his widow survived him until 1878, on the 20th of October of which year she was called to her final reward. They reared a family of nine children, eight sons and one daughter, and it is a fact worthy of note that all the sons served with distinction in the late war, and did valiant service in defense of the flag. The following are their names: Henry, a member of company E, Sixty-sixth Ohio infantry, died from disease contracted in the army; John served in the Seventeenth Illinois, and is now a resident of Delaware county, Ohio; Philip died while in the service of his country, at Saint Louis, Mo.; Louis, who was a member of company E, Sixty-sixth Ohio, lives in Spencerville, Allen county, Ohio; Reuben served in the Seventeenth Illinois, and is now a resident of Spencerville; William, who was a member of company H, Fourth Ohio infantry, was killed at Spottsylvania C. H., Va.; David, subject of this sketch, and Samuel, a resident of Mercer county, fought during the war in the One Hundred and Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry.

The daughter, Sevilla, became the wife of Levan Miller, and makes her home in Delaware, Ohio.

David Shindollar remained with his parents in Delaware county until his nineteenth year, at which early age he responded to the country's call for volunteers, enlisting April 17, 1861, in company I, Fourth Ohio regiment, being among the first to go to the front in response to President Lincoln's first appeal. He served three months in the aforesaid regiment, and on the 5th of June, 1861, re-enlisted for three years, being mustered out June 21, 1864.

During the long and varied experience of Mr. Shindollar while in the army, he participated in many of the bloodiest battles of the war, and his record as a brave and gallant soldier is one of which he feels deservedly proud. It will be impossible, in a sketch of the nature of this biography, to give more than a passing notice of the leading events of his military career. The following are among the more important battles and campaigns in which he participated: Rich Mountain, July 12, 1861; Romley, September 23, 1861; second battle of Romley, October 26, 1861; Winchester, March 23, 1862; thence across the mountains, 116 miles, to Fredericksburg, to join the forces of Gen. McDowell; then to Front Royal, where the regiment did some fighting of minor importance, after which the army marched up the valley to Port Republic, and Alexandria, joining the army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing. The next battle was at Fredericksburg, which Mr. Shindollar considers the hardest fight in which he was engaged; thence to Chancellorsville, where the Union forces were defeated in May, 1863. The next movement was the pursuit of Lee through Maryland, and then the bloody battle of Gettysburg, and the pursuit of the Confederate forces back into Virginia. About August 15, Mr. Shindollar's regiment was called to New York city, in order to enforce the draft, and after a short time there, it returned to the army of the Potomac at Culpeper, Va., thence to the Rapahannock and back to Bull Run, where the rebels were forced back, and the regiment went into winter quarters. In February, 1864, Mr. Shindollar accompanied his command across the Rapidan, then re-crossed the river, and went into winter quarters until May, 1864, at which time the camp was broken and the regiment ordered to the front, to take part in the bloody battle of the Wilderness. From May 6 until his discharge, on the 24th of the following June, Mr. Shindollar was engaged in almost continuous fighting, under Grant, in that general's operations against Richmond.

After leaving the army, Mr. Shindollar returned to the home of his birth, and for some time worked as a helper in a blacksmith shop in the city of Delaware. On July 5, 1866, he married Anna Sperchberger, of Crawford county, Ohio, after which he began farming, in that county, as a renter. One year later he moved to the county of Auglaize, where he followed farming until 1883, and then became a resident of Allen county; thence he moved to the county of Mercer, where he remained one year, and in 1885, purchased his present farm in Jennings township, Van Wert county. Mr. Shindollar has pursued agriculture with success and financial profit, owning, at this time, 111 acres of land, upon which may be found a comfortable modern dwelling and other improvements in keeping. The condition of Mr. Shindollar's farm bespeaks the presence of one who thoroughly understands agriculture, it being one of the best improved places of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Shindollar have a family of four children—Cora, Henry, Albert and John; they are also raising a little niece, Bessie May, daughter of Samuel May. In politics Mr. Shindollar is a republican; in religion, a member of the German Methodist church, and he belongs to the G. A. R. Mrs. Shindollar is also a member of the aforesaid church, and an active worker in the local congregation with which she is identified.

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ELISHA F. SUNDERLAND, a substantial farmer of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Daniel and Lucinda (Washburn) Sunderland, and was born in Allen county, Ohio, August 14, 1835. The father, Daniel Sunderland, was born near Dayton, Ohio, June 4, 1805, and when a child was taken by his parents to Allen county, where he was reared to farming. July 5, 1824, he married, in Allen county, Miss Washburn, a native of the county, born March 2, 1806, and to this union were born five children, viz: Ruth, deceased; Lydia, wife of Jonathan Hamilton; Samuel, deceased; Ebenezer, a farmer of Allen county, and Elisha F., our subject. About the year 1837 Daniel Sunderland moved with his family to Michigan, where he lost his wife in 1838, when he soon returned to his old home in Allen county, Ohio, where he was laid to rest on December 12, 1841.

Elisha Franklin Sunderland, it will have been observed, was left an orphan at the early age of six years, and was reared by his grandfather, Samuel Washburn, of Allen county, until fourteen years of age, acquiring in the meantime a good common-school education; he then worked on a farm in the northern part of the county for five years; in 1855 he went to Missouri, where he worked the following year on a farm, when he joined a company of emigrants and went overland to California, consuming three months' time on the trip, experiencing exciting adventures and having several skirmishes with the Indians. Having arrived at his destination, he devoted his attention to gold digging the Sierras until 1861, when he went to Oregon and had further experience in the mines there for some time; then engaged in teaming goods from the Columbia river to the mining region of Idaho and Montana until 1869, when he retarned to his old home in Allen county, Ohio, and the following spring came to Van Wert county, and bought a farm in Ridge township. Twelve years later he purchased his present farm of 157 acres in Union township, which he has cleared from the woods and underdrained, and on which he has built a neat, modern dwelling and excellent barns, and in connection with his agricultural pursuits is engaged in breeding Duroc Jersey swine, and is altogether an enterprising and progressive farmer. The marriage of Mr. Sunderland took place March 6, 1870, to Miss Francis Little, daughter of George W. and Fannie (Walters) Little—the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Sunderland was born in 1837, and is now the mother of three children, viz: Lucinda B., deceased, Mary F. and William E. One of the daughters is now a teacher in the schools of Van Wert county, and the son is teaching in Paulding county. Mrs. Sunderland is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and with her husband enjoys the respect of the entire community. In politics Mr. Sunderland is a stanch republican.

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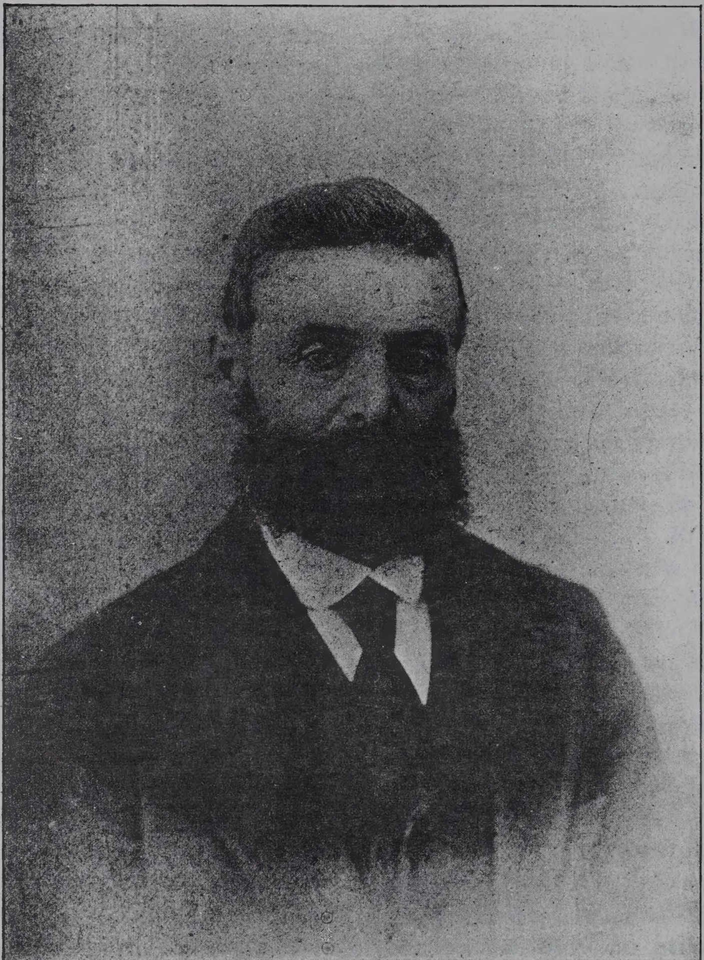
SAMUEL NORTON SIMPSON, formerly of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Hardin county, Ohio, and was born November 28, 1840, and there grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving the usual common-school education. From the age of sixteen until the breaking out of the Civil war he was employed in carrying the mails. On the 4th day of June, 1861, he enlisted in company D, Fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until June,



ELISHA F. SUNDERLAND.

MRS. FRANCES L. SUNDERLAND.

1864, doing faithful and gallant work. During this period, in July, 1861, he took part in the battle of Rich Mountain, and in October of the same year he fought in the battle of Romney; on March 22 and 23, 1862, he again faced the rebels in an engagement at Winchester, Va., and took part in the pursuit of Gen. Stonewall Jackson up the Shenandoah valley to Harrisburg, returning down the valley to New Market, crossing the mountains to Fredericksburg, joining McDowell's forces then doubled the road to Port Royal, the regiment doing some skirmishing; he then descended Luray valley to Port Republic, and had an engagement June 9, 1862, where the Union boys were repulsed; then by rail and water he went to Harrison's Landing, where they went into camp until August 15; here our subject had an atttack of diarrhea, and was confined to the convalescent camp until October 1st, when he joined his regiment at Harper's Ferry; but, having a relapse, was sent to Camp Ohio, for recuperation. The following spring he joined his regiment at Falmouth, and in May, 1863, fought at the battle of Chancellorsville; the regiment then crossed the Rappahannock, marching on to Gettysburg, Pa., and participated in the engagement there, in July, 1863; after this battle the troops started after Gen. Lee in Virginia, and while in camp at Bristol, they were ordered to report at New York, where they remained three weeks, thence were ordered to Alexandria, Va., and thence to Culpeper, whence the entire forces were driven back to Bull Run, from which point the troops went into winter quarters at Brandy Station. In February, 1864, the brigade waded in Rapidan river, the water reaching to their arm-pits, but soon recrossed again and there rested until May 4, 1864. May 6, of that year, they fought the battle of the Wilderness, and their next engagement was in Spottslvania C. H., charging the breastworks on the 12th, where, on the 13th, the boys in blue captured 3,000 prisoners and twenty-two pieces of artillery; the next battle was at Cold Harbor June 3, 1864, where the rebels were driven back, our subject barely escaping capture; June 6, they fell back to where the wagons were guarded, and on the 7th took boat for Washington city. June 24, he received his discharge at Columbus, Ohio, and reached home on the 26th.

In 1865 Mr. Simpson came to Van Wert county, and for a brief time was engaged in farm work, and in the summer of 1868 he attended the college at Oberlin, in the fall following he returned to Van Wert and began teaching school and for fifteen years followed this calling, and during this long period was employed in three districts only in York township. In 1866 he bought forty acres of land, which land he sold in 1875 and bought another tract of forty acres, which he sold in November, 1880. September 2, 1875, he wedded Mary A. Hughes, daughter of an old pioneer; seven sons were born to this union, viz: Edwin Elsworth, born in June, 1876, and died November 7, 1878; Harley Alvin; Charles Eugene, died November 17, 1884; John Thomas, died at sixteen months of age; LeRoy C., Wilbur Guy, and Forest Talford.

In the spring of 1882, Mr. Simpson was elected to the office of township clerk, being located in Jonestown, where he was also made station agent of the T., St. L. & K. C. Railway company, and was also engaged in general merchandising. In 1887 he was nominated for county recorder but went down with his party; in 1882 he was appointed postmaster in Jonestown, the name of the post-office being Tokio. In October, 1895, Mr. Simpson sold out his business at Jonestown and moved to the city of Van Wert, where he is now prosperously engaged in the grocery trade. The father of our subject was John Simpson, who married Margaret Clark, the former a native of Beaver county, Pa., born in June, 1812, and the latter was born March 9, 1818, and died December 13, 1883, the mother of two sons and six daughters, viz: William C., who died in September, 1877; Samuel N., our subject; Eliza E., Margaret J., Mary Ann, Harriet E., Leora M. and Fannie E.—the last named deceased. John Simpson, father of our subject, still resides on the old homestead in Hardin county, Ohio. Samuel N. Simpson was one of the most useful citizens of York township and is highly respected by his neighbors of the city of Van Wert.

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JACOB W. SMALLEY, M. D., retired, the father of Dr. W. M. Smalley of Ohio City, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, August 30, 1822. He is the son of Richard and Catherine (Emmons) Smalley, natives of New Jersey, and of Holland descent. They were the parents of thirteen children, all attaining their majority, and two living at the present time (1896), viz: Abraham and Jacob W. They removed to Wayne county in 1816, Mr. Smalley having entered 320 acres of land one year previously, where they resided until his death in April, 1845, aged seventy-seven years. Mrs. Smalley died in 1861, aged eighty-six years. Dr. Smalley, the subject of this sketch, was brought up on the farm, and shared such advantages of education as the district schools afforded. He remained at home with his parents until twenty-one years of age, at which time he entered college at Ashland, Ohio, taking a preparatory course, and beginning the study of medicine at the age of twenty-four, under the instruction of Drs. Cook & Maxwell, at Berlin, Holmes county, Ohio. He graduated at the Western Reserve Medical college, Cleveland, and began the practice of his profession at Shanesville, Tuscarawas county, forming a partnership with Dr. Strese. He removed to Fredericksburg, Wayne county, in 1848, and in 1862 to Upper Sandusky, where he formed a partnership with Dr. R. A. Henderson. In 1869, Mr. Smalley withdrew from the partnership, and resumed his practice independently, continuing the same until 1878, when he retired from the profession. Dr. Smalley was married in Fredericksburg, April 15, 1856, to Margaret C. Armstrong, née Porter, daughter of William and Mary (McNeal) Porter, early settlers of Holmes county. Mr. Porter was at time representative of Holmes county; he died about 1839. Mrs. Porter died in her eighty-second year, at Peru, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Smalley are the parents of seven children, four now living—William P., born June 8, 1860; Walter M., January 19, 1862; Charles E., February 21, 1864; Richard E., May 10, 1871. The deceased are: Mary C., born March 13, 1857, died April 6, 1861; Anne E., born September 5, 1858, died March 21, 1861; Rolla, born June 25, 1867; died September 30, 1868. Mrs. Smalley was born June 8, 1832. Mr. Smalley has been a member of the F. & A. M. since 1847, and was a member of the Upper Sandusky school board nine consecutive years. In politics he is a strong republican.

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DR. WALTER M. SMALLEY, of Ohio City, Van Wert county, Ohio, and one of the best known practitioners of his town and township, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, January 19, 1862, and descends from one of the early settlers of the Buckeye state. His grandfather, Richard Smalley, was a wealthy farmer of Ashland county, where his son, Jacob W., the father of our subject, was born August 31, 1822. Jacob W. married Margaret Porter, April 15, 1856. This lady was a daughter of

William Porter, who, for a number of years, represented Holmes county in the state legislature. To Jacob W. and Margaret (Porter) Smalley the following children were born: William P., Walter M., Charles E., Rollie (who died at the age of two years) and Richard E. The father, who was also a physician of much note, was educated to his profession at the Western Reserve college of Medicine, at Cleveland, Ohio, was married in Holmes county, and immediately thereafter commenced practice in Fredericksburg, Wayne county, whence, after acquiring a professional reputation, he removed to Upper Sandusky, where for twenty-five years he was the leading physician, accumulated a competence, and retired, an honored member of the Masonic order. (See his sketch immediately preceding.)

Dr. Walter M. Smalley passed his early days in his father's office, graduated from the Sandusky high school in 1879, and for a year or two thereafter was employed in mercantile business. He then entered the Western Reserve Medical college of Cleveland, but after one term of study therein, changed to the Fort Wayne Medical college, from which he graduated in March, 1889, receiving honorable mention by dean and faculty. Immediately thereafter he located in his present field, where his profound knowledge of his art has won him a most enviable reputation and a lucrative practice—his rooms in the new Union block, where he also has his residence, being hourly crowded by expectant visitors. His library is well supplied with standard medical works, and he is a subscriber for the best current medical literature of the age, through which he keeps abreast of every step made in the advance of medical science. His relations with his fellow-practitioners are intimate and close, being a member of the Van Wert county Medical association, and of the Northwestern Ohio State Medical association. In politics he is a republican, but not at all radical, and in religion he is equally liberal, contributing freely to all denominations. On April 23, 1890, he was united in marriage with Miss Myrtle Kenan, an old schoolmate of Upper Sandusky, and a daughter of Alvin and Elizabeth (Tory) Kenan, the former of which is engaged in the real estate business. Two children have blessed the marriage of the doctor, viz: Margaret E., who is the idol of the household and was born February 9, 1892; and Alvin Kenan, born August 14, in the year 1895.

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JOHN A. SMITH, late a prominent resident of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was a native of Germany, and came to the United States after his father's death, in 1832, in company with his mother and a brother, Adam Smith, all three of whom stopped for some time in Pennsylvania. Within a short time, however, Mrs. Smith and her sons moved to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, which was their home for seventeen years, when she moved to the county of Richland. From the latter county Mr. Smith came to the county of Van Wert, in 1848, and entered eighty acres in Liberty township, upon which he placed his mother. Mr. Smith then went to Piqua, where he worked at his trade of blacksmith; then went to California, in 1849, where he spent four years in gold mining and other business, when he returned to Piqua and engaged in the blacksmith business. In 1856 he settled upon his farm in Liberty township and engaged in blacksmithing, and added to his farm 160 acres. He raised the first sorghum cane and made the first syrup in the county. He purchased a saw-mill in 1868, but was burnt out in 1871, and rebuilt in 1872. He was one of the organizers and one of the principal stockholders and directors of the Clover Leaf railroad. He was a justice of the peace from 1858 to 1867, and later was county infirmary director. In politics he was a republican. He died August 9, 1890.

John A. Smith was married September 27, 1854, to Rebecca Hardenbrook, daughter of Peter and Mary (Wagner) Hardenbrook, and became the father of the following children: Lucinda J., born in 1857; Cora L., born in 1860; Ralso L., born in 1865; Celia G., born in 1867; and Roscoe G., born in 1869, and died in infancy. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Smith spent one year and a half in Piqua, Ohio, and settled on the present home farm, Liberty township, in the year 1856. At that time the country was but sparsely settled, a few log cabins, at remote distances from each other, being the only residences in the neighborhood, and the country was covered with a dense forest grove, interspersed with swamps and quagmires. To rid the ground of these incumbrances required patient and persistent toil, but in due time the task was accomplished, and a fine home of 240 acres developed. This is one of the best places of the township, and contains a large two-story residence, and other improvements usually found on all first-class and well cared-for farms.

Peter Hardenbrook, father of Mrs. Smith, was a native of New Jersey, but early moved to Hamilton county, Ohio, where he married Mary Wagner. He then emigrated to Iroquois county, Ill., where his wife died; thence he returned to Ohio, settling in the county of Miami. He was a successful farmer, a substantial citizen, and left to his family an untarnished reputation. The following are the names of the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Smith: John G., deceased; Phœbe, deceased, wife of a Mr. Kuhl; Mrs. Leah Buckles, deceased; Mrs. Mary A. Eisley, deceased, and Laura. Peter Hardenbrook, some time after the death of his first wife, married Susan Merit; he was a well known and highly respected man in Hamilton and Miami counties, and his life was one of great industry; he devoted himself to the interest of his family, and while not wealthy, always gave liberally of his means to worthy charities. James Hardenbrook, father of Peter, was also a native of New Jersey, where he married Phœbe Smith; he was one of the first settlers of Hamilton county, Ohio, where he spent the greater part of his life in clearing up farms and following the pursuit of agriculture.

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JAMES B. SMITH, organizer of, and the junior partner in, the Leeson Cooperage company of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Saint Catherines, Canada, July 15, 1838, a son of John and Ellen (McDermott) Smith. The father, John Smith, was born in Ireland, came to America in 1832, and at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1835, met and married Ellen McDermott, also a native of Ireland and who also came to America in 1832. Immediately after marriage they located in Lockport, N. Y., where Mr. Smith followed his trade of cooper until 1837, when he moved to Canada, worked there until 1840, then returned to Lockport, N. Y., remained until 1850, and then moved to Jackson, Mich., and followed his trade until his death in 1860. His widow then removed to Kalamazoo, Mich., where her death occurred in 1892. They were the parents of five children, viz: James B., our subject; George C., a cooper of Kalamazoo, and Stephen B., Marie and John C., all three deceased. The parents were Protestants, and in politics the father was a democrat.

James B. Smith was educated in the schools of Jackson and Albion, Mich., and for four years was himself a school-teacher. He lived with his mother until 1861, when he married, and September 24, of that year, located in Hamlin, Mich., where he followed his trade of cooper for about a year, and in 1862 moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where he worked until 1865; thence he went to Plainwell, Mich., followed his trade until 1868; and then went to Wayland, Mich., where, in company with W. P. Manly he engaged in hotel-keeping until 1871; he that year went to Saint Louis, Mo., and until 1883 was superintendent of the cooperage establishment of Jaynes & Co.; he then came to Van Wert, Ohio, and was here employed as book-keeper and office man by George H. Marsh, and then, in the fall of 1887, organized the Leeson Cooperage company, of which he is at the present the secretary and manager—the firm now doing a business of $80,000 per annum.

The date of marriage of Mr. Smith was September 21, 1861. His bride, Eunice Whitcomb, was born in Eaton county, Mich., and is a daughter of Luther and Louisa (Pierson) Whitcomb, natives of New England. This union has been blessed with three children, viz: Ella L., at home; Byron J., superintendent of the Mill Shoals (Ill.) Cooperage company, and Burton L. In politics Mr. Smith is a democrat, and fraternally he is a knight templar Mason; socially, the family enjoys the acquaintanceship of some of the best people in Van Wert.

* * *

**PETER SNYDER**, one of the most substantial farmers of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Civil war, is of sturdy German descent.

John M. Snyder, father of Peter, was born in Hesse Darmstadt in 1808, and was taught shoemaking. He came to America in 1829 or 1830, coming across the sea in the same vessel with his intended wife, Mary Ann Heist, landed in Baltimore, where they married, at once went to Washington, Pa., and near the college there followed his trade until 1835 or 1836, when he came to Ohio and located in Mansfield, Richland, county, where he followed his trade until 1853, when he moved to Morrow county and bought a farm of 300 acres near Mount Gilead, on which he died about the year 1887. At Mansfield he formed the acquaintance of Senator John Sherman, who had then just begun the practice of law, and who was in the habit of discussing politics in the shop owned by Mr. Snyder, and was ever after a life-long friend. The latter became a stanch republican, voted for John C. Fremont, the first candidate of that party for the presidency of the United States, and during the Civil war was a warm friend of the Union cause, to which he gave the services of his two sons—Peter and George, the latter serving 100 days in an Ohio regiment and doing general duty at Washington, D. C. John M. Snyder, with his wife, Mary Ann, was a member of the German Reformed church, in Mansfield, in which he was a leader and a member of the building committee, and was known throughout life as an honorable industrious and strictly moral gentleman. To his marriage, with Mary Ann Heist, were born eight children, all of whom are still living, viz: Peter, George, Elizabeth, Louis, Annie, Margaret A., John R. and John M.

Peter Snyder, the subject proper of this biography, was born in Washington, Pa., August 30, 1832, was educated in the common schools, learned the trade of shoemaking from his father, and was also reared to farming—going with his father to Morrow county, and working on the home farm, and there marrying Miss Martha A. Imes, whose brothers and sisters were named Frank, Samuel, Matilda, Nancy, Mary and Thomas, of whom Samuel and Thomas were soldiers in the Union service during the late war, in the same regiment with our subject, and with him marched with Sherman to the sea.

After marriage Mr. Snyder remained on the home farm a short time, then for two years lived in Knox county, and then, in 1859, came to Van Wert county, where he had already purchased, from his father, 160 acres of the farm on which he now resides, and which the latter had entered from the government. This land was all in woods, as was nearly all of Jackson township at that time, when there were but fifteen or sixteen settlers in the township, and the forest was the home of game of all descriptions. Mr. Snyder set about the usual pioneer duties of erecting a log cabin and clearing up his place, and had made considerable progress when he responded to the call to arms and enlisted on the home farm in Morrow county, in company K, Eighty-first regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and was enrolled at Lima, Allen county, August 21, 1862, to serve three years or during the war, and received an honorable discharge at Louisville, Ky., July 13, 1865, by reason of the termination of hostilities. Among the other battles in which he took part may be mentioned Austinola River, Dallas, Rome, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, the general engagement at Atlanta, Ebenezer church, in the siege of Atlanta and Jonesboro. After the fall of Atlanta he marched with Sherman through Georgia to the sea, taking part in numerous skirmishes; was in the battle of Columbus, Bentonville and Goldsboro, N. C., and on to Raleigh, and was present at the grand review at Washington, D. C. Mr. Snyder was never wounded, nor taken prisoner, but was always on active duty, doing full, faithful and cheerful service throughout the term of his enlistment, and participating in all the engagements, skirmishes and marches in which his regiment took a share.

After his honorable discharge, Mr. Snyder returned to Morrow county, Ohio, where his two children, Clorilda A. and John M., borne him by his first wife, still lived. The mother of these passed away in Morrow county, at her father's residence, January 3, 1862, a few months before Mr. Snyder's enlistment, and the latter remained on her father's farm until 1869, on February 28th of which year he married at Gallion, Ohio, Mrs. Amelia Elizabeth Spraw, who was born January 4, 1835, a daughter of George A. and Mary (Patterson) Spraw. George A. Spraw, of Crawford county, Ohio, was the father of the following named children: Amelia E., Sarah, Kate, Louis, William, Israel, Halmina and Elizabeth. Mr. Spraw was a member of the German Reform church, and died at Gallion, in that faith, when seventy-six years of age, respected as among the representative agriculturists and citizens of the township in which he had lived so many years of his useful life.

In 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Snyder came to the homestead in Jackson township, on which he had lived prior to his entering the army, and on which he had erected a cabin, and from which he had cleared three acres of the forest growth. But he found on returning that his cabin had been destroyed by fire. With indefatigable energy he immediately erected another dwelling and cleared up an excellent farm of 230 acres, that will now favorably compare with any other in the county. To his second union there were born three children, of whom two are still living—George F. and Lola A. Mrs. Snyder, a woman of many christian virtues, died in the faith of the German Reform church April 17, 1892—a true helpmate to her husband and a loving and affectionate mother. Mr. Snyder, since his last bereavement, has continued to reside on the homestead, honored as a pioneer, as a defender of his country's flag, and as a true citizen—and through industry, as a farmer, has accumulated a competence, enjoys that respect with which the efforts all men are met, who faithfully use the best efforts of life to make, through their individual efforts, an independence. Possibly no gentleman of Jackson township stands to-day higher in the esteem of his fellow-men than Mr. Snyder, and certainly no man has done more, though a long and upright, useful and patriotic life, than he, to win the esteem in which he is universally held.

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SERGT. JOSEPH C. SPRAY, of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a veteran of the late Civil war who lost his good right arm in the service. He came from an old North Carolina family of English-Irish extraction, and was born in Shelby county, seven miles south of Wapakoneta, in Auglaize county, Ohio, February 4, 1842.

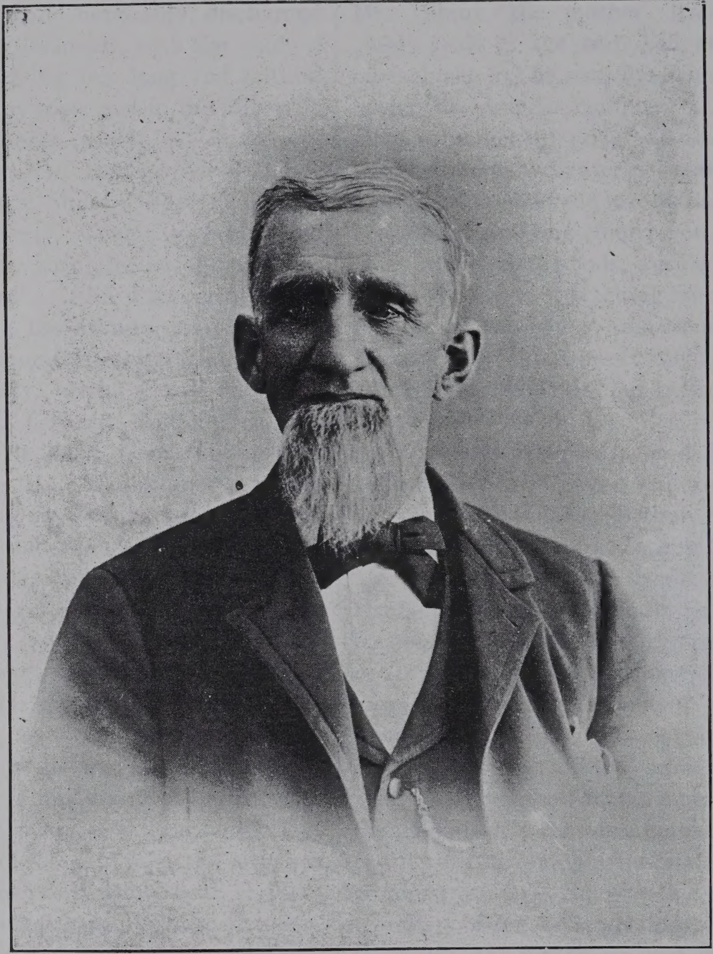
James Spray, father of Sergt. Spray, was reared a farmer in Warren county, Ohio, his father having first emigrated from North Carolina to western Pennsylvania, and thence came to Ohio, being among the pioneers of Warren county. James was still a young man when he went to Auglaize county, Ohio, and there married Nancy Lucas, daughter of Ebenezer Lucas, to which union were born five children, of whom two died young and three reached adult age—Ebenezer, Hester and Naomi. Mrs. Spray died in Auglaize county, and Mr. Spray took for his second wife, in the same county, Jane Huey, daughter of John Huey, a native of Scotland, and this union was blessed with two children—James M. and Joseph C. Mr. Spray was one of the original pioneers of Auglaize county, and settled four miles south of Wapakoneta, when the country thereabout was all a wilderness, and assisted the United States authorities to remove the Indians west. He was an expert marksman and hunter, shot many a deer and wild turkey, and enjoyed life in the forest. The United Brethren church was the first religious denomination in Auglaize county, and Mr. Spray was one of the earliest converts. He ardently espoused its cause, euentually became an ordained minister, and for twenty-two years was an itinerant preacher of acknowledged eloquence and power. The second wife of Mr. Spray was also called away by death, and his third marriage was with Harriet Givens, of Hardin county, Ohio, to this marriage were born four children—Jane, Mary, Nancy and Helen.

Mr. Spray gave three sons to the service of his country during the late Civil war, who served as follows: Ebenezer L., three years in company G, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, returned without wounds but with shattered health, and died in November, 1876, as a result; James M., served four months and ten days in company K, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and then three years in company G, Seventy-first regiment, then veteranized for three years, February 1, 1864, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865; was shot through the right hip December 16, 1864, and died July 3, 1883, near Wapakoneta, from the effect of the wound. The father himself died December 25, 1860, at the age of fifty-five years, on his farm, in politics a Jacksonian democrat and a greatly respected citizen.

Sergt. Joseph C. Spray was educated in an old log cabin frontier school-house, learned to read, write, became quite thorough in arithmetic, and was reared on a farm. At the age of about nineteen years he enlisted at Wapakoneta in company K, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three months, under Capt. George W. Andrews, served four months and ten days, and was honorably discharged August 28, 1861; he re-enlisted at the same place September 1, 1861—this time in company G, Seventy-first Ohio infantry, under Capt. John W. Moody, for three years or during the war, filled out his term and was honorably discharged and mustered out at Gallatin, Tenn., February 1, 1864, and veteranized the same day for three years longer, or during the war, and was finally again honorably discharged May 17, 1865, at Cincinnati, with the rank of duty sergeant. During this long and faithful service, Sergt. Spray took part in the following principal engagements, which list is not entirely completed: Red House, W. Va.; Columbus, Ky., 1862; Shiloh; Fort Donelson; Clarkesville, Waverly, Tenn.; several fights with Wheeler's cavalry; the second fight at Fort Donelson, 1863; Flin Lick, Hartsville, Tenn.; all through the Atlanta campaign, being nearly four months under fire; Dalton, Resaca, Big Shanty, Snake Creek Gap, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, on the march to Nashville with Gen. Thomas; at Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin, November 30, 1864, then for two weeks on a skirmish around Nashville, and then the siege, December 15 and 16, 1864, and on the 16th was shot through the right arm while carrying the regimental colors as a volunteer, two of his comrades having already fallen while performing this duty, and, after our subject fell, his own brother, James M. Spray, fell shot through the hip, with the flag in his hands. Sergt. Spray was confined in Cumberland hospital two weeks and in the hospital at Louisville, Ky., two and a half months, and here the arm was twice amputated before it would heal, the second amputation being made January 22, 1865, close to the shoulder.

The marriage of Sergt. Spray took place, while he was home on a furlough, March 6, 1864, near Wapakoneta, to Miss Tamzon Catherine Shinn, who was born in Warren county, Ohio, November 17, 1844, a daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Roberts) Shinn. The father was a farmer in Warren county, moved to Auglaize county, in 1848, and settled on 160 acres in the woods, and died June 19, 1855, aged about thirty-seven years, the father of the following children: Robert, Franklin, Tamzon C., Martha, Ruhamie, Adrew, and George. Mrs. Shinn, the mother, lived to be over eighty years of age and died at the home of our subject. The son, Franklin Shinn, served in the Civil war in company G, Seventy-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and also in the Seventeenth Indiana volunteers—making a total of four years. After the war Mr. and Mrs. Spray settled in Spaulding county, on thirty acres of land, all in the woods, resided there eleven years, the sergeant teaching school thirty-seven months of the time, and then came to Van Wert county, in August, 1879, and bought a home in Middlepoint and other valuable real estate in the town.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Spray has been blessed with seven children, now living, and named as follows; Arthur A., Jane, Martha G., Emma, Laura, Joseph S., and Blaine. Mr. and Mrs. Spray are conistent members of the United Brethren church, in which he is a trustee, and in politics he is a republican. He is very popular with his party, and under its auspices has served as mayor two terms, and town marshal, six years as city councilman, and as president of the school board for six years; also as assessor two years, and is now a notary public. He also served four years as postmaster of Middlepoint under the Harrison administration. He was one of the charter members of the Zeller-Hamilton post, No. 260, G. A. R., has served as post commander two and one-half years, and is now filling the office of quartermaster. As a citizen, the sergeant holds a most enviable position in the esteem of the community, and his military record shows that he was one of those grand soldiers never to shrink from duty in time of action, and his bravery at Nashville will make him for all time an honored man.



Daniel Snyder

MRS. MARY A. SNYDER.

DANIEL SNYDER, one of the prominent and influential farmers of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Perry county, Ohio, January 30, 1834, a son of John and Catherine (Nunnamaker) Snyder, of whom the former was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., May 5, 1808. The father of John Snyder was named Henry, who was also born in Pennsylvania, about the year of 1769, and was the son of a colonel in the Revolutionary army of German birth. Henry Snyder settled in Perry county, Ohio, in 1817, where he entered a tract of 160 acres, built a two-story log house —an unusual feat for that day—and also a large barn of logs, and, being a mechanic, made most of his house-hold furniture; he also, beside clearing up his farm, planted a large orchard. He died in 1852, an active member of the Presbyterian church.

John Snyder, father of our subject, Daniel Snyder, was a mere lad when brought to Ohio by his parents, and was here reared in Perry county, where he was married, in 1828, to Catherine Nunnamaker, who bore him ten children, five of whom are still living, viz: Susan A., wife of S. A. Shockey; Catherine, wife of Henry Good, of Auglaize county; Eliza J., wife of William Hill, of Allen county; Harriet, wife of Jacob Brown, of Allen county, and Daniel our subject. The father of this family had early learned tanning in addition to farming, but after his marriage he devoted his entire attention to agriculture. In 1852 he moved to Allen county and purchased a farm of exceeding fertility, which he converted into one of the finest in the state and on which he grew the largest tree in Ohio—a walnut—thirty-three feet, nine inches in circumference, and seventy-four feet in height from the ground to the first branch. For many years Mr. Snyder was a lieutenant in the state militia; he was an active member of the United Brethren church, and was noted for his liberal contributions thereto; in politics he was a stanch democrat. His death occurred June 28, 1890, and that of his wife September 22, 1883.

Daniel Snyder, whose name opens this biographical sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm and received a sound common-school education in his native county. May 31, 1855, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Smith, daughter of John and Sarah (Miller) Smith, of Allen county, Ohio, and to this union have been born five children, viz: William H.; Howard M., deceased; Izilla A., wife of J. W. Willmore; Sarah L., deceased, and Minda A., wife of Jasper Collins. In 1862 Mr. Snyder settled on his present home in Union township, Van Wert county, buying at that time eighty acres of swampy woodland, which he has cleared, underdrained and improved and added to, until he now owns as fine a farm of 220 acres as there is in the county. In February, 1865, Mr. Snyder enlisted in company C, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. James W. Titus, and served in Virginia until mustered out in September, 1865. He is now a member of Van Wert post, No. 100, G. A. R., and in politics is independent, but was elected township trustee in 1866, and served one term. He is highly thought of in Union township, and the social standing of himself and family is with the best in the county.

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WILLIAM SPRINGER, a retired farmer, an ex-soldier of the Union army, and a highly esteemed citizen of Van Wert, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 18, 1827. Remaining in Fairfield county until 1849, he then removed to Van Wert county, and has since been a resident thereof. Up to the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion he followed the quiet and uneventful, but hard working, life of the farmer, and when thirty-four years of age was drafted into the army, becoming a member of company I, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry. He served under Col. Walkit in the grand army commanded by Gen. Sherman. He fought at the battle of Hollow Springs, Cannon county, Tenn., and in other battles, but was so fortunate as not to receive a wound. He was faithful in the discharge of every duty as a soldier, and won the confidence of all his comrade, private soldiers and officers alike. He was honorably discharged in 1863, and then returned to the peaceful pursuits of private life. For his services in the war he is now receiving a pension of $12 per month. Since the war Mr. Springer has followed farming until within the last few years, and now he is living a quiet, retired life in Van Wert, enjoying the reflection that although his life has not been as eventful as those of some others, yet the duties that have confronted him as he has passed along on the pathway of life have been done conscientiously and well.

William Springer was married, February 11, 1849, to Miss Susanna Wycuff, by whom he became the father of ten children, as follows: Henry, who was born in Fairfield county, November 13, 1849, and died in Van Wert, February 20, 1860; Sarah, born March 2, 1852, married January 21, 1870, to John Myers, and living in Van Wert; Wesley, who was born in Van Wert county, October 20, 1855, and died in same county, May 3, 1866; Louis, born in Van Wert county, June 28, 1858, married Etta Buskirk in 1881, and is living in Van Wert county; Margaret, was born in Van Wert county, December 30, 1860, and died in the same county, May 30, 1874; William, born in Van Wert county, May 20, 1863, married Catherine Hurless, March 22, 1885, and lives in Van Wert county; Amanda, born in Van Wert county, March 16, 1866, died in the same county August 1, 1867; Albert, born in Van Wert county, October 27, 1868, married Cora Miller, December 27, 1891, and resides in Van Wert county; Melvian, was born November 18, 1871, and resides in Van Wert county, and Alexander, born in Van Wert county, December 26, 1875, resides in Van Wert county.

Susanna Wycuff, wife of William Springer, was born in Hocking county, Ohio, January 13, 1831. In 1847 she removed to Perry county, where she married Mr. Springer, when she was eighteen years old. Her father, John Wycuff, was born in Ohio, December 3, 1807, and died January 14, 1870. His wife, Sarah, was born in Ohio, April 8, 1810, and died December 26, 1878, aged sixty-eight years and nine months.

Henry Springer, father of the subject of this sketch, married Margaret Fast. They were the parents of twelve children, as follows: Catherine; Jemima; Sarah, who died in Adams county, Ind.; Henry; William, the subject; Samuel, who died in Adams county, Ind.; George; Jacob, who died in Mercer county, Ohio; Margaret; Melinda, who died in Monroeville, Ind.; David, and Delilah. Jemima, Henry, George, Margaret, David and Delilah, all resides in Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio.

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JAMES SPRIDGEON, a well-to-do and experienced farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Lincolnshire, England, and was born December 30, 1834, a son of William and Mary (Robnet) Spridgeon, who were the parents of four sons and one daughter. In July, 1851, Mr. Spridgeon came to the United States, with other members of his family, and passed one year in the northern part of Indiana; he then came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and for a while worked on the grading of the Pittsburg railroad. In the winter of 1853, he and his brother Thomas made a trip to the gold fields of California, where they were moderately successful. At the end of two years our subject returned to Van Wert county and purchased eighty acres of land in Ridge township, and this land he resided on and cultivated for six years, then sold, and purchased his present farm, which then comprised 100 acres, to which he has since added twenty acres. In the month of September, 1856, Mr. Spridgeon was united in marriage with Miss Susanna Chaffin, daughter of William and Nancy (Spencer) Chaffin, and this union has been blessed with four sons and three daughters, viz: William, a farmer of Ridge township; Mary, wife of Simon Steward; Addie, married to Philip Balyeat, of Van Wert city; Webster, Joseph; Clara, deceased wife of William McCleary; and Elmore, at home.

In religion Mr. and Mrs. Spridgeon are sincere Methodists, and in politics Mr. Spridgeon is an unswerving republican. He has served for more than twenty years as trustee of his township, and during this long term of service has made many friends, both inside and outside his party, having been greatly instrumental in promoting the efficiency of the pikes of Ridge township. He was at one time a candidate for county commissioner, but, owing to his advanced ideas regarding the necessity of good roads, met with defeat. During the World's Fair Mr. and Mrs. Spridgeon paid a visit to that famous exposition, and from it not only learned numerous valuable lessons, but derived much pleasure and entertainment. Mr. Spridgeon's farm is a model in cultivation and adornment, giving evidence on every side of the skill and good taste of the owner. In their social relations the family stand very high, and very few people in their township are more highly respected.

DAVID STEWART, a prudent and sagacious farmer of Ridge township, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, February 25, 1849. His father, Ebgon Stewart, was a native of Carroll county, born March 6, 1818, and there married Elizabeth Capper, who was born in the same county in 1824, the union resulting in the birth of sixteen children, viz: Mary, who died at the age of forty-four years, the wife of H. H. Hudspeth; Edward, married to Adelaide Zimmerman and residing in Wisconsin; Martha, wife of John F. Leathers, of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio; Ellen, married to J. S. Baxter, also of York township; Jane, deceased wife of M. H. Mullen; David, subject of this sketch; Mahlon, who wedded Nettie Baxter, but who is now deceased; Amanda, deceased wife of William Knittle; John, who died in infancy; Charley, the husband of Belle Hill; Alonzo, who died in infancy; Milton, who married Ida Crates and now resides in Gas City, Ind.; Emma, wife of P. M. Ireland, of Lima, Ohio; Newton, of Putnam county, Ohio, and married to Mattie Hill; also there were born to this union twin daughters, who died unnamed. In the fall of 1841 Mr. Stewart came to Van Wert county and located on land in Harrison township that had been entered by his wife's father, Mr. Capper, and there Mrs. Stewart died in 1868; for his second wife Mr. Stewart married Harriet Boyer, and in 1870 removed to Ridge township and purchased a farm of 300 acres, on which he resided until his death, which occurred January 28, 1887. In religion Mr. Stewart was a Methodist, and in politics was a republican.

David Stewart, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, also received the full benefit of the local schools, and for a time attended the Van Wert high-school, becoming well qualified as a teacher, and for six terms followed that vocation. In 1871 he wedded Miss Malissa Gilliland, the only living child of Hugh Gilliland, of whom an extended notice is given elsewhere in this volume. To the marriage of David and Malissa Stewart have been born four children, viz: Nannie, wife of A. B. Osborn, a book-keeper of Van Wert; Hugh G., Oscar D. and Clyde M. In 1882 Mr. Stewart purchased his present home of eighty acres in Ridge township, on which he has made many modern improvements and placed under a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Stewart is a member of lodge No. 218, F. & A. M., of Van Wert, and in politics is a republican. He is held in great esteem by his neighbors in Ridge township and by his friends in Van Wert, and is regarded as an enterprising farmer and useful citizen, who will in the near future stand forth as a leader among the residents of the county.

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JOHN M. STEMEN, deceased, was an old pioneer of Washington township, Van Wert county, and was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, August 13, 1825, a son of Christian and Margaret (Moyer) Stemen, of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. At the age of about nine years he was taken to Allen county by his father, and was there educated in the district schools, as well as instructed in the mysteries of farming. At about thirty years of age, November 15, 1855, he married, in Allen county, Miss Lydia E. Myers, who was born in Fairfield county, September 14, 1839, a daughter of Levi and Rachael (Spitler) Myers, the former of whom was a son of Daniel Myers, who was also of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, a substantial farmer of Fairfield county, Ohio, and the father of fifteen children, of whom fourteen lived to adult age and one to adolesence, and were named as follows: Nancy, Fanny, Inda, Mary, Rebecca, Lee, Caroline, Elizabeth (died at fourteen), Reuben, Etta, Samuel, Levi, Daniel, Noah and Joseph. The father of this family died in Fairfield county at an advanced age, a member of the German church.

Levi Myers, the father of Mrs. Lydia E. Stemen, married in Fairfield county, and had born to his union with Rachael Spitler seven children, viz: Aaron, Catherine, Lydia E., Alvina, Louis H., Noah and David Y., all born in Fairfield county, where the father owned a fertile farm of eighty acres. In 1852 he moved to Allen county, Ohio, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Sugar Creek township, which had been partly cleared, and which he afterward made into a good farm and cultivated until his death, at the comparatively early age of forty-one years, a member of the German Reform church. Of his sons, Aaron served during the Civil war, about one year, in an Ohio regiment; Louis served three years in the Ninety-ninth Ohio infantry, and Noah, when a lad of eighteen, served about six months.

John M. Stemen, after marriage, settled, September 11, 1856, on the farm now occupied by his widow. The tract comprised ninety-five acres of dense woodland, on which he built a log cabin, which is still standing. But he was an industrious, hard-working man, and changed this primitively rude condition of things to one of comfort and beauty. To himself and wife were born eight children, viz: David B., Mary A., Martha A. (who died at the age of twenty-one years), William E., Louis H. (who died when twenty-five years old), Benjamin F., and two that died in infancy. The death of Mr. Stemen took place at the age of fifty years, on his farm, October 9, 1875, in the faith of the Lutheran church, and in politics a democrat. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father, a good farmer and obliging neighbor, and a patriotic and useful citizen, whose death was deeply deplored by his sorrowing family and a large circle of friends.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Stemen managed the farm with care and prudence and reared her children to become respected members of society, giving them all good educations and thoroughly preparing them for the duties of life. Mary A., now twenty-one years old, is an accomplished school-teacher; David B. is united in marriage with Mary E. Bressler, lives on the home farm, and is the father of six children; Mary A. is married to James Wallace, of Ridge township, Van Wert county, and is the mother of two children; William E. married Leah Stemen, is a farmer of Ridge township and is the father of one child. Mrs. Stemen is a devout member of the Methodist church, and enjoys the esteem of a large circle of friends, who truly honor her for her many motherly, neighborly and christian virtues.

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WILLIAM G. STREIT, a native of Plymouth, Ohio, was born Ayril 18, 1858. He is a son of John G. and Catherine C. (Seitters) Streit, the former of whom was born in Baden Baden, Germany, in 1829, and emigrated to the United States with his parents when he was twelve years of age. They located in Sandusky city, Erie county, Ohio, where the father established a grocery, and where the son, John G., after receiving his education, assisted for a time in his father's store.

From Sandusky city, John G. Streit removed to Plymouth, where he also established a grocery and operated it until within three years of his death, which occurred October 12, 1891. His wife, Catherine, who was a daughter of Jacob and Martha (Allbright) Seitters, had died in December, 1881. To them were born four children, viz: William G., the subject of this sketch; Josephine, born in January, 1860, and married to Charles McClinchey, and now residing in Plymouth, Ohio; Albert G., who was born in 1866, and died when ten years of age at Plymouth, and Harriet Ada, who was born in 1870, is married to Fred. E. Schaeffer, and now resides at Marion, Marion county, Ohio.

William G. Streit received the rudiments of his education in the public schools of Plymouth, and afterward took a thorough course in a commercial college at Sandusky city, Ohio. After clerking with his father and two years with a grocery firm in Monroe, Mich., he removed to Van Wert, Ohio, in 1882, and there embarked in the grocery business for himself. This he followed three years, and then sold out and went on the road as a commercial traveler for the Moore Bros., wholesale grocers of Lima, Ohio. Remaining with these gentlemen four years he resigned to accept a similar position with Berdan & Co., the largest wholesale grocery firm in the state, and located in Toledo, Ohio. With this firm he is still engaged.

Mr. Streit was married November 22, 1883, to Miss Olive McGavren, of Van Wert, Ohio, and daughter of Dr. Hugh C. McGavren, a full biographical sketch of whom may be found elsewhere in this volume.

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HON. CHARLES M. SUTPHEN, a prominent citizen and attorney-at-law of Van Wert, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 6, 1850, and is a son of Richard D. and Sarah (Zirkle) Sutphen.

Richard D. Sutphen was born in Somerset county, N. J., August 30, 1807, and lived with his parents in that state until 1832, when they removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, where Richard D. engaged in farming until 1865.

Then, removing to Toledo, he there lived six years, then removed to Carey, Wyandot county. He was married in the state of Virginia, August 15, 1833, to Sarah Zirkle, who was born in Virginia in 1809. To this marriage there were born the following children: Judge S. T., of Defiance, Ohio; James Z., of Carey, Ohio, a clothing merchant; Catherine, residing in Carey, widow of Henry Houk; Mary, deceased wife of Noah Blauser; D. C., a grocery merchant of Columbus, Ohio; Edward G., a clothier of Carey, and Charles M., the subject of this sketch. Richard D. Sutphen is a prosperous man. Religiously he and his wife are Presbyterians, and politically he is a democrat. He has served as justice of the peace for twenty-one years in Fairfield county. He has also served as lieutenant-colonel and as colonel in the Ohio state militia, two years in each position, and assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Ohio house of representatives, besides having held minor political offices. He has always been held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens, and has lived a life of usefulness and patriotism.

Charles M. Sutphen was reared with his parents until 1870, when he went to Toledo, Ohio, to attend the public schools of that place. Accepting, after his school days were over, a position as traveling salesman for Hollister & Co., manufacturers of baking powder, he represented that firm on the road for one year, afterward having charge of a branch house at Saint Louis one year. In 1872 he began reading law with Judge I. D. Clark, of Van Wert, and was admitted to the bar in 1873. Not long afterward he began practicing with C. P. Edson, remaining with him two years, and when Mr. Edson was appointed probate judge, Mr. Sutphen became his deputy and served in this capacity until the expiration of Mr. Edson's term of office. Forming a partnership with his brother, Judge Sutphen, of Defiance, Ohio, he remained there in the practice of the law a year and a half, and then returned to Van Wert, where he practiced a short time, and was then appointed to a clerkship in the state insurance department at Columbus, Ohio. In this capacity he was employed three years, and has, since retiring from that position, been engaged in the practice of law in Van Wert. As the democratic candidate for mayor of Van Wert, in 1894, he was defeated by a small majority; he has, nevertheless, served as clerk of the board of elections for three years.

Mr. Sutphen was married in Van Wert, in November, 1872, to Mary E. Clark, who was born in Van Wert and was a daughter of Judge I. D. Clark. To this marriage were born five children, as follows: Clarence and Clark, both of Van Wert; Hattie, of Carey, Ohio, and Walter and Bell, both deceased. The mother of these children died in March, 1883, and on March 22, 1894, Mr. Sutphen was married to Mrs. Kate A. Green, of Wyandot county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Sutphen are communicants of the Lutheran church, and are prominent people not only in their church but also in general society. April 6, 1896, at the election held in Van Wert, Mr. Sutphen was elected mayor of the city over his opponent by 179 majority.

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ORLANDO D. SWARTOUT, a popular young business man of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Clifton Park, Saratoga county, N. Y., December 27, 1843, a son of Depew and Anna M. (Sherman) Swartout. The father, Depew Swartout, also a native of Saratoga county, N. Y., was born December 30, 1809, a son of John and Jemima (Rosencrans) Swartout, the former of whom was a son of an immigrant from Holland, who settled in Dutchess county, N. Y., as a farmer. John Swartout was born in Dutchess county in

1781, was there reared, and in early manhood moved to Saratoga county, where, in 1802, he married, and had born to him ten children, viz: Sarah, Harry, Depew, Caroline, John, Amanda, Benjamin, Amelia, William, and Richard—all deceased save Depew and Amelia, now of Washington, D. C.

Orland D. Swartout, when a lad, changed the spelling of the family name from the original, Swartwout, to its present form, which has been adopted by the family ever since. Depew was reared in Saratoga county, and was there married, in 1839, to Ann M. Sherman, who was born in Rensselaer county, N. Y., in July, 1816, a daughter of Zebulon and Mary (Phillips) Sherman, and to this marriage of Depew and Ann M. have been born three children—Sherman, of New York city, Orlando D., our subject, and Richard, a wholesale dealer in notions at Grand Rapids, Mich. Depew Swartout and wife still reside in Saratoga county, where the former followed his calling of carpentering and building for many years, but is now retired; he is a republican in politics, and he and wife are highly respected members of the Baptist church.

Orlando D. Swartout was educated in the common schools of Saratoga county, N. Y., and in addition attended, for eight months, the business college at Poughkeepsie; then for two years held a clerkship in the office of the inspector-general, of New York state, and then, in 1867, came to Van Wert, Ohio, and accepted a position as deputy probate judge under Andrew McGavren, with whom he remained fifteen months; he next became bookkeeper in the Van Wert County bank, then became assistant cashier, and then cashier, his term of service running from 1869 until 1877; he next engaged in the insurance business in company with I. R. Beery for two years, since when he has carried on the business for his sole account; he has also acted as secretary for the Building & Loan association, and as secretary of the Agricultural society of Van Wert county since 1880; was formerly secretary of the Citizens' National Gas company and is the present secretary of the Van Wert Natural Gas company; he is also book-keeper for the Oil Well Supply company, limited, and is one of the park commissioners, all of which positions he has filled with marked ability and to the unbounded satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. Swartout was married in Van Wert, September 18, 1872, to Miss Mary A. Swineford, a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born in 1850, and a daughter of Simon Swineford, and this happy union has been crowned by the birth of three children—Alice M., Ella and Rachael. Mr. Swartout is a thirty-second degree Mason, and is a knight templar, and at present is captain-general of Ivanhoe commandery, No. 54; also a member of the Royal Arcanum. His military experience was varied and brilliant, as will be seen by the following narration. He enlisted in July, 1862, in company H, One Hundred and Fifteenth New York volunteer infantry, for a period of three years, or during the war, and was sent direct to Harper's Ferry, where 10,000 men were taken prisoners, and was paroled, and soon after exchanged; then was sent to the South Carolina and Florida campaign and sea service in Olusta, Fla., and numerous other engagements; he was wounded at Olusta by a rifle-ball in the hip, and was sent to Buford hospital, in South Carolina, and was there confined from February 18 to May 10, when he again went to the front at Petersburg, Va., and was almost constantly in battle until wounded at Deep Run in the shoulder, and for four months was confined in the Hampton, Va., hospital. Prior to this he was in front of Petersburg, and participated in that struggle and was present at the explosion of the mine. After discharge from the Hampton hospital he was detached from his regiment and placed in charge of the discharge department in the general office at Hampton, Va., where he remained until the close of war.

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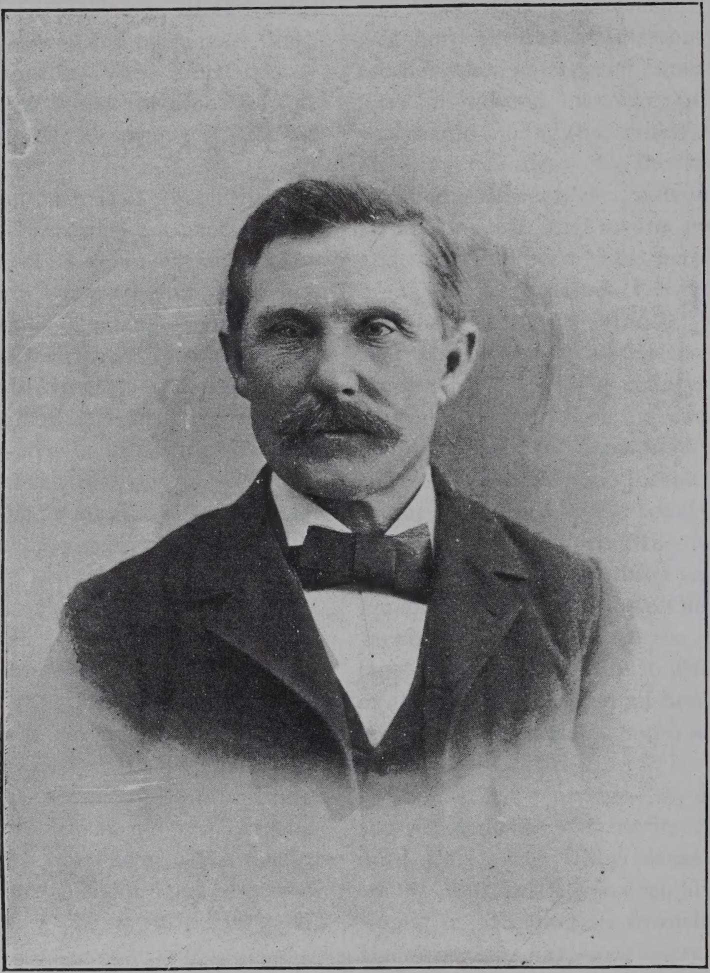
JOEL STIVERSON, one of the oldest and most experienced farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Hocking county January 8, 1829.

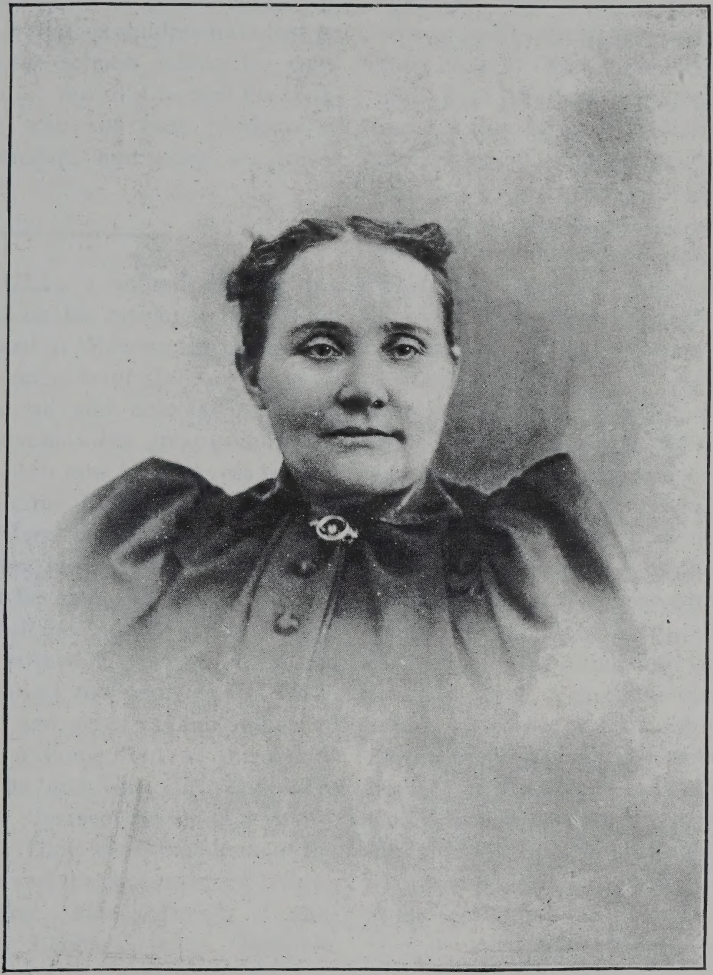
John Stiverson, father of Joel Stiverson, our subject, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1803, was of German extraction, and when a young man came to Ohio, settling in Washington township, Hocking county, before 1825, and in that year there married, for his first wife, Elizabeth Hensel, a native of the county and a daughter of Henry Hensel, who was born in Pennsylvania, of German descent. Mr. Stiverson settled upon and cleared up a farm of 280 acres, and became quite a prominent citizen of Hocking county. He had born to him, by his first marriage, twelve children, as follows: Katie, Emanuel, Josie, Lemuel, Sallie, Susan, Lizzie, Samuel, Mary, Lucinda, John and one who died young. After the death of his first wife Mr. Stiverson married Sarah Proach, this union resulting in the birth of two children — Delilox and Lydia. Mr. Stiverson was a respected member of the United Brethren church, of which he was a trustee, and in politics was a republican. He lived to be about seventy-two years of age and died on his farm in Hocking county, a pillar of his church and a much respected citizen.

Joel Stiverson received the usual education granted to the farmer lads of his native county, was reared a first-class farmer, and in Hocking county chose for his first wife Elizabeth Giberson, a native of the county and a daughter of Joel Giberson, of the state of New Jersey. Mrs. Stiverson became the mother of one child—Eliza J.—and died in her native county. The second marriage of Mr. Stiverson took place August 23, 1855, to Elizabeth Roush, who was born in Hocking county December 18, 1837, a daughter of William and Susan (Meyers) Roush. William Roush was born in Lancaster county, Pa., lost his mother when young, and came with his father, after his second marriage, to Ohio, where he was reared among the pioneers of Fairfield and Hocking counties. In the latter county he attained considerable influence, became a farmer of substantial means, owning 200 acres, and there had born to his marriage seven children, who were named George, Sarah, Anna, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jacob, Joseph and one that died unnamed. Mr. Roush lived on his homestead in Hocking county until quite advanced in years, when he came to Van Wert county, bought 160 acres in Washington township, and with his son, Joseph, cleared up one of the best farms in the county. He had two sons in the army during the late Civil war—George, who served three years in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio infantry, and Jacob, who was killed at the battle of Pittsburg Landing. Mr. Roush was a useful citizen in all respects and died an honored member of the United Brethren church and a member of the republican party.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stiverson resided on a farm in Hocking county until 1861, when they came to Van Wert county and settled on eighty acres in the woods of Washington township, which tract Mr. Stiverson has since increased, by patient and judicious industry, to 114 acres, and converted into a model home. To Mr. and Mrs. Stiverson have been born the following children: John, William (who died at the age of eighteen years), Margaret A., Susan, Lincoln, Noah, Ida M. (who died a married woman), Samuel (who died at the age



J. M. Dull



Mrs. J. M. Dull

of twenty-three years), and four who died young. Mr. and Mrs. Stiverson have long been members in high standing of the United Brethren church, and in politics Mr. Stiverson has always been a stanch republican. He has ever been a true friend of public education, and has seen to it that his children have lost no advantages that the schools within his command could afford. Socially, he and his faithful wife mingle with the best residents of Washington township, and none are more highly respected.

ELIAS DULL, a retired farmer, but still making his residence on the old homestead in Willshire township, Van Wert county, is of German descent, but comes from an old colonial American family of Pennsylvania—his great-grandfather and grandfather both now lying at rest beyond the mountains in the Keystone state. John Dull, father of Elias, our subject, was born, reared and married in eastern Pennsylvania, Hannah Lenhart becoming his wife. After his marriage John Dull located in Fayette county, Pa., where he farmed for some years, and then, in 1832, moved to Stark county, Ohio, wnere he entered 320 acres of land and set to work to hew out a home. but at the end of two years both he and wife, in 1834, were swept away with the scourge of that year—Asiatic cholera. They were members of the Lutheran church and the parents of the following children; Peter, Mary, Joseph, Phebe, John, Elizabeth, Lenhart, Jacob, Hannah, Elias, Catherine, and two died in infancy.

Elias Dull the subject of this sketch, was born in Fayette county, Pa., February 3, 1822, and has always lived on a farm. He was quite small when he lost his parents, and at the age of twelve years was bound out until eighteen years old for his board, clothes, and education as far as the single rule of three; yet, during this term of apprenticeship he attended school from three to six months only, but after its termination he devoted two years to school attendance, as he felt the necessity of such action. Mr. Dull then went to work to make his way in the world, and after settling in Van Wert county, Ohio, he married, September 5, 1850, Jane Walters, whose genealogy will be found in the sketch of William G. Walters, on another page. This marriage took place in sight of the farm on which they have continuously lived ever since their wedding-day. It was at that time a literal wilderness, and Van Wert city was then a hemlet of but three houses. The children born to this union were named Harriet E., Hannah L., John W., William W., Rebecca J. and Mary R. Mr. Dull continued to prosper and at one time owned a farm containing 645 acres in one tract, and latter owned 1,000 acres in detached parcels. With the exception of 200 acres, Mr. Dull has generously divided this property among his children—and it was all made through his own industry an persistent toil. In his politics Mr. Dull has always been on the side of freedom, first voting with the free-soil party and now being a prohibitionist. For several terms he served as township trustee. For fifty years he has been a member of the radical branch of the United Brethren Church in Christ, and for twenty-five years a class leader. He is widely known in the county, and stands out prominently as a pioneer and useful citizen of his township.

JAMES M. DULL.—The subject of this biography is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and son of Lenhart Dull, now deceased. James Monroe Dull was born in the township of Willshire, January 23, 1846, obtained his early education in the common schools, and, while still young, began teaching, which profession he followed with gratifying success for several years. He grew to manhood in his native township, and May 17, 1868, was united in marriage to Martha A. Lintemoot, daughter of Martin and Amanda (Hackett) Lintemoot, who were among the first settlers of the township of Liberty. Mr. and Mrs. Dull, immediately after their marriage, located on a part of the place where he now lives, in Liberty township; he has made additions to his farm from time to time until at present it embraces an area of 200 acres, nearly all of which is in an advanced state of cultivation. Mr. Dull is a model farmer, as is evidenced by the condition of his place, which is reputed to be one of the finest farms in Van Wert county; his improvements are of the latest and his residence, a fine two-story brick structure, supplied with all modern conveniences, is, without doubt, the best building of the kind in Liberty township.

In addition to his farming interests, Mr. Dull owns and controls a third interest in the Rockford Milling company, and also owns a general merchandise store at Dull's station, which is managed by his eldest son. He is postmaster at said station, and through his push and determination, the post-office at this point was secured. Mr. Dull has been an unswerving democrat ever since attaining his majority, and for a number of years has served, almost continuously, as a member of the county central committee. Mr. and Mrs. Dull have an interesting family, consisting of the following children, whose births occurred in the order named: Wilbert A., Arthur P., Maurice L., Fannie M., Edgar M., Serena M., Daisy F., Curtis E., James M., Herbert O., G. Cleveland and Thurman, all living. Mr. and Mrs. Dull are members of the United Brethren church, and he belongs to to the I. O. O. F., lodge No. 771, Ohio City, in which he has passed all the chairs.

Mr. Dull is one of the leading citizens of his township, and is universally respected in the community where he lives. He has made a success of life, and believing in the outset that a good name was of all things the most desired, and with no overweening ambition for public position, he has been governed since youth by those fixed principles of honor and rectitude which stamp him to-day as an honest man and exemplary citizen. As stated in a previous paragraph, the parents of Mr. Dull were pioneers of Liberty township, where the father died in October, 1893; the mother is still living on the home farm. The following are the names of the children of Martin and Amanda Lintemoot: Martha A., wife of the subject; Ellen E., Catherine, Serena, Daniel W. and Cora.

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FRANK P. DULL, one of the prosperous farmers of Liberty township, and well known citizen of Van Wert county, Ohio, of which he is a native, was born in the town of Willshire, January 31, 1855. When young he attended school in one of the first plank school-houses of Willshire township, and by close application succeeded in obtaining a good English education, which, supplemented by business contact with his fellow-men in different capacities, has made him a well informed man. He early chose agriculture for his life-work, and, after his marriage, which was solemnized January 6, 1881, with Hattie E. Martin, daughter of William and Nancy C. (Fitsimmons) Martin, he settled on the farm where he has since resided, consisting of 120 acres of well improved land in Liberty township. His improvements compare favorably with those of his neighbors; he has a large, commodious barn, and his place is well stocked; he is progressive in all the term implies, and few people of the community stand higher than he does in the estimation of the public.

In company with his brother, James M., Mr. Dull owns a third interest in the Rockford Milling company, which, with his farm, has enabled him to accumulate a comfortable competence. Mr. Dull is a democrat in politics, is a prominent member of the Patrons of Husbandry, and, with his wife, he belongs to the United Brethren church. The following are the names of the children of the subject and wife: Curtis O., accidently killed by falling from a building, when a little past seven years of age; Dorothy G.; Flossie died at the age of twenty-one months; Edna J.; Ray F., and Eleanor I.

The father of Mrs. Dull, William Martin, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., October 9, 1812, and his wife was born in Franklin county, of the same state, on the 20th day of August, 1827. They were married in Pennsylvania, afterward came to Crawford county, Ohio, of which they were early pioneers, and still later became residents of the county of Wayne; they came to Van Wert county in 1862, and here the father died; the mother is residing, at this time, with the subject of this brief sketch.

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**FRANK BEVINGTON.**—The Bevington family is of English origin. Henry Bevington, the grandfather of the subject of this biography, was born in one of the eastern states, and came to Van Wert county, Ohio, in a very early day, locating in the township of York, of which he was one of the first pioneers. He married Betsy Heath, and accumulated good property, making a farm of 150 acres, in the township of York, on which he lived until his death. His son, James H. Bevington, the subject's father, was born in York township, January 20, 1837. He married Malinda Hooks, daughter of William S. and Lydia (Harp) Hooks, whose birth occurred September 19, 1837, and reared a family of three children, viz: William F., Philip H. S., and Frank, all living. James H. Bevington was one of the leading farmers of York township; he served in the Forty-sixth artillery during the late war, was a prominent Methodist, and departed this life in the year 1877. His widow subsequently married John Johantgen, with whom she is still living, their home being in the township of Ridge.

Frank Bevington, under whose name this biography is written, was born in York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, September 20, 1869. After attending the common schools during his youth, he took a course at the Normal college at Ada, Ohio, and for several years thereafter was engaged in educational work, teaching, in all, about forty-five months. He achieved quite a reputation as an instructor, and is still in the profession as a teacher.

Mr. Bevington was married December 27, 1890, to Martha Roebuck, daughter of Paul and Catherine (Harp) Roebuck, and soon thereafter settled on the farm where he now lives in Liberty township, and has since been engaged, with most encouraging success, in agriculture pursuits. Mr. Bevington is a man of more than ordinary intellectual endowments, is well acquainted with general literature and keeps himself fully informed on the current questions of the day. His standing among his fellow-citizens is first-class, and he numbers his friends by the score in the township where he lives. Mr. and Mrs. Bevington have three children, Lillie, born September 24, 1891; Normie, September 20, 1893, and Harry Guy, born September 20, 1895. The father of Mrs. Bevington was a farmer, living in Dublin township, Mercer county, but her mother is deceased. The following are the names of her brothers and sisters, Dellie, Nancy, James, Perry, Clark, Harvey and Nellie Roebuck.

JOSEPH BOWMAN, now of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Fairfield county, in the same state, October 15, 1844, and when five or six years of age was taken to Allen county, where he was reared on a farm until his enlistment at Lima, July 24, 1862, as a teamster in company E, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three years or during the war. He is of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, and his grandfather, Daniel Bowman, was an early settler near Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, where he entered a farm in the woods and became the father of two children, Jacob and Daniel, of whom the latter died in Illinois. Jacob, the father of our subject, was born in Fairfield county, March 4, 1813; was there married, October 23, 1835, to Mary Fickle, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, April 24, 1815, a daughter of Joseph Fickle, of Scotch descent. To Jacob Bowman and wife were born fourteen children, viz: Mary, Donald, Elizabeth, Sarah, Joseph, Henry, Rachael, John, Leah, Benjamin, Catherine, Rebecca, William and Isaac.

After his marriage, Jacob Bowman lived on the farm in Fairfield about a year and then moved to Illinois, but in 1840 returned to Fairfield county, Ohio, and in 1849–50 moved to Allen county and bought 300 acres of land east of Lima, part of which was cleared. He soon sold this property, and for a time resided near Westminster, and then moved to Paulding county about 1865, bought 200 acres in the woods of Washington township, cleared up the farm, and there died June 11, 1891, aged seventy-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman were members of the Christian church, and Mr. Bowman was in politics a democrat and a man of mark and great prominence, and a successful farmer. To each of his five sons he presented a forty-acre farm, and thus started them well in life.

Joseph Bowman was but a little past his seventeenth year when he was enrolled for the Civil war, and served until July, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Cincinnati, Ohio. He served at Perryville and at other points in Kentucky, and at Stone River in Tennessee, serving from December 31, 1862, until January 2, 1863; was at Chickamauga, Ga., September 19 and 20, 1863; Lookout Mountain, Tenn., November 24, 1863; Missionary Ridge, Tenn., November 25, 1863; Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., May 7, 1864; Resaca, Ga., May 13–16, 1864; Dallas, Ga., May 25 to June 4, 1864; Snow Hill; Ringgold, Ga., Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Ga., June 27, 1864; Atlanta, Ga., Jonesboro, Buzzard Roost, Lovejoy Station, September 2–6, 1864, and Northwestern, December 15–16, 1864. In fact, he took part in all the engagements in which his regiment was concerned, and was injured by the concussion of a shell at Jonesboro, and wounded at Stone River, January 2, 1863, when he was captured and sent to Libby prison until January 27, 1863, when he returned to his regiment and filled out his time. After his discharge he returned to his father's place in Paulding county and married, March 11, 1866, Miss Amanda Kohn, who was born March 12, 1847, in Franklin county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Lydia (Wilson) Kohn, natives of Virginia and of German descent. Mr. Kohn was married in Virginia, and in 1853 located in Paulding county on eighty acres of land, but subsequently moved to Franklin county, where he died in 1861, at the age of fifty-one years, a member of the United Brethren church, and the father of twelve children.

After his marriage Mr. Bowman located in Lotta township, Paulding county, where he resided two years and a half, then lived in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, until 1883, when he bought his present farm of eighty acres, which he has converted into an excellent farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have been born four children, viz: Jacob (died young), Mary, Josephus (deceased) and Victoria. He is a good citizen and was a brave soldier; he is an excellent farmer and an upright man, and has won the respect of all who know him.

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STEPHEN S. BUCHANAN, undertaker and dealer in hard and soft wood, lumber and furniture, at Willshire, Ohio, was born November 15, 1848, in Fairfield county. His grandfather, George Buchanan, a native of Scotland, was there married to Miss Paden, and early came to eastern Ohio. He took part in the war of 1812, and was a whig in politics, and with his wife was an adherent of the Seceders' church. His son, Stephen Buchanan, father of our subject, was born in eastern Ohio in 1806, was well educated, and for several years was president of Lancaster academy, Fairfield county—the leading educational institution of its day in that part of the state. He was also a colonel in the state militia, took a deep interest in military affairs, and was a man of splendid physique and noble bearing, and intellectually was in advance of his age. He married Emily Crane, daughter of Harvey Crane, and there were born to the union five children, viz: Mrs. Amanda Goss, Harvey, Mrs. Elizabeth Gunda, James and Stephen S., our subject.

Col. Buchanan was a man of generous impulses, and, although he acquired, through his industry and frugality, a fine farm near Lancaster, and was prepared to enjoy at ease a well-earned rest, although a comparatively young man, in an evil moment he went security for a friend, the result being the loss of his fortune, with the exception of a few hundred dollars. His model farm and most of his accumulations were swept away, and with the pitiful remnant he went to Logan county, Ohio, in 1847, and bought a small farm in the green woods; he was, however, spared for two years only to aid in the development of his new home, as his death took place in 1849. His widow soon disposed of this land and returned to Fairfield county, Ohio, where she was enabled to purchase a small farm, and where she devoted the remainder of her life to the education of her children. A noble christian woman, she died in March, 1866, a devout member of the Lutheran church, of which her husband was also a pious communicant.

Stephen S. Buchanan was seventeen years of age when he left the parental roof to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner, working four consecutive years at bridge building in the beginning. He became a most excellent mechanic, and his skill as such is fully recognized even to the present time. In March, 1870, Mr. Buchanan married Saphronia (Struckman) Fairchild. The children born to this union were named in order of birth as follows: Emily A., Claude E., Daisy D., James H., Homer V., and Lulu C. The parents of Mrs. Buchanan were early comers to Fairfield county, where they were married and where the father died, his widow afterward marrying Johnson Nye, a farmer of Van Wert county. For four years after their marriage our subject and wife continued to live in Fairfield county, and then, in 1874, moved to Adams county, Ind., where another period of four years of life was passed away. Mr. Buchanan then settled in Willshire, Van Wert county, where he has since operated a saw-mill, and for the past three years has conducted, in addition, a furniture and undertaking establishment up-town.

In politics Mr. Buchanan is a republican and has served nine years as township trustee, the office having been thrust upon him. He has long been a class leader in the Methodist church and is now a Knight of Pythias. Mr. Buchanan is a good business man,' is affable to his customers, and enjoys the esteem of the entire community.

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JACOB D. CARMEAN, a substantial farmer of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, is a son of William and Margaret (Miller) Carmean, and was born in Buckskin township, Ross county, Ohio, September 28, 1830. He received but little education, as he was but ten years old when his father died, after removing to Allen county, where there were but few schools. Jacob D. was reared on a pioneer farm and also served three years at the carpenter's trade. September 23, 1852, he married, in Ross county, Miss Harrietta Miller, a native of that county and a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Adams) Miller, the union resulting in the birth of four children—Christian and Jesse, who reached maturity—and Nancy and Elizabeth, who died young.

After marriage Mr. Carmean resided in Ross county one year, then, in 1853, moved to Auglaize county, rented land for a year, and in 1854 removed to Allen county; there he enlisted, at Lima, September 24, 1864, in company G, One Hundred and Eightieth Ohio volunteer infantry, for one year or during the continuance of hostilities, and was honorably discharged at Washington, D. C., April 13, 1865. During his service he was seized with lung fever through lying on the wet ground, and was first confined in hospital at Nashville, Tenn., and later at the point of his discharge, where he was confined about two months, and has ever since been troubled with bronchial complaints. He fought in Tennessee and Alabama and gave every evidence of being a valiant and gallant soldier.

In 1870 Mr. Carmean moved to Van Wert county, and bought a tract of eighty acres in Jackson township, uncleared and unimproved. He cut a space in the woods whereon to erect a cabin and worked hard for one in his condition of health, and with the aid of his son succeeded in making a good farm. Here Mrs. Carmean died in 1874, and May 6, 1875, Mr. Carmean chose, for his second helpmate, Mary Ogden, a daughter of James and Sarah (Frey) Ogden, of Allen county. This lady died eleven months after marriage, leaving no offspring. The third marriage of Mr. Carmean took place September 3, 1867, to Virginia F. Ogden, who was born June 4, 1848, in Fairfield county—a sister of the second Mrs. Carmean. James Ogden, the father, was a native of Rockingham county, Va., born March 1. 1780, was a soldier in the was of 1812, and became a pioneer of Fairfield county, Ohio, whence he moved to Hocking county in 1852, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing and died August 29, 1865; his widow, Sarah, who was born in Rockingham county, Va. May 9, 1799, survived until September 14, 1891, when she expired at the residence of our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Ogden were born ten children—Henry, Malinda, David, Jane, Abraham, Rebecca, James, Mary, Sarah and Virginia F. To Mr. and Mrs. Carmean have been born four children—Charles, Mary, Cora and Frank. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Carmean are identified with the Christian Union church, of which he was formerly a trustee, and in politics he is a democrat, having always been a friend and promoter of religious and educational establishments. He is one of the most successful farmers of the township, although he has suffered much from the illness incurred during his military term of service. He has reared a respected family and is himself highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens as an upright, industrious, and strictly moral gentleman.

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**O S. CARMODY**, a well known resident of Van Wert, Ohio, came to this city from Bradford, Pa., as general manager of the interests of the Oil Well Supply company of the latter city. In 1881 this company established its sucker-rod factory in Van Wert, and since then Mr. Carmody has filled the position of superintendent and general manager of the plant, having been placed here by the company for that especial purpose, on account of his well known efficiency. The Oil Well Supply company of Bradford, Pa., employ in their factory in Van Wert over thirty men, besides others, who are constantly on the road, buying ash and hickory throughout Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, and they ship their product over the wide world, including Java, Burmah and other parts of Asia, Venice (Italy), Austria, and other points in Europe, besides California and Texas in America, their sucker-rods being adapted for use in pumps of every style of make or fashion. Mr. Carmody has become identified, also, with the material progress of Van Wert, having invested largely in real estate in the city of Van Wert and surrounding country.

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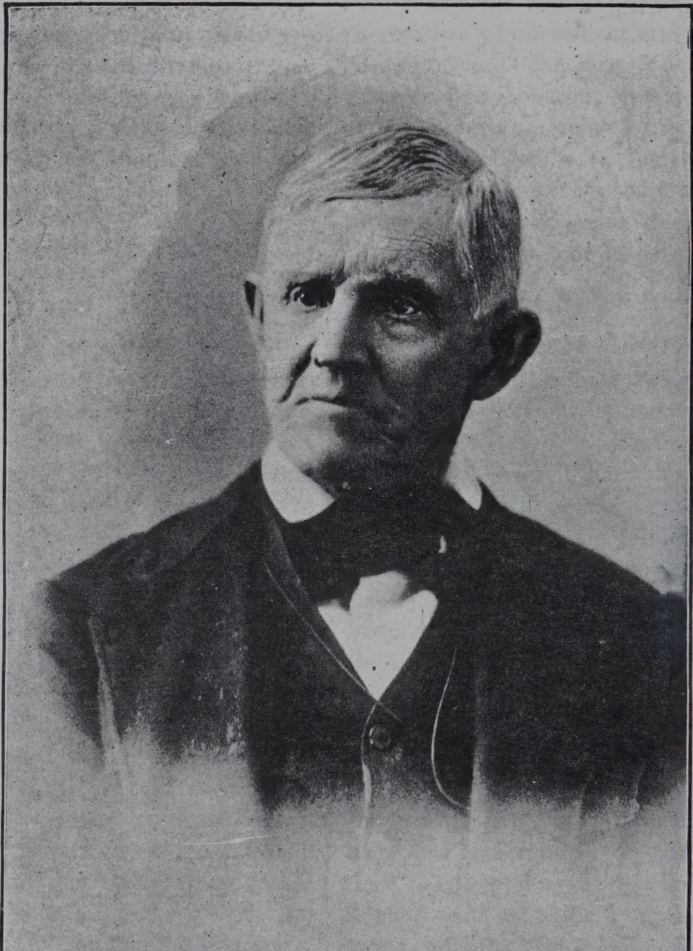
**WILFORD COPPER**, a progressive farmer and and an old soldier of Tully township, Van Wert county, is a son of Richard H. and Catherine (Crotinger) Copper, and was born in Knox county, Ohio, April 10, 1835. Richard H. Copper was of French descent, was born near Pittsburg, Pa., August 22, 1800, and his wife, of German descent, was born July 16, 1810. The great great-grandfather of our subject was a sailor and shipowner of France, and is supposed to have left a considerable estate in that country prior to the revolution which overthrew monarchy, and Alexander Copper, grandfather of our subject, was a patriot in the American Revolutionary war and an early settler in Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg. Richard H. Copper, father of our subject, was first married in the Keystone state, to a Miss Hudson, who bore one son, Richard, March 31, 1826; by his second wife, Catherine Crotinger, he was the father of Rhoda, born March 27, 1831; Louisa, born August 21, 1833; Wilford, born as above; Benjamin, born February 5, 1837; Margaret, born November 4, 1838; Martha, born March 1, 1841; Alexander, born August 27, 1843; Chester F., born November 19, 1845; Sarah C., born April 27, 1848, and Isabelle, born May 23, 1851. Richard H. Copper was a farmer and mechanic and came from Pennsylvania to Knox county, Ohio, and thence, in the fall of 1848, came to Van Wert county and settled in Harrison township, where his death took place in 1851, at the age of about fifty years—a member of the Christian church.

Wilford Copper came to Van Wert county with his father's family in 1848, and was here reared to farming. June 25, 1857, he married Sarah A. Smith, daughter of Henry and Catherine Smith, the union resulting in the birth of nine children, in the following order: Aaron, August 26, 1858; Warren, July 13, 1860: Sarah, February 6, 1862; Dora A., July 28, 1864; Flora B., September 2, 1866; Ellen C., August 18, 1868; Emma C., December 21, 1870; Wilford H., June 26, 1874, and one that died and infant. Of the above, Aaron died at the age of four years; Warren died at the age of two, and Emma C., at the age of nineteen years.

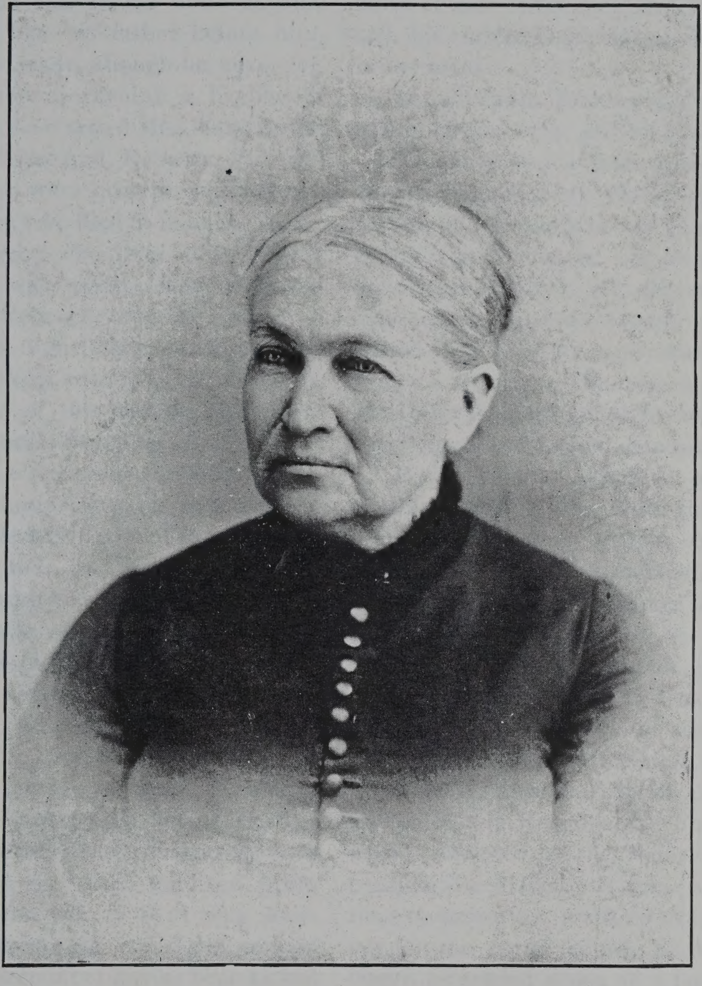
After his marriage Mr. Copper settled in Tully township, and on September 21, 1864, was enrolled at Lima, Ohio, in company G, Sixty-fourth Ohio veteran volunteer infantry, under Capt. W. G. Patterson, and served until honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., June 19, 1865, the war having then been ended. He fought in the battles of Franklin, Nashville, Spring Hill and Columbus, and also participated in several skirmishes and a number of battles, the names of which are forgotten. During his service he was attacked with rheumatism, and much against his will was placed in a hospital for a time, but he was badly disabled by the attack, and on his discharge it was necessary for his comrades to assist him on the cars, and it was also necessary to assist him off again on reaching his home destination, and he has since been laid up many times with renewed attacks of the disorder. When he became able to do any work at all on his return home he resumed farming, buying his present place in 1864.

May 5, 1877, Mrs. Copper was called away at the age of thirty-eight years, and Mr. Copper continued a widower until August 16, 1892, when he married Alfaretta, daughter of Philip and Catherine Saylor and widow of Andrew Shutt. Philip Saylor was a native of Pennsylvania, was a soldier in the Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry, and was killed in battle during the late war. He was father of the following-named children, viz: James A., Christian J., Edwin G., John M., Alfaretta N., Carrie, Jane and Samuel P. The first husband of Mrs. Alfaretta Copper, Andrew Shutt, was a farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio, and by her was the father of seven children, viz: Carrie M., Harrison J., John W., Effie C., Ella A., Millie E. and Daisie B.—the last three dying in infancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Copper have been born two children—Chester A. and Elmer Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Copper are members of the United Brethren church, and in politics he is a democrat. Three of the Copper family, in September, 1855, died of cholera within five days. These were the mother of our subect and two of her sons, Alexander and Chester. The people had so great a dread of the epidemic that no one would assist in interring the dead, and Wilford buried the corpses with his own hands. Mr. Copper is noted for his generous impulses and his straightforward conduct and enjoys the respect of the entire community.

DAVIS JOHNSON, deceased, was a son of Joseph Johnson, who was born in Virginia, near York River, May 23, 1776. Joseph Johnson was a son of Abel and Anna (Alexander) Johnson, the former of whom was a native of England, and a son of Benjamin Johnson, who, accompanied by his family, upon emigrating from England, landed in Philadelphia about 1744, when Abel was a babe. In Philadelphia Abel Johnson was educated and there learned the cooper trade. There, also, in 1768, he married Miss Anna Alexander, daughter of Joseph Alexander. Abel Johnson and his wife were the parents of fifteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity, those who died young being Ephraim, Isaac and Jacob, all dying the same year. The others were named as follows: Rachel, wife of William McCleary, of Tuscarawas county, Ohio; Benjamin and Joseph, twins, the latter of whom is mentioned at length in this sketch; Joel; William; Josiah and Nancy, twins; Isaac; Elizabeth, wife of William Meek, of Wayne county, Ohio; Amos, Margaret and Elias. In 1782, removing with his wife and children to Virginia, now West Virginia, he there followed his trade, and later



Dawes Johnson



MRS. DAVIS JOHNSON

went to Fort Pitt. In religious faith he was a Quaker, and was possessed of all the admirable qualities belonging to that denomination. His death occurred in 1824, when he was eighty years of age.

Joseph Johnson was reared and educated on a farm, and, like his father before him, learned the cooper trade, though he never followed it as a means of earning a livelihood. On April 12, 1806, he married Miss Mary Davis, daughter of William and Rebecca (Thorly) Davis, and to them were born ten children, as follows: Benjamin, who died in infancy; Anna, wife of John Wagers, who lives in Van Wert county, and who was eighty-seven years old July 15, 1895; Rebecca, deceased wife of Josiah Foster, of Van Wert county; Abel, formerly of Van Wert county, now deceased; Davis, the subject of this sketch; Benjamin, who died in infancy; Ama, deceased wife of Robert Baxter, also deceased, formerly of Van Wert county; Catherine, who died when fifteen years old; Mary, deceased wife of James Daily, of Adams county, Ind., and Joseph, who died at the age of twenty-two.

Mary Davis, wife of Joseph Johnson, and the mother of his children, was a native of Northumberland county, Pa., having been born January 3, 1783. Her father was a native of Wales. The next day after his marriage Mr. Johnson removed to Harrison connty, Ohio, making the journey on horseback, and entered at different times three quarter-sections of land, 480 acres, on which he lived thirty years, and during the war of 1812 was made adjutant of a regiment, but could not remain in the service, on account of having been kicked in the mouth by a horse, which affected his speech to a considerable extent. He was the first white man to locate in Harrison county, Ohio, and his daughter was the first white child born in Stock township, that county. Removing to Van Wert county in 1837 he there entered one quarter-section for each of his children, and one quarter-section for a grandchild (brought up by himself), and he still continued to own of the original entry, 240 acres, until his death. The entire number of acres of land entered by Mr. Johnson for himself, his children and his grandchild, was 2,160 broad acres.

In politics Mr. Johnson was what was known as an old-line whig, and while a citizen of Harrison county was a justice of the peace for twenty-five or thirty years. Upon removing to Van Wert county he became one of the first county commissioners, and as such assisted to lay off the county. He also served as township trustee for many years. His death occurred July 29, 1855, and that of his wife on January 21, 1851. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a lady of most excellent character and disposition.

Davis Johnson, deceased, and the subject of this narrative, was born June 17, 1814, in Harrison county. In that county he was reared, educated and married, his marriage taking place upon his return to that county from Van Wert, whither he went with his parents upon their removal there in 1837. During his earlier life he was inured to the arduous duties of life upon the farm, but secured an excellent education, and was well prepared for teaching school and for the profession of a civil engineer. For several years he was devoted to the former vocation to a considerable extent, but gave a portion of his time to surveying, assisting in the original survey of the entire county of Van Wert. At length he settled down on a farm in Willshire township, and there lived until the death of his wife, by whom he had one child, Angie, now the wife of Mr. J. I. Cable, of Van Wert. Upon becoming a widower he returned to his father's home, where he remained until 1856, when, having been elected to the responsible office of county treasurer, he removed to the city of Van Wert.

In the meantime Mr. Johnson had been married the second time, the ceremony having been performed in September, 1854, the lady most interested in this ceremony being Mrs. Susan A. Lennox, widow of Dr. John Lennox and a daughter of James and Jane Short, of Richland county, Ohio. To this marriage there were born nine children, viz: Mary Alice, deceased; Ella, living at home; W. Scott, whose sketch follows; Brough, a farmer; Anna, wife of T. Tumbleson; Lorenzo, a member of the fire department of Van Wert; and Charles, Emma C. and Abel, all three deceased. After removing to Van Wert to reside there permanently, Davis Johnson speculated largely in land, and being a man of keen foresight and great prudence, he realized from his speculations a handsome competency. His death occurred March 19, 1890, and his loss was mourned deeply by his immediate family and relatives, and was widely felt by the community at large. In politics he was a republican, fraternally he was a Mason, and a charter member of Van Wert lodge; in religion he was a Quaker, while his widow is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Johnson retains her residence at the corner of Main and Market streets in Van Wert, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of a large circle of devoted friends and acquaintances.

W SCOTT JOHNSON, present deputy probate judge of Van Wert county, Ohio, and an attorney at law, was born in Van Wert city March 19, 1861, was educated, preliminarily, in the public schools of that city, and in 1879 withdrew from the Van Wert high school to enter the National Normal school of Lebanon, Ohio, which he attended during the summer term of that year, re-entered the Van Wert high school in September, 1879 and pursued his studies therein until June, 1880. In September of that year he entered the preparatory department of Kenyon college, known then as Milnor Hall, from which, in the fall of 1881, he was advanced, as a student, to the college proper. In the spring of 1882 he returned to Van Wert and was engaged in the grocery business until the spring of 1883, when he was appointed deputy county recorder under W. P. Walcott, and held that position until the spring of 1885, when he resigned, to accept the agency of the United States Express company, in connection with which he assumed the agency in Van Wert for all the leading newspapers of Chicago and Cincinnati. In October, 1886, he disposed of these agencies to Jacob Wyant and entered the law office of Saltzgaber & Glenn as clerk and student, remaining until January 1, 1889, and during two years of that time filled the position of secretary of the Van Wert Gas company. On the day last named he resigned his position and entered the law department of the university of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in June of the same year, with the degree of bachelor of laws, having completed a two-year course within six months—an extraordinary collegiate career—and was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Ohio, he standing second in a class of sixty-six examinees. He then formed a partnership with Hon. H. C. Glenn in the practice of the law, which partnership was dissolved in July, 1891, when Mr. Johnson entered practice on his sole account and was actively engaged therein until February, 1894, when he was appointed, with no solicitation on his part, as deputy judge of probate for the county of Van Wert—a position he has filled with great ability until the present time, May, 1896.

In February, 1893, Mr. Johnson organized the Fraternal Building & Loan association of Van Wert, and for one year was its secretary and attorney, and under his management and counsel the Fraternal Building & Loan association at once became one of the substantial institutions of the county.

In his politics Mr. Johnson is one of the stanchest of republicans, and since reaching his majority has been a constant and effective factor in the manipulation of his party's polity in the city and county. Possessing in a remarkable degree that magnetic power which makes a man a leader of his fellows, his influence has ever been distinctively felt as an organizer and guide in his party affiliations. Prior to and during the years 1894 and 1895 he held the responsible and somewhat delicate position of chairman of the republican county executive committee, and most ably fulfilled the duties of that office. Mr. Johnson's conduct of the campaign of 1895 was specially complimented by Mr. Bushnell, candidate for governor, and also by the chairman of the state committee, and he has several times been selected to represent his party as delegate to its county and state conventions. Although never a candidate for any office, Mr. Johnson is looked upon as one who will some day be called upon by the people to fill some position of honor and responsibility.

Fraternally, Mr. Johnson's connections are very broad and comprehensive, as well as prominent and influential. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of P., I. O. R. M. and the M. W. of A., being a charter member of the Van Wert lodge of the last named order, as well as charter member of the order of Ben Hur at Van Wert. He has filled the office of V. C. of the M. W. of A., and was the first delegate elected to the state camp; as a member of the I. O. R. M. he has held all the stumps in Abenaki tribe, and was its representative to the grand councils at Dayton and at Newark, Ohio. In December, 1895, he was elected great junior sagamore of the great council of Ohio, receiving a majority of all the votes cast against five candidates for that office, which is the third highest in the order—that of great sachem being the highest, and there is every indication that Mr. Johnson will in due time be elected to the highest position in the gift of that fraternity.

In his religious convictions Mr. Johnson is a Presbyterian, of which church he has been a member since 1876. His marriage relations were assumed on the 2d day of August, 1883, by his union with Miss Mary Isabel Raker, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Raker, of Fulton county, Ohio, Rev. F. M. Porch, pastor of the English Lutheran church, officiating. Their marriage has been blessed by the birth of three sons, viz: Davis, born May 14, 1884; Glenn, born April 1, 1888, and Paul Hastings, born March 28, 1894. The social relations of Mr. Johnson and his estimable companion are with the higher and better citizens of Van Wert and the surrounding country, and as a business man and public official Winfield Scott Johnson has by close attention to business and good habits won a high and enviable position among his fellows. The reader is here referred to the sketch above of Davis Johnson, father of the gentleman whose name opens this memoir.

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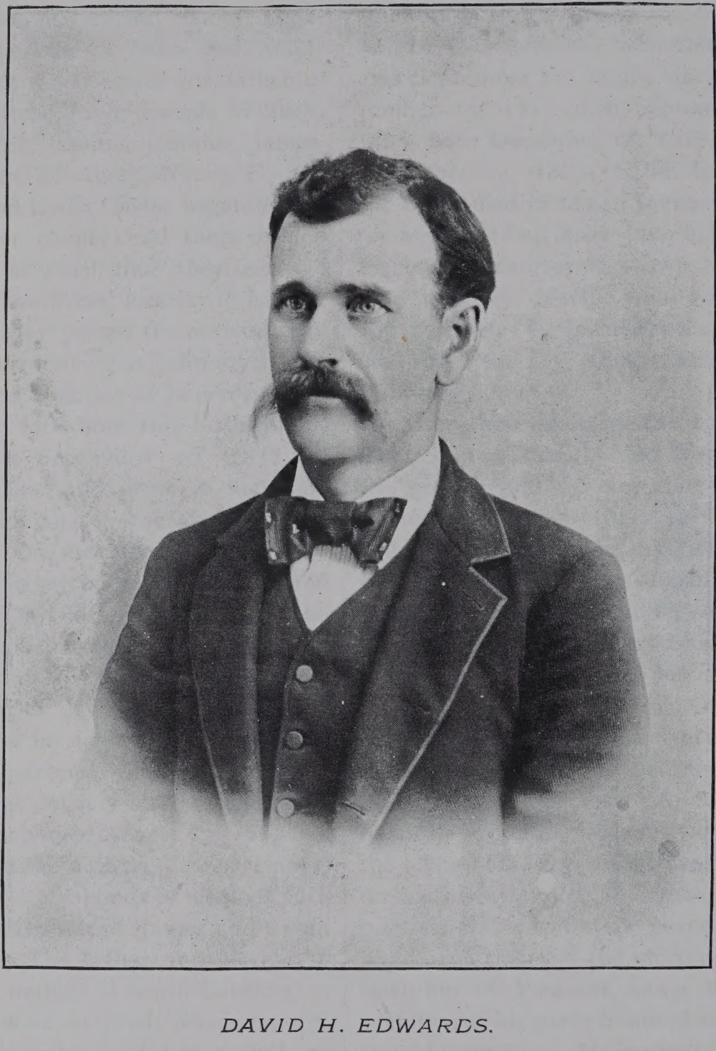
JOSEPH CUSTER.—The well known gentleman whose name introduces this paragraph is a retired farmer and prominent citizen of the township of Liberty. Mr. Custer is of German descent, and members of the family settled many years ago in Maryland, in which state his grandfather John Custer was born and reared. John Custer married in Maryland, and as early as 1816 immigrated to Ohio., settling in Warren county; thence, in 1827, he moved to the county of Mercer county, where his death subsequently occurred.

Peter Custer, son of the aforesaid John, was born in Frederick county, Md., in November, 1800, married in Mercer county, Ohio, Lydia Heath, daughter of John and Nancy (Tomlinson) Heath, and became the father of the following children: John, Joseph, William, Amanda A., George, Lavina, Jemima, James, Mary Jane, Milton, Elizabeth, Nancy E. and Henry. Peter and Lydia Custer began housekeeping in Mercer county, and there resided until about 1870, at which time they removed to the county of Van Wert, locating in Liberty township, where they passed the remainder of their days, Mr. Custer dying in February, 1882, and his wife on the 20th day of January, 1888.

Joseph Custer, for whom this biography is written, was born September 16, 1832, in Mercer county, Ohio, and grew to manhood on the farm, attending in the meantime the district schools. On the second day of May, 1864, he enlisted in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio infantry, with which he participated in some campaigning in Maryland, his principal duty, during a part of his service, being the guarding of public property at Point Lookout. He was for some time an inmate of the hospital on account of sickness, from which he has never entirely recovered, and he was honorably discharged August 25, 1864.

Mr. Custer, on the 28th day of September, 1856, was united in the bonds of wedlock with Sarah J. Smith, daughter of James and Sarah (Grogan) Smith. The father and mother of Mrs. Custer were natives of South Carolina, in which state they were married, November 12, 1812, and immediately thereafter moved to Mercer county, Ohio, of which they were among the pioneers. Mr. Smith became a substantial farmer, was an old-line whig in politics, and served in the war of 1812. He was a devout Methodist, and his name appears in the list of charter members of the old Bethel church in the county of Mercer. Mr. Smith died December 3, 1852, and his wife June 16, 1879. The following are the names of the children born to James and Sarah (Grogan) Smith: Elizabeth M., born October 10, 1813, died September 11, 1840; Mary G., born November 13, 1815, died September 12, 1843; John, born December 18, 1817; Daniel, born December 14, 1819; Sallie L., born August 23, 1822, died in 1824; James H., born September 22, 1824, died June 6, 1853; William F., born December 8, 1826; Nancy K., born May 21, 1829; Martha Ann, born October 12, 1831; Drury J., born September 21, 1834, died in February, 1894; Sarah Jane, born February 12, 1838.

After their marriage the subject and wife located on a farm in Van Wert county, with the growth and development of which Mr. Custer was for many years prominently identified. As a farmer, he has met with success such as few attain, has accumulated a comfortable fortune, including a considerable amount of as valuable land as lies within the limits of the county, and he is now spending his declining years in retirement from the active duties of life. As an evidence of the estimation in which he is held by his fellow-citizens, it is only necessary to mention the fact of his having, for the last twenty years, filled the office of trustee of his township. Mr. Custer has always taken an active interest in local politics, and was for six years elected on the republican ticket to the office of trustee in the township of Pleasant, being the first representative of his party honored with the position in said township. He is a man of public spirit, is a liberal patron of all movements and enterprises for the well being of the community, and, while quite liberal in his religious beliefs, contributes of his means to the support of



DAVID H. EDWARDS.

various church organizations. He belongs to the Odd Fellows' order, holding membership with Wide Awake lodge, No. 771. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Custer, all of whom are living, are named as follows: William, Adeline, James, John, Louella, Ida M., Joseph D. and Ira C.

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DAVID H. EDWARDS is a representative of one of the old and substantial Welsh families which settled in the southern part of Van Wert county, and did so much toward the moral and material improvement of that section of the country. Mr. Edwards was born April 25, 1860, in Hamilton county, Ohio, and is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Thomas) Edwards, both parents natives of Wales—the father coming to the United States when about six years of age, and the mother before she had reached her tenth year. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were wedded in Covington, Ky., and they became the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, viz: John, a resident of Venedocia; David H.; Sarah J., wife of David J. Evans; Thomas L., a physician of Caba, Wis.; Margaret, who died in early youth, and Rees F., a student of McCormick seminary, Chicago. For some years Thomas Edwards followed steamboating on the Ohio river, but in 1866 moved his family to the county of Van Wert and purchased forty acres of land in Jennings township, now in possession of his son. He died February 8, 1872, and on September 30, 1892, his widow was laid to rest.

David H. Edwards was but eleven years old when his father died, from which early age, until his twentieth year, he was deprived of the advantages of acquiring such an education as he desired to obtain. When twenty years old he entered the Normal school of Ada, Ohio; later attended one term at Angola, Ind., after which he engaged in teaching, following that profession for a limited period. He next purchased forty acres of land adjoining the homestead, and after the death of his mother bought the home farm, which he now owns.

Mr. Edwards early displayed a decided preference for matters of public interest, became a republican, and when but twenty-one years of age was elected assessor of Jennings township, which position he filled very creditably during two terms. He was then elected to the more responsible position of township trustee, and discharged the duties of the same in a manner highly satisfactory to all concerned, for a period of six years. He was postmaster at Venedocia during President Harrison's administration, was also elected three times justice of the peace, and, in 1893, was elected to the office of county commissioner, being one of the youngest men ever called to fill that position in Van Wert county. He defeated his competitor by a handsome majority, although the county for a number of years previous to the election had been largely democratic. Mr. Edwards displayed excellent business qualifications and executive ability of a high order in various positions with which he has been honored. It is a fact worthy of note that, during his incumbency as justice of the peace, not a single appeal was ever taken from any of his decisions, and since becoming a member of the board of commissioners his good judgment, conservative course, and deep interest in the welfare of the people, have commended him to the citizens of the county.

In 1887 Mr. Edwards engaged in the mercantile trade at Venedocia, in partnership with Thomas E. Williams, under the firm name of Edwards & Williams, but disposed of his interest in the business when elected to the office of commissioner. Mr. Edwards was happily married June 20, 1885, to Mary D. Jones, daughter of David S. and Ann Jones, and their home has been brightened by the birth of five children, viz: Anna, Frances (deceased), Margaret Lena, Rachael Caernogwen, and Thomas. Mr. Edwards has taken an active interest in the party's success ever since attaining his majority. In religion he is a member of the Welsh Presbyterian church, to which his wife also belongs.

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SHAPHET DWIRE, an old settler and substantial farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Joseph and Lucinda (Johnson) Dwire, who were natives of Somerset county, Pa., respectively of Irish and German descent, and the parents of four children, viz: Benjamin, Matilda, Shaphet and Rebecca. The father, Joseph Dwire, shortly after marriage, came to Ohio, and settled in New Harrisburg, Carroll county, where he was employed in the county offices as clerk, and where he died a comparatively young man.

Shaphet Dwire was born in New Harrisburg, March 9, 1831, and was but four years of age at the time of his father's death. From the age of six until twenty-two years he lived with David Maple, a substantial farmer of Carroll county, receiving a fair education and acquiring a knowledge of farming. September 13, 1853, Mr. Dwire married Sarah J. Figley, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Dennison) Figley. Joseph Figley was a native of Pennsylvania, was a farmer and blacksmith and an early settler of Carroll county, where he became quite prominent in politics, having served as justice of the peace for many years and having been quite prominently mentioned as a candidate for the state legislature. He owned 500 acres of land and died in Carroll county at the age of fifty-one years—the father of twelve children, viz: Andrew, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary A., Matilda, William, Mary and Ellen, twins, James, Robert, George and Mrs. Dwire. After his marriage Mr. Dwire farmed for a few years on the Maple homestead, then, in 1858, came to Van Wert county, lived one year in Pleasant township, and then located on eighty acres in the woods of Harrison township. He later sold this property, and in the fall of 1865 bought eighty acres of his present farm, which he has increased to 120 acres, and on which he has erected a tasteful dwelling and substantial farm buildings. His fields are remarkably well tilled, and drained with hundreds of dollars' worth of tiling. In politics Mr. Dwire was one of the earliest of free soilers and republicans, and voted for John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln, the first candidates of those parties for president of the United States. He also served from September, 1864, until June 18, 1865, in company F, Sixty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and has ever shown himself to be a patriotic and public-spirited citizen. Mr. Dwire has had, also, some considerable experience as a salesman of agricultural implements and machinery, and sold and put up the first Buckeye mower in Van Wert county. Mrs. Dwire is a member of the Presbyterian church in good standing, and Mr. Dwire is a member of Scott post, No. 100, G. A. R., of Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Dwire have had born to their marriage eleven children, viz: Rebecca, Lemuel, Edna, William, Orlando, Joseph F. (who died at the age of seven years), Laura (died at sixteen years), Endorie (died at two years), Flora, Minnie (died at one year), and Leroy. Of this family, Rebecca married William Brown, of Van Wert, and has eight children; Lemuel married Esther Robinson, lives in Tully township, and has three children; Edna was married to the late George Sheehan, and has three children, who, with their mother, are living with Mr. Dwire; William married Lizzie Holmes, and is the father of two children, and Flora is married to John

Hurless, farmer of Harrison township. Mr. Dwire has been a successful man in business, is most highly respected by all who know him, and his children move in close touch with the best people of the county of Van Wert.

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WILLIAM B. HARD, the subject of this memoir, was born in Erie county, N. Y., on May 4, 1817, of New England ancestry. His father, Cyrene Hard, was born in 1783, in the state of Vermont and reared on a farm. His wife, Nancey Barney, a granddaughter of Gov. Chittenden, of Vermont, was also a native of that state. To them were born nine children, viz: Fondany, married, deceased; Rollin C., married, deceased; Affa, deceased; Harriet, deceased; Mary E., married, deceased; Lucy, married, deceased; Ezra B., married; Erastus, who died in infancy, and William B., the subject of our sketch. Of this numerous progeny William and Ezra are the only ones living.

Cyrene Hard, the father, after his marriage emigrated to Erie county, N. Y., where he purchased a tract of fifty-five acres of forest land, and began the arduous life of a pioneer, clearing and fencing, and struggling to overcome the obstacles which nature had placed in his way. There he lived some twenty years, and reared his family. About the expiration of this time he sold his farm and moved to Licking county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of about fifty-five acres, upon which he lived the remainder of his days. Mr. Hard, Sr., was long a member of the Presbyterian denomination, and in politics a whig. His death occurred in 1848. He had ever borne the reputation of a very liberal-hearted man, and left his family in somewhat close circumstances at his demise. His wife, who was also a devout member of the Presbyterian faith, survived him some twenty years, dying in 1868.

William B. Hard, the immediate subject of this biography, was born and reared on the homestead in Erie county, N. Y.; he led the usual life of a boy in pioneer settlements, attending the neighborhood schools in the winter, and plowing, sowing and reaping in the spring and summer months; he remained with his father until his marriage with Miss Mary A. Jones, of Brown county, which was solemnized in Licking county, Ohio, in 1846. At his father's death, in 1848, he fell heir to the paternal acres, upon which he lived and labored for four years, after which he sold the homestead, bought twelve acres in the same neighborhood, upon which he lived two years, and in 1874 sold this place. He then moved to Van Wert county, Ohio, where he bought a tract of eighty acres of timbered land, and and set to work to clear up a home. This he did, but in 1872 sold it and moved to Willshire, where he engaged in the boot and shoe business, which he carried on successfully for a period of four years. He then bought a property containing six acres, which he improved with a commodious residence in which he lived some four years, when he traded it for one in Ohio City, in which he now lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Hard have been born seven children, named as follows: Jasper C., deceased; Elvira, deceased; Flora E., married; Ezra C. deceased; Martha C., married; Francis E., deceased; William Dayton, married. Mr. Hard and his amiable spouse are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which denomination they are liberal contributors. In politics Mr. Hard is a stanch republican. He has been a township trustee, school director, assessor, and supervisor, which positions of trust he has discharged with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his fellow-townsmen. Mr. Hard from his boyhood days was an earnest worker in the Sabbath-school, and was instrumental in organizing the first

Sabbath-school in Liberty township, Van Wert county. The greater portion of his life he has labored earnestly as superintendent of some Sabbath-school, beginning at the age of ninteen, and also filled many official places in the church. All his life he has been a strong advocate of temperance and organized the first temperance society in Lima township, Licking county, Ohio.

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ANDREW HARP, a native of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born October 30, 1854, a son of Jonas and Mary (Putman) Harp, and was early taught the lessons of industry, thrift and agricultural skill on his father's farm. Although his early school advantages were slight, he has been a close observer of men and things, and his knowledge of books is self-acquired. On reaching the years of maturity he wedded Loretta North, a daughter of Daniel North, of whom an extended biography appears in this work, his residence being now in Ridge township. To Mr. and Mrs. Harp have been born five children, named as follows: Goldie M., William E., Stella R., Gracie I. and Alma S.

Mr. Harp is the owner of 120 acres of fertile land, which he has wrested from the wilderness, improved with commodious and substantial farm buildings, and thoroughly underdrained with tile, and whose blooming fields are now the admiration of all beholders. This beautiful farm is the result of Mr. Harp's own laborious exertions, and much credit should be given him for the magnificent result which he has produced, especially when it is remembered that the land was in the wildest possible condition when he first applied the ax. In politics Mr. Harp is a democrat, but has never sought public office, being content to exercise his franchise, and never neglecting to attend the polls. In his social position Mr. Harp stands with the best people of the township, and like all other members of his family, enjoys the highest respect of the citizens of the community in which he lives.

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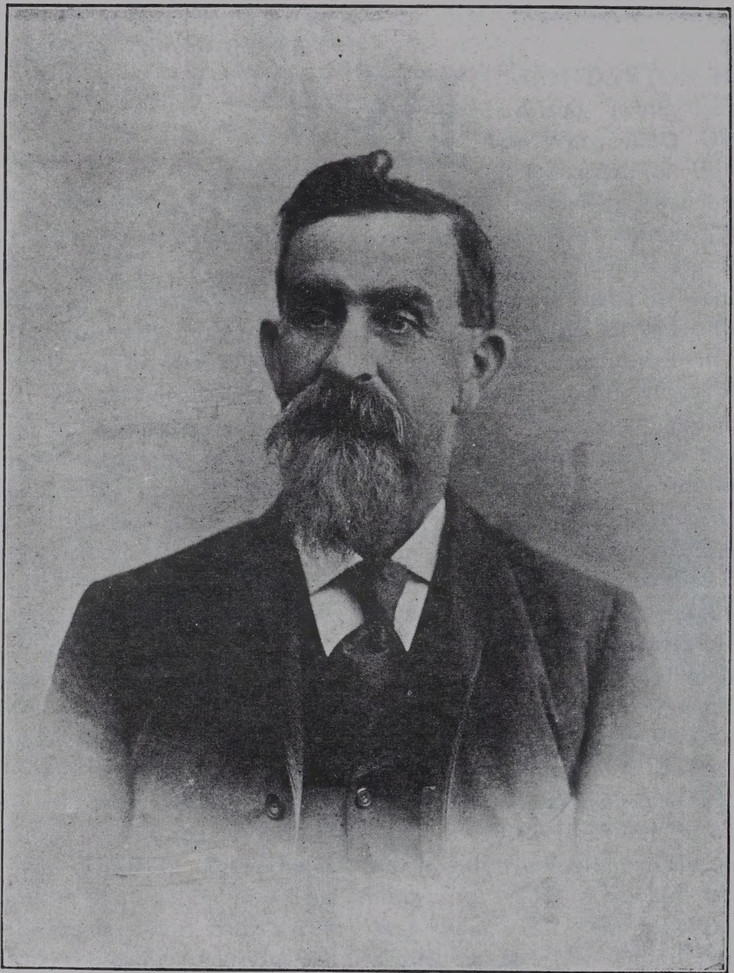
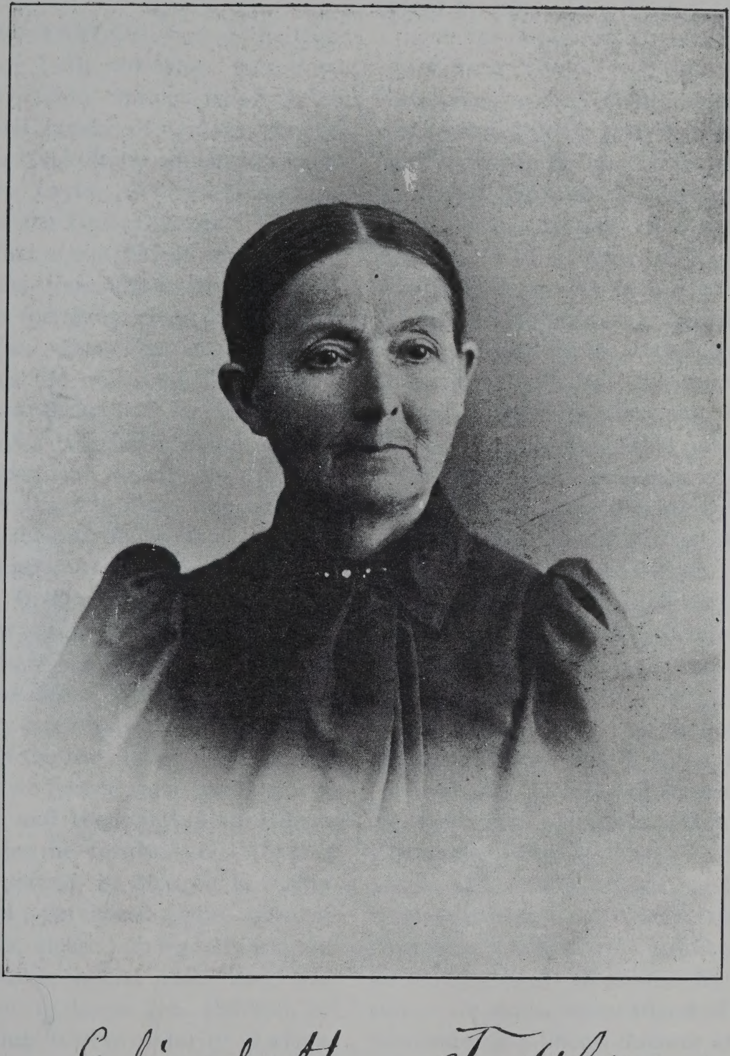
WILLIAM DAYTON HARD, an enterprising young business man of Van Wert county, Ohio, of the firm of Dunathan & Hard, dealers in agricultural implements, was born in Liberty township, Van Wert county, August 5, 1862. Of his parents, William B and Mary A. (Jones) Hard, mention is made in detail on another page of this volume, to which the attention of the reader is respecfully invited. When our subject was but eight years of age, he was taken by his parents to Willshire township, where he was educated until the age of eighteen, when he came to Van Wert city and engaged as clerk with L. F. Zimmerman, with whom he remained five years, gaining a thorough knowledge of mercantile affairs during the engagement. He then purchased one-third interest in the retail business of the firm of T. S. McKim & Co., general merchants, which interest he retained two years, and then, in 1887, joined Capt. D. P. Dunathan in the agricultural implement business, under the firm name of Dunathan & Hard, to which firm allusion is made elsewhere in these pages, and which is now doing one of the largest and most prosperous trades in its line of any in northwest Ohio. Mr. Hard was most happily wedded in Delphos, Ohio, October 24, 1888, to Miss Viola M. Mills, who was born October 12, 1864, and to this union have been born two bright little daughters—Ethel, on August 19, 1889, and May, on June 5, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Hard are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics Mr. Hard is a republican; he is also a Mason of the council



Wm Taylor



Elizabeth Taylor

degree (Knights Templar), and is very popular in the community in which he lives, both as a business man and a member of society, of which latter, Mrs. Hard is quite an ornament.

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WILLIAM TAYLOR, one of the trustees of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, springs from an old colonial family of Orange county, Va., of the same stock from which descended the late Zachary Taylor, the famous general and president of the United States. Richard Taylor, grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, was a schoolteacher, and was for many years a resident of Page county, Va., where he was a county officer most of his life and a highly respected citizen, as well as official.

Jacob M. Taylor, the father of our subject, was born in Shenandoah county, Va., in Powell's Ford, December 22, 1804, was educated in the old time subscription schools and also learned shoemaking. He made several trips to New Orleans, to Ohio, and to Indiana, on foot, when under twenty years of age, working at his trade. About 1828, at Urbana, Ohio, he married Miss Anna M. Kane, who was born January 22, 1808, a daughter of Asa Kane, a soldier of the Revolution. Mr. Taylor lived in Urbana two years, then for a year at Woodstock, Va., and then moved to Millerstown, Ohio, where he resided until 1855, at which time he settled in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., purchased eighty acres of land in the woods, cleared up a good farm and made a comfortable home. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor had born to them ten children, of whom the following lived to maturity: Lavina, Silas, George W., Catherine, Philip, Joseph and William. Of these children, Silas served in the Civil war in an Ohio regiment for three years, took part in several battles and in the Atlanta campaign, was at one time captured and confined in Libby prison four months and twelve days, and was twice wounded in battle. Jacob M. Taylor, the father, was an honored old settles of Allen county, Ind., was a consistent member of the Baptist church, and was a democrat in politics.

William Taylor was born at Westville, Champaign county, Ohio, March 15, 1841, was educated in the district school and was a mere lad when he cleared up sixteen acres of the home farm in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind. November 4, 1862, he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Eleanor (Tipton) Bower, the former of whom was one of the original pioneers of Allen county, Ind., and descended from a German family from near Little York, Pa. Jacob Bower was born in 1812. His father was one of the pioneers of Harrison county, Ohio, where he settled when Jacob was ten years of age, or about 1822. At the age of twenty-two, or about the year of 1834, Jacob walked from Harrison county, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Ind., and entered 160 acres of woodland in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., where he afterward cleared up two farms and became a wealthy man. There were but eight cabins in Monroe township, and a few log huts in Fort Wayne when Mr. Bower made his entry of land in Allen county. Here he reared a family of eight children, named as follows: Christian, Elizabeth, John T., Mary A., Delila, Henry, Jacob and Eleanor. Mr. and Mrs. Bower were members of the new school Lutheran church, in which he was a deacon and an elder for many years. In politics he was a democrat. He was a warm friend of public education and was a liberal donator at the founding of Wurtemberg college at Springfield, Ohio. He was upright, charitable and kind-hearted, and at his death left a goodly estate to his children.

After his marriage our subject lived on his farm in Monroe township, Allen county, Ind., until October 8, 1879, when he moved with his family to Spencer, Tenn., and there bought a farm of 237 acres, on which he lived for two years, and then came to Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and bought his present farm near Convoy. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have been born nine children, three of whom died when young; the six surviving are named Levi F., Matilda C., Henry K., Jacob B., John M. and Bessie. Mr. Taylor is an honored citizen and has the full confidence of the people. In politics he is a democrat, has been a supervisor for many years and takes great interest in matters pertaining to public education, having served as a member of the school board for a long time and as trustee of Tully township for five years, and he and wife have been life-long members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Their son, Levi F. Taylor, is a student of Wurtemberg college, studying for the ministry, and has passsed two years of the nine necessary to the course. Another son, Henry K., is a highly respected farmer of Paulding county, Ohio, is married to Sua B. Coil, and is the father of six children.

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CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN, of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and the well-known gentleman, whose name introduces this biography is an American by adoption, and has had a long and varied career as soldier, official and citizen. His father, Adam Hoffman, was a wealthy farmer of Bavaria, Germany. He was a liberal in politics, and on account of his radical opinions he incurred the displeasure of the government during the troublous times of 1848, in consequence of which his property was confiscated. He married Caroline Schaffer, daughter of Christopher and Magdaline (Schoffer) Schaffer, and became the father of one child, the subject of this sketch. Christopher Schaffer was a prominent man in Bavaria, was chosen for two terms of six years each as representative in the legislature at Frankfort on the Main, and for twenty years served as mayor of the city of Thuncen; he became quite wealthy and lived to the unusually great age of 105 years.

Christopher Hoffman was born May 31, 1831, in Bavaria, attended the high school in his native country, and at the breaking out of the Revolution of 1848, entered the patriotic army and participated in two desperate battles. His property, which was by no means inconsiderable, was also confiscated, and he only escaped with his life by concealing himself in a dry-goods box, which was shipped from Frankfort to Moentz. On arriving at that city, he was unloaded so roughly that his shoulder was dislocated, and he received other injuries, which for some time rendered his life most miserable. He soon afterward took ship at Rotterdam and escaped to America, having been forty-nine days making the voyage on a sailing vessel. Immediately after landing on the shore of the new world, Mr. Hoffman made his way to Richland county, Ohio, where he soon became interested in local politics, identifying himself with the democratic party. He made a canvass of the township in which he located, speaking at all public points, and carried the same by a majority of seventy votes, the township having formerly been strongly republican. In recognition of his services in this campaign, Mr. Hoffman was appointed to the office of deputy sheriff, which position he resigned at the end of eighteen months in order to become clerk with a steamboat company at Sandusky, Ohio. About this time the country was visited by the terrible cholera scourge, during the prevalence of which he did much to assist the sufferers, fearlessly devoting his life to their comfort. He helped to care for the sick and assisted in burying the dead during that dread period, but escaped the disease himself.

During the three succeeding years Mr. Hoffman was engaged in agricultural pursuits in the county of Richland, and in 1853 came to the city of Van Wert, where for thirteen years he carried on the bakery business, in which he was very successful, realizing thereby the foundation of the comfortable fortune which he now enjoys. In 1865 he located on his present farm in the vicinity of Ohio City, where he purchased valuable land, the greater part of which he recently sold for $100 to $150 per acre. He retained a small farm of forty-five acres, upon which he expects to pass the remaining years of his life. As already stated, Mr. Hoffman is a democrat, and as such has done yeoman service for his party in Van Wert county. He served nine terms as assessor of his township, discharged the duties of real estate appraiser two terms, and for a period of eighteen years served as a member of the school board. He planned and superintended the construction of the large modern school building near where he resides, and has done much for the cause of education in Liberty township. He is a man of progressive ideas, has been successful in his various undertakings, and stands high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens of Van Wert county. In religion he is a Lutheran; his wife belongs to the Methodist church.

Mr. Hoffman was married November 25, 1856, to Margaret Hofman, daughter of Peter and Mary (Wendle) Hofman. The father and mother of Mrs. Hoffman were natives of Germany, but immigrated to America many years ago, and in 1857 located in Van Wert county, Harrison township, where Peter Hofman is now a leading farmer. The following are the names of the children born to Christopher and Margaret Hoffman: Charles P., Christopher J. C., Benjamin F,, Philip A., Callie C., Emma C. and Mary M.

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HENRY KANNEL, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Joseph and Peggy (Welch) Kannel, and was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1848. Joseph, the father, was born in Adams county, Pa., in 1815, and was a son of Jacob, who was born in Germany about the year 1770, and when a young man settled in the Keystone state. About 1832 Jacob came to Ohio, located in Stark county, where he passed four years, and then removed to Richland county, where he died in 1845. Joseph Kannel, the youngest son of Jacob by a marriage to a lady who bore the maiden name of Hoover, came to Stark county with his parents, learned the trade of carpenter and builder. In 1853 he moved to a farm he had long previously purchased in Crawford county, and there died February 2, 1890. Miss Peggy Welch, whom Joseph Kannel married December 6, 1839, in Richland county, bore to her husband seven children, viz: Mary and James, who died in childhood; Margaret; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Sarah J., ——— ——— and John, who still lives on the homestead in Crawford county. The mother of these children was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 14, 1817, and is still living on the farm in Crawford county, a member of the United Brethren church, of which her husband had also been a member.

Henry Kannel, the subject of this sketch, was educated in Crawford county, Ohio, first attending the little log-cabin school of his neighborhood, and later attending a seminary at Lexington, Richland county, and for two terms an institution of learning in Ashland county. In his early youth he had learned the carpenter's trade, but preferred teaching for a livelihood, and in 1869 entered upon this vocation in Crawford county. For eleven terms he followed the profession, and of these eleven terms three were taught in Seneca. The marriage of Mr. Kannel took place December 25, 1877, to Miss Lucy A. Briegel, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Shafer) Briegel, and to this union one daughter has been born and named Alvira C. Mrs. Lucy A. Kannel is a native of Crawford county, Ohio, and was born in 1853. Her father was born in Baden Baden, Germany, about 1812, and when twenty-one years old came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he married Elizabeth Shafer, who bore eleven children to the union. After his marriage Mr. Kannel lived in Bloomfield, Seneca county, about eleven years, following his trade of carpenter. In 1886 he purchased the farm on which he still lives, in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, where he has since been engaged most successfully in agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Kannel are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and by their daily walk through life give full evidence of their sincere belief in its teachings. In politics Mr. Kannel is a republican, and, though no office seeker, never fails to show his loyalty to his party through the exercise of his franchise.

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ABRAHAM HOGHE, deceased, formerly a prosperous farmer and a prominent citizen of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., June 16, 1810. Both of his parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and with them he came to Ohio in 1826, they locating in Pickaway county, where they engaged in farming and lived until death.

Abraham Hoghe removed to Van Wert county in 1843, locating on what has for many years been known as the Hoghe farm, in Liberty township. There he became the owner of 200 acres of land, a part of which he preempted from the government, and a part of which he purchased. At the time Mr. Hoghe came to Van Wert county, the greater part thereof was still a wilderness, and where the city of Van Wert now stands there were but two cabins, and, as it is but natural to infer, he endured all the privations and hardships known to pioneer life; but in his old age Mr. Hoghe had the satisfaction of knowing that he had made one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Hoghe was dintinguished for many things. He was the first man in the county to make a distribution of bibles, selling to those able to buy, and giving to those too poor to buy, and he found the latter class largely in the majority. On February 20, 1842, he was married in Franklin county, Ohio, to Eliza Caldwell, a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Cogan) Caldwell, both natives of Tuscarawas county, and at the time of his marriage to their daughter, residents of Franklin county. By trade and occupation Mr. Caldwell was both a farmer and a carpenter, and he was unusually successful in life. Mrs. Caldwell died in 1847 and Mr. Caldwell some few years later.

Mr. Hoghe lived on his farm in Liberty township until his death, but toward the latter part of his life he did not engage actively in any kind of business or labor. For many years he was a true and consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics he was one of the old-time democrats. His death occurred February 4, 1891, when he was eighty-one years old. Mrs. Hoghe, his widow, still survives, is living with her son, Clinton A. She is a member of the Presbyterian church, and is seventy-four years of age. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: Clement R.; Andrew W., deceased; Charles Merrit, deceased; Elizabeth A., wife of George Copeland, a resident of Lima; Sarah Jane, widow of Milton Curtis; Clinton A.; Alice, wife of D. O. Cooper, and Irene, wife of J. A. Vance, all residents of Van Wert county.

Clinton A. Hoghe was born April 2, 1851, on the old homestead. His boyhood was spent at home and in acquiring such education as the country schools then afforded. With the exception of three years, 1877-80, inclusive, he has lived upon the home farm, those three years having been spent in Kansas. April 10, 1882, he married Alice B. Watt, a daughter of W. N. and Margaret T. (widow) Watt, a biography of the former of whom appears on another page in this volume. Mr. Hoghe is one of the most successful farmers of the county, and is one of its best citizens. He has 160 acres of land of his own four miles from Van Wert. To his marriage with Miss Alice B. Watt, three children have been born, viz: Hallie A.; Earl C., and Willie Guy. In politics, like his father, Mr. Hoghe is a democrat, has served on the school board of his township, and is in every way a representative citizen, worthy of and receiving all respect from his fellow-men.

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JOHN I. MOOREHEAD, a respected citizen of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the Civil war, is a son of Alexander and Delilah (Pickens) Moorehead, and of Scotch-Irish descent through an old Pennsylvania colonial family.

Alexander Moorehead came from Pennsylvania with his parents to Ohio and located in Fairfield county in the pioneer days, and was first married there, after which event he moved to Putnam county. His children by his first marriage were named Winton, Emanuel, Thomas, Elija, Lorena, Rebecca, and several who died while still young. This first wife died in Putnam county, and Mr. Moorehead there married Delilah Pickens, and to this union were born nine children, viz: David, Jefferson, Rachael, Henry, John I., Calvin, Phebe, Delilah and Emma. December 25, 1839, Mr. Moorehead came to Van Wert county and settled in Willshire township, where he entered 240 acres in the forest afar from any other settler. With the assistance of his sons he wrought out a good farm from the wilderness, and reared a family of sturdy pioneers. In politics he was a democrat until the first Lincoln campaign, when he joined the republican party and became an ardent Union man; although over sixty-five years of age, would have enlisted to preserve the nation from disruption, but was, of course, rejected by the government on account of age; however, he furnished five sons for the defense of the Union, as follows: David, who served three years in the Forty-sixth Ohio infantry, company H; Henry, in the same company, was drowned by being crowded off a boat while at the battle of Pittsburg Landing; Jefferson died from sickness at Moscow, Tenn., while serving in an Indiana regiment; Calvin, at first in the Fifteenth Ohio infantry, veteranized, and had a record running through five years, being promoted to orderly-sergeant; the experience of John I. will be related further on in this sketch. The father of these soldiers lived to be about seventy-five years old, and died near Leipsic, Putnam county, a member of the United Brethren church, an honored citizen and a substantial farmer.

John I. Moorehead, whose name introduces this biography, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, December 23, 1837, and when but two years of age was brought by his father to Van Wert county, and here reared on a farm. He married Miss Edith, daughter of William and Rhuama Brown, on the 25th day of December, 1859, and had born to him nine children, who were named Eliza, Alzina, Susan, Calvin, Sherman, John J., George M., Leonne M. and Ettie M. Mr. Moorehead, after his marriage, first went to housekeeping on his father's farm and next settled on sixty acres in Liberty township, Van Wert county. This land he labored hard at improving, until his enlistment for 100 days, on May 2, 1864, in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio infantry, under Capt. Singleton W. Davis, and on the organization of the company was elected corporal. He served ten days over his time, and during his service, which was chiefly at Point Lookout, on the Potomac river, doing guard duty, he was stricken with cholera and also had a severe sunstroke, from which latter he has never fully recovered. He was honorably discharged in August, 1864, and on his return home resumed farming in Liberty township. He had the misfortune to lose his wife June 17, 1888, and lived a widower until 1892, when he sold out, moved to Mercer county, bought twenty acres of land, and on December 29, 1892, married the widow Hannah M. Shope, whose maiden name was Snediker. In the spring of 1894 he came to Convoy and bought the pleasant home in which he at present resides. Mrs. Moorehead is a member of the Society of Friends, while her husband is a member of the United Brethren church, in which he has been a steward, class leader, exhorter for two years, and a licensed preacher for ten years. In politics Mr. Moorehead is a republican, has filled the office of township trustee, and has ever been a gentleman in whom the community has never hesitated to repose its confidence.

James Snediker, the father of Mrs. Hannah M. Moorehead, was born in Pennsylvania, east of the Allegheny mountains, and in the pioneer days came to Ohio with his parents, who settled near Yellow Springs, in Greene county. Here he married Martha Hopkins, daughter of Moses Hopkins, the union resulting in the birth of four children, named as follows: Hannah M., Mary J., Emily and Joseph. The Snediker family was of German and the Hopkins family of Irish ancestry. The Snediker family were early settlers of Jay county, Ind., and for a time resided three or four miles from any neighbor in a dense wood without roads and swarming with wolves and other wild animals. Mr. Snediker reached the age of sixty-six years, and died a devout member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Moorehead was first married to George Clauson, of Adams county, Ind., and next to William Shope, and last to Mr. Moorehead. The daughter of John I. Moorehead, Rhuama, was married to George W. Jones, a stationary engineer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and became the mother of six children: Emma Eliza, married Philip Krisher, a farmer of Tully township, and has five children; Susanna married Sylvester Myers, of Harrison township, and has four children; Calvin married Lizzie Ackom, and has two children; he is a railroad man and lives in Glenmore; Ira S. married Mary Holder, and the rest of Mr. Moorehead's family are unmarried and at home.

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THOMAS REDRUP.—Few men, not one in a thousand, have had the varied experiences, and have gone safely through the hardships and dangers, that have fallen to the lot of the subject of this sketch. Thomas Redrup was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, June 23, 1842, and is a son of James and Ann (Phelps) Redrup.

James Redrup was a native of Devonshire, England, and there received his education, following farming as his occupation until 1840, when he came to the United States. While on the voyage across the sea, he met and courted Miss Ann Phelps, whom he married on reaching Cleveland, Ohio, in 1841. After their marriage they located in Parma, Cuyahoga county, and there Mr. Redrup engaged in farming until 1850, when he removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., and there was engaged in dairying until 1860. Removing then to Mansfield, Ohio, he went into the grocery business, and not long afterward exchanged his grocery store for a grist-mill five miles northeast of Mansfield, and conducted his mill until 1871. He then removed to Van Wert county and bought a farm in Tully township, upon which he resided until 1880. This farm he exchanged for land in Harrison township, upon which he lived until 1895, selling it then and buying property in the city of Van Wert, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1886. His wife died in 1884. James Redrup and his wife were the parents of eleven children, viz: Thomas, the subject of this sketch; Hattie; Mary; Emma, deceased; John; Charles; Alice; Fannie, deceased; George; Lottie, wife of O. A. Balyeat, and James, deceased. The parents of these children were both Baptists, and in politics Mr. Redrup was an uncompromising republican.

Thomas Redrup was ten years of age when his parents removed to New York, and from that time until he was eighteen he assisted his father in the dairy business. Upon arriving in Mansfield he assisted his father in the grocery business until he attained his majority, when he apprenticed himself for three years to the harness and saddler's trade. At the breaking out of the war, when President Lincoln called for 75,000 three-month troops, he enlisted in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and with his regiment was assigned to the army of the Cumberland. At Columbus, Ohio, he was made corporal, at Zanesville he was made sergeant, and at Grafton, W. Va., he was appointed hospital steward, acting as such until the expiration of his term of enlistment. Afterward he served with a regiment of "squirrel hunters," in the capacity of orderly-sergeant. Returning to Mansfield in 1862, he, in company with J. Hetrick and eight others, drove freight wagons from Grinnell, Iowa, to Virginia City, Mont., and there engaged in gulch mining at $8 per day, in gold. While en route from the former to the latter place they suffered many privations, were many times attacked by Indians, and drove over mountains were they where compelled to lower and elevate their wagons by chains—traveling some times not more than three miles per day. Streams they crossed by means of pontoon bridges, and at times they had as many as thirty-six yokes of oxen attached to a single wagon in crossing a stream.

Mr. Redrup worked in the mines until the fall of that year, when, in company with about fifty others, he started for home with a mule train, via Denver. When about 600 miles from Denver, in the Black Hills, they were overtaken by a tremendous snow storm, and lost half their train, the fall of snow being eight feet deep. Returning to the stage road, Mr. Redrup engaged with the company operating a stage route from Atchison to Salt Lake City, a distance of 1,800 miles, and remained with them one and a half years, and was express agent over the same route for six months. At Virginia Dale station he located an express agency, and remained there three years, his family joining him at that point. Removing to the North Platte river he remained there until 1869. While there a flood swept away the building of the agency, but by good fortune all escaped in row boats, after which they lived in tents until the house could be re-erected. Returning to Mansfield, Ohio, Mr. Redrup engaged in farming in Ashland county, where he remained until 1871. For six months he was then engaged in the grocery business in Mansfield, when he removed to Van Wert county, and purchased a saw-mill eight miles west of Van Wert, which he operated one year, and then removed to Van Wert, still, however, operating his saw-mill two years longer. Selling his saw-mill he was elected constable, serving in that office ten years, in the meantime serving four years as marshal and four years as street commissioner. He was deputy United States marshal eight years and game warden three years. He owns ten acres of land within the corporation.

Mr. Redrup was married in Mansfield, Ohio, to Mary J. Rickets, by whom he has had five children, viz: Charles J., of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Harry C.; Nellie, wife of James Miller, manager of the Singer Sewing Machine company's agency in Van Wert; and Alice, wife of Charles Hunt, passenger conductor on the C., J. & M. railroad. Mr. and Mrs. Redrup are members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Redrup has been a member of the Improved Order of Red Men ever since the organization of that lodge in Van Wert.

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ADAM HIRN, an industrious and rising farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, was born in Morrow county, Ohio, October 9, 1852, and is a son of Christopher and Veronica (Schaub) Hirn. The father, Christopher Hirn, was a son of Jacob Hirn, and was born in Weisloch, in the grand duchy of Baden, Germany, June 13, 1814. Jacob, the grandfather of Adam, our subject, was a farmer and married a Miss Scholl in 1798, to which marriage were born three children, viz: Englehart, of Iowa, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Fred Hecker, of New York, and Christopher, father of Adam, our subject. The wife of Jacob Hirn having died sometime late in the 'forties, the bereaved husband started for America in 1852, but died at sea in June of that year, a prominent member of the Evangelical church.

Christopher Hirn, father of our subject, was reared to farming, but resided in town. He received a good education, served one year in the German army, and, August 31, 1843, married Veronica Schaub, who was born June 12, 1816, in the same place in which her husband was born—a daughter of Nicholas Schaub. To this union were born ten children—the first five in Germany, and the second five in America—in order as follows: Frederick, August 26, 1843—now a butcher in Spencerville, Ohio—who served four years and four months in company K, Sixty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was wounded in the head; Barbara, born March 6, 1846, died an infant; Philip, born April 30, 1847, served one year and four months in company B, Thirteenth Ohio cavalry, and is now a farmer in Ridge township, Van Wert county; Englehart, born March 13, 1848, is a stockman of Seward county, Kans., and is also a teacher; Catherine, born December 24, 1850, died an infant; Adam is the subject of this sketch; John, born December 9, 1853; Louisa, born February 10, 1855, and Nicholas, born September 7, 1856—the three last named deceased; Anna Louisa was born March 10, 1859, was the wife of William F. Marbough, a farmer of Union township, Mercer county, and died September 15, 1895. Chistopher Hirn, with his wife and three of the children above named, viz: Frederick, Philip and Englehart, came to America in June, 1852, and located in Morrow county, Ohio, where he bought a farm, on which he lived until 1865, when he sold out and brought his family to Van Wert county and purchased 160 acres of half-cleared land in Jennings township—the same being now occupied by his son Adam. Here he lost his wife January 31, 1874, she dying in the faith of the German Reform church. Mr. Hirn continued to cultivate the home farm until about 1881, when he gave the control of the place to his son Adam, and with him made his home till his own death, which occurred August 16, 1895—some fourteen years later. Mr. Hirn was a republican in politics, and for years was an elder in the German Reform church, in the affairs of which he took a very prominent part in managing. He was universally respected, and his loss was deeply and sincerely deplored by the entire community.

Adam Hirn, our subject, was reared a farmer, but received a first-class literary education—attending, primarily, the common schools of Morrow and Van Wert counties, and for three terms the normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, entering the latter in 1873; he began teaching, following the profession in Auglaize, Van Wert, Allen and Mercer counties—never more than three and a half miles from home, and chiefly in the home district. After eighteen years passed in this vocation, he relinquished it on account of other duties. June 9, 1881, Mr. Hirn was united in mariage with Miss Anna Elizabeth Hight, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, July 29, 1860, a daughter of William and Thirza (Perkins) Hight. William Hight was born January 21, 1831, in Juniata county, Pa., and was one of the earliest settlers of Mercer county, Ohio, where his death took place April 24, 1877; Mrs. Thirza Hight was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, is now the wife of John Schamp, and is living in the county of her nativity—Auglaize. By her first husband she became the mother of two children beside Mrs. Hirn, viz: Catherine, the wife of O. Kennedy, of Auglaize county, and Myrtle, wife of Charles Giesler, machinist, of Dayton, Ohio. By her marriage to Mr. Schamp she is the mother of one child—Grace.

Mrs. Anna Elizabeth Hirn was educated at Celina, Ohio, and for three years before her marriage was a school-teacher. To her happy union with Mr. Hirn she has borne five children, in the following order: William Cullen, August 22, 1882; Mary Gertrude, October 27, 1883; Carl Dewitt, October 1, 1885; Thirza, April 3, 1888 (died July 29, 1888), and Lois Louise, November 10, 1889. After marriage Mr. Hirn located in Pierceton, Ind., where for two years he had previously been clerking, and there remained six months, when he returned to the home farm and engaged in agriculture and in teaching. In 1890 he was elected justice of the peace by the republican party, and still holds the office. In 1895 he was also prominently mentioned before the convention of his party as a candidate for clerk of courts. For thirteen years he has been an elder in the Presbyterian church, of which church Mrs. Hirn is also a devout member; for two years he has been a member of Deep Cut lodge, No. 311, I. O. O. F., at Spencerville, and is one of the best posted agriculturists of Jennings township, in which he and family are held in the highest esteem.

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ROBERT B. RHODES, mayor of Willshire, and a retired farmer of Mercer county, Ohio, was born August 25, 1833, in Caledonia county, Vt., and is a son of Josiah K. and Mary (Brown) Rhodes. His father was a native of New Hampshire, born in 1801, and was a son of Oliver and Lucy Rhodes. Oliver Rhodes, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a native of England and a farmer, who, after coming to this country, passed the remainder of his life in New Hampshire. Josiah K. Rhodes was reared on a farm and learned the cabinet-maker's and joiner's trades, at which he worked for many years. In 1821 he married Miss Mary Brown, a daughter of Robert Brown, a native of Ireland, born in 1795, and came to the United States with her parents when she was five years of age. The parents located in New Jersey, and in that state they spent the rest of their lives.

To Josiah K. Rhodes and his wife there were born four children, as follows: Mary Ann, deceased, who married Pascal I. Horton, of Granville; John S., a farmer of Fort Recovery, Ohio, who enlisted in the Union army as second lieutenant of company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and came out at the close of the war as captain of his company; Martha J., wife of John Millison, cabinet-maker and undertaker of Ostrander, Delaware county, Ohio, and Robert B., the subject of this sketch.

After his marriage Josiah K. Rhodes located in Groton, Caledonia county, Vt., and lived there until 1838, when he removed to Ohio, settling temporarily in Strongsville, Cuyahoga county, where he lived until 1840, and then removed to Licking county. Here he lived until 1861, when he removed with his son, Robert B., to Mercer county, Ohio. Josiah K. Rhodes fought in Canada during the war of 1812–15, and was in his political views a whig until the formation of the republican party, when he united with that organization. During his middle life he was a good deal of a politician, and he was a devoted member of the Baptist church, while his wife was a member of the Covenanter church. She died in July, 1870, and he died in November, 1893.

Robert B. Rhodes was educated in Granville, Licking county, Ohio, and there learned the trade of gunsmith. In that county, also, he was married to Miss Catherine Calvert, October 9, 1859. She is a daughter of Elisha and Sarah (Wichheiser) Calvert, and to their marriage there were born three children: John F., who died in 1882; Martha A. and Jennie L., both at home. The mother of these children was born in Savannah, Athens county, Ohio, November 18, 1840, her father having been one of the early settlers of Delaware county, Ohio.

After his marriage the subject of this sketch settled in Delaware county, where he followed his trade, in which he was very proficient and skillful. In 1860 he removed to Indiana, bought a farm and lived upon it five years, when he sold out and bought a farm in Mercer county, Ohio, where he lived until 1878. During all of this time he carried on his trade as well as his farming. In 1878 he removed to Willshire, where he has lived ever since, and where he worked at his trade until within a few years, and now is living retired from all active labor. In politics he is a stanch republican, with strong predilections toward prohibition. For twelve years Mr. Rhodes has served as mayor of Willshire, and at the present time holds that office. He is a member of the Christian or Disciples' church and has always been prominent in religious matters. He is one of the most public-spirited men in the county, and has done much toward building up the town of Willshire; in fact, he is nearly always the first to move in this direction. He was a most skillful workman in his trade, and through it made a good living for many years.

His younger daughter is a most gifted artist, is a fine musician and an excellent teacher. The elder daughter is the housekeeper, and makes a most successful one, home always being pleasant where she is. His son, who was a very promising young man, died shortly before he was to have graduated, to the great regret of his family and friends. He was the last male descendant of his line, and with his death the last hope of preserving the name to posterity became extinct.

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HARMON FREDERICK RUMP, the popular and enterprising contractor and builder of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of Germany, was born in Whithling, March 4, 1849, and at the early age of seven years was brought to America and landed in New York. From that metropolis he was taken to Saint Louis, Mo., and later to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he made his home for eight years, learning the carpenter's trade while a resident of that city. In 1875, on the 18th day of November, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucette Bell Newcomer, a native of Richland county, Ohio, and in 1876 settled in the city of Van Wert, where he has since been most successfully employed in his present business, in all its various branches. His marriage has been blessed by the birth of two children—Harry, in 1877, and Romane, in 1894. The elder is now a promising young man and is pursuing a course of study in pharmacy at the university at Ann Arbor, Mich.

David Newcomer, the father of Mrs. Lucette Rump, was born in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1827, was reared a farmer, and married Elizabeth Ruth, a native of Richland county, Ohio. In 1857 Mr. Newcomer settled in Van Wert city and at first embarked in the dry-goods business, and later in the grocery trade—in both lines being very successful. In politics he was a warm republican, and after withdrawing from active business was elected to the office of infirmary director, and also to that of township trustee for three years. He is the father of four children, named as follows: Hermie Albert, Lucette Bell, Emma May and Carey Bert, of whom the youngest alone is single and is now in China, attached to the United States man-of-war Detroit. In religion Mr. Newcomer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Rump affiliate with the American Lutheran church, in which both are earnest workers, and to the support of which they are free contributors of their means. In his business Mr. Rump has been quite prosperous and has established a most excellent reputation both as to superiority and his fair and square method of dealing.

THE TAYLOR FAMILY.—Conspicuous among the well-known and successful men of Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was the late Henry Taylor, the leading facts of whose family history are herewith given. His father, Frederick Taylor, was born in 1780, in England, received his education there, and when a young man came to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania, where he married and reared a family of five children. His vocation was that of a wood-worker, in addition to which he gave some attention to agriculture, after becoming a resident of this country. He served seven years in the American army and bore a distinguished part in the war of 1812. He spent the later years of his life in Van Wert county, Ohio, at the home of his son, Henry Taylor, and died in 1860, his wife following him to the grave a few years later. The following are the names of his children: Margaret, wife of William Golliver; Mary, wife of John Stabaugh; Susan, who married John Hipshire, and Henry.

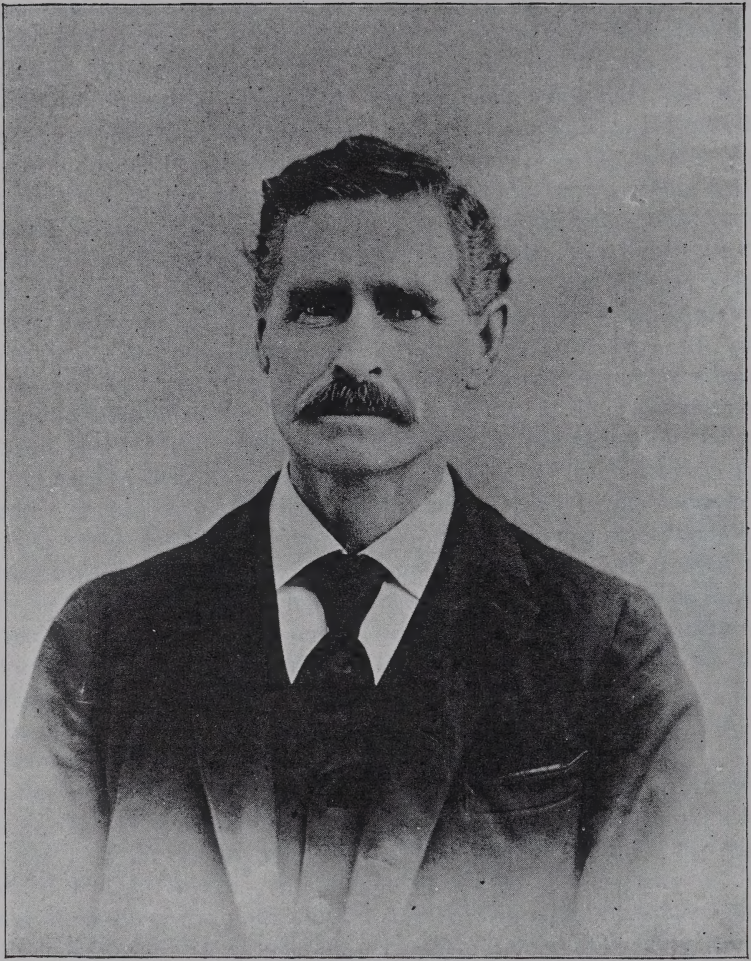
Henry Taylor was born near Harrisburg, Pa., in 1815, was reared a farmer and adopted that as his calling for life. About 1835 he made a trip from eastern Ohio to Van Wert county on horse-back and entered 120 acres of government land in Hoaglin township, after which he returned to his home in the county of Carroll. In 1836 he again came to Van Wert county, and the following year was united in marriage to Naomi Keever, daughter of Jacob and Annie (Hoaglin) Keever. Mrs. Taylor was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, October, 1818, her father having been an early pioneer of that part of the state. When quite young she was brought by her parents to Van Wert county, making the greater part of the journey on horse-back, and here she grew to womanhood on the family farm in Tully township. (See sketch of Aaron Keever.)

After his marriage Mr. Taylor built a rude log cabin for the reception of his young wife, and proceeded to clear a small patch of ground to which the term, field, could not, appropriately, be applied. The next year his small crop failed, in consequence of which he was compelled to abandon his little home for awhile and rent a larger farm, in Allen county, where he lived for two years. He then returned to his former place, went to work with a will, and in due time succeeded in removing the greater part of the forest from his land, and otherwise improving the same, until he had a very good farm in cultivation. In 1855 Mr. Taylor purchased the present home of the family in Union township, which, under his skillful management and industry, became one of the best places in the northern part of the county.

Mr. Taylor was an industrious, enterprising man, and useful, public-spirited citizen; he was noted for his liberal charities and kindness to the poor and unfortunate, and had an enviable standing among the people of his township. In politics he was a stanch democrat, and was frequently honored by his party with elections to local offices; he belonged to that hardy class of early settlers to whom the country owes so much for its development, and whose work tells the story of lives fraught with many hardships and dangers. His death occurred May 14, 1893. Henry and Annie Taylor were the parents of eleven children, only four of whom are living at this time, the others having died in infancy; the names of the surviving are James, a farmer of Union township; Aaron, whose sketch is given in this connection; Anna, wife of Jacob Fronefield, and Sarah, who became the wife of Joseph Goodland.

Aaron Taylor, son of the aforesaid Henry Taylor, is a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, in the common schools of which he received his education and upon his father's farm experienced the first practical duties of life. After remaining under the parental roof about the usual time, he learned the stone-mason's trade, and in 1876 married Emma White, daughter of Obadiah and Hannah (Diprey) White; to this union have been born nine children, viz: James A., Henry F., Roy C., Nora, Lola, Gertrude, Aaron B., Ina and Vera, the last two not living. Mrs. Taylor was born in Pennsylvania in the year of 1858. Left an orphan when but a child, she made her home with her grandfather, Edward Diprey, until her marriage. In 1870, Mr. Taylor enlisted in the regular army, company H, Eleventh United States infantry, and was at once sent to Fort Concho, Tex., where he did scout duty on the frontier, and guarded stage-routes and government property until the expiration of his term of service, in 1875. He ranked as sergeant, and had charge of a wagon and provision train and faithfully performed his duties, as a certificate signed by the officers of his regiment shows. On leaving the army, Mr. Taylor returned to his farm in Union township, the old home place upon which he has since resided. He has made a success of his chosen calling, is practical and progressive, and has proven himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens. He belongs to lodge No. 251, I. O. O. F., in Van Wert, and espouses the cause of the democrat party.

James Taylor, son of Henry Taylor, is a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, where his birth occurred on the 11th day of October, 1839. Like the majority of boys in northwestern Ohio, his youthful years were passed in the routine of farm labor, and his first work for himself was as sawyer in a mill, in which he became very efficient, and worked as such the greater part of the time until 1890, giving some attention in the meantime to agricultural pursuits in his native township. In February, 1864, he enlisted in company H, under Capt. Gleason, Fifteenth Ohio volunteers, was



J. L. Tossey

mustered into the service and sent to Knoxville, Tenn., where his regiment joined the army of Gen. Sherman. He shared the vicissitudes and dangers of his command in the campaigns of Tennessee and Georgia, and took part in a number of bloody battles, among which may be noted Nashville, Franklin, Peach Tree Creek, and other engagements around Atlanta. Later, his regiment was sent to Texas, where he did guard duty until discharged at San Antonio, of that state, in January, 1866. On leaving the army, Mr. Taylor returned to his home in Van Wert county, and the same year married Susan Harvey, daughter of Samuel and Susan (Drake) Harvey; Mrs. Taylor was born in the county of Van Wert about the year of 1841. Mr. Taylor's second marriage was solemnized in 1868, with Mary Diprey, daughter of Edward and Mary Diprey, the result of which union is ten children: Ida, wife of Edward Hullinger; A. E.; Minnie, wife of Thomas Elder; Alice, wife of William Spitzenberger; Garret, Ada, Orvil, Cora, Vera, and an infant, deceased. The mother of these children was born in Berks county, Pa., in 1852, and died November 20, 1887. In March, 1890, Mr. Taylor married his third wife, Mrs. Amanda Kelly, widow of the late John B. Kelly; she was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1855. In 1866, Mr. Taylor purchased his present home in Union township, since which time he has been one of the well known and highly respected citizens of northern Van Wert. He is a democrat in politics, has held various local offices, and fraternally belongs to Van Wert post, No. 100, G. A. R.

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JOSEPH L. TOSSEY, the subject of this sketch, is descended, paternally, from an old New England family, his grandfather, Aaron Tossey, having been born in the town of Brintwood, Rockingham county. N. H., August 10, 1792. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and on the 24th of March, 1814, in Essex county, N. Y., entered into the marriage relation with Elizabeth Delano, who was born April 25, 1787, in Vermont. Aaron and Elizabeth Tossey had the following children: Lorenzo, William, Solon, Stephen D., Philemon (father of Joseph L., our subject), and Elizabeth (wife of John Richards), all deceased but the last two. Aaron Tossey moved to Union county, Ohio, about 1820, and there took up a grant of government land, which he cleared, and upon which he lived till his death, November 7, 1877. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, a great reader and traveler, and he profited much by his experience; his wife died June 28, 1876.

Philemon Tossey, youngest son of the above, and father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Union county, Ohio, January 22, 1826, and there grew to manhood, attending, in the meantime, the indifferent country schools. At the age of twenty he married Judith Graham, daughter of William and Betsey (Bell) Graham, after which he began farming in his native county. In 1851 he disposed of his interests in the county of Union and emigrated to Cumberland county, Ill., where he purchased land and engaged in agriculture. For some time he alternated between his Illinois home and the old place in Union county, living first at one and then at the other, until 1865, when he disposed of his real estate in the west and returned to the scenes of his youth, where he still lives. He is a large farmer and stock raiser, a successful business man, and now has a place consisting of 300 acres, including the homestead, nearly all of which land is in a high state of cultivation. He is a man of local prominence, a democrat in politics, and for a number of years has been a member of the Christian church, to the support of which he contributes liberally of his means. The following are the names of the children born to Philemon and Judith Tossey: Joseph L.; Ziba; William; Betsey died in childhood; James, deceased; Eunice, wife of M. Haggard; Martha, wife of James Edwards; and Lemuel A. The mother of these children was born in Union county, Ohio, September 13, 1827; her father, William Graham, was born October 22, 1800, in Scotland, came to America when quite young, and was one of the earliest pioneers of Union county, Ohio, where his death occurred October 28, 1877; his wife, Betsey (Bell) Graham, was born in Union county, Ohio, November 22, 1803, and departed this life on the 31st day of October, 1848.

Joseph L. Tossey was born in Union county, Ohio, September 21, 1847, and spent his youthful years in the place of his nativity and in Illinois, his father emigrating to the latter state in the year mentioned in a preceding paragraph. His advantages for obtaining an education were limited to the district school in the neighborhood of his father's place in Cumberland county, Ill., remaining there until the spring of 1865, when he returned to his native county with his parents and here he remained with his father, assisting with the work of the farm, until his removal, in 1871, to Union township, Van Wert county. For some time after settling in Union township Mr. Tossey farmed rented land, and in 1876 purchased a small place, to which he has made additions from time to time until he now owns 155 acres, nearly all of which is well improved and in a successful state of cultivation.

On the 5th day of October, 1872, Mr. Tossey and Fannie Samsel, daughter of Peter and Matilda (Baker) Samsel, were made man and wife, and their union has been blessed with three children: Ira P., born December 25, 1876; Clinton, October 13, 1878, and an infant that died unnamed. Mrs. Tossey was born in Richland county, Ohio, March 10, 1854, but has been a resident of the county of Van Wert ever since her early childhood; she is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and moves in the best social circles of the community. Mr. Tossy is one of the successful self-made men of Van Wert county, a practical farmer and most reliable citizen. He takes an active interest in the affairs of the township and commands the respect of all who him. He takes a deep interest in matters educational and is educating both of his sons in the best manner possible. Mr. Tossey is active in politics and stanchly espouses the cause of the democratic party.

MRS. MARY M. THATCHER, widow of Stephen Thatcher, was born in Allen county, Ohio, July 27, 1838, being the daughter of Moses and Mary S. (Watts) McClure. Her father was born in Kentucky, and died September 27, 1884, at the age of eighty-four years, eleven months and seventeen days. Her mother was a native of Urbana, Ohio, and her death occurred March 18, 1888, at which time she had attained the age of seventy-four years, eight months and twenty-two days. The father was identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life, and was among the early settlers in Allen county. Mr. and Mrs. McClure became the parents of ten children: John, a member of company F, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, rose to the rank of lieutenant during his term of service, having been a resident of Paulding county; Samuel, deceased, served throughout the entire Rebellion; Watt is deceased; William is a farmer in the state of Iowa; Sarah died in infancy; Margaret is the wife of Val Huffman, of Putnam county, concerning whom individual mention is made on another page; Mary M. is the immediate subject of this review; James is deceased; Moses is a resident of Lima, and served throughout the war; and Nathaniel also served throughout the entire war of the Rebellion as a member of the Fourth Ohio cavalry.

The father of Mrs. Thatcher continued his farming operations in Allen county until within five years prior to his death, and then removed to Paulding county, where he passed the residue of his life; after his death the health of the mother became seriously impaired, and she thereafter maintained her home with her daughter, Mrs. Thatcher, until she was summoned into eternal rest. She was a member of the Christian church, and her husband was a believer in the doctrines of Christianity, though not identified with any religious organization, but yet a close student of the Bible. In politics he was a stanch supporter of the democratic party.

The immediate subject of this review was reared and educated in Allen county, and there, on the 19th of May, 1853, was consummated her marriage to Daniel Wollet, and they became the parents of six children, viz: Joseph C., of Lima, Ohio; Mary S., born April 14, 1858, deceased, her death having occurred December 21, 1866; Lydia M., born January 9, 1860, is the wife of John Holt, of Putnam county; Sarah Elizabeth, born August 24, 1861, became the wife of William Wallace, and her death occurred December 5, 1889; and Charles E., born November 6, 1865, died February 7, 1870. Our subject's marriage to Stephen Thatcher was celebrated on the 5th of July, 1871. Mr. Thatcher was born in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1847, being the son of Marshall and Jane (Kerry) Thatcher. His death occurred January 18, 1884, at which time he had attained the age of thirty-seven years. His adopted son, Charles Edward, died one hour later. Mr. Thatcher saw active service in the late war of the Rebellion, having enlisted, on the 15th of February, 1864, as a member of company A, Fifty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry; he participated in fifteen different battles, and at Atlanta received a severe wound. He was a prisoner at Andersonville for two months, and he was honorably discharged from service July 4, 1865. By vocation he was a farmer, was a member of the Friends' church, and in politics was a democrat. Mrs. Thatcher also is a member of the Society of Friends, and is an earnest and devoted christian woman.

After her marriage our subject maintained her residence in Lafayette, Allen county, for two years, and then removed to Van Wert county, where she remained until December, 1882, when she took up her abode in the city, where she holds the respect and esteem of all who know her.

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THEODORE THATCHER, a well known citizen of Jackson township, Van Wert county, and an ex-soldier, was born in Kalida, Putnam county, August 17, 1843, and comes from an old Ohio family of English descent. His father, James Thatcher, was a single man when he came from Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, settled at Kalida, and married Abigail Cary, to which union were born eleven children, viz: Hester A., John, Washington, Lydia A., Stephen, Martin, Theodore, Louisa, James, Alonzo and Abraham. Mr. Thatcher moved to Delphos, Ohio, before the end came, lived to be an aged man, and died at the residence of our subject in his seventy-eighth year, a member of the Methodist church and in politics a democrat. One of his sons, James, served in company I, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, was captured at the battle of Murfreesboro, and died in prison at Danville, Va.

Theodore Thatcher was between nineteen

and twenty years of age when he enlisted, August 21, 1862, in company I, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three years or during the war, but, on account of the termination of hostilities, received an honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, June 22, 1865. He took an active part in the following battles: Kingstone, Tenn., December 4, 1863; Mossy Creek, December 29, 1863; Morristown, March 10, 1864; Buzzard's Roost, Ga., May 9, 1864; Dallas, May 29, 1864; Lost Mountain, June 15, 1864; Pine Mountain, June 19, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, July 1, 1864; Chattahoochee Heights, July 9, 1864; Decatur, July 19, 1864; Resaca; Atlanta, July 29 to August 1, 1864; Lovejoy Station, September 4, 1864; Rome, October 13, 1864; Columbia, Tenn., November 27-28, 1864; Springfield, November 29, 1864; Franklin, November 30, 1864, and Nashville, December 15, 1864—making a splendid record for one so young as a soldier. His experience in the famous Atlanta campaign extended through a period of three months and twenty-eight days, all the time under fire, and no comment can add to the glory of so gallant and glorious a service.

While at home on a furlough, Mr. Thatcher was married, December 28, 1862, to Miss Margaret Hughes, who was born February 28, 1846, in Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher have reared two adopted children—James Rogers and Lucinda Thatcher, the latter a daughter of his brother, Washington. Mr. Thatcher, at the close of his military service, returned to Ohio and made his home in Van Wert county, but did not settle on his present farm in Jackson township until 1874, and this he has cleared up from the woods and has made of it a neat, tidy and comfortable home. He and wife are consistent members of the United Brethren church, and in politics Mr. Thatcher votes with the republican party. Socially he is much thought of by his neighbors, and well deserves the esteem in which he is held as a citizen and neighbor.

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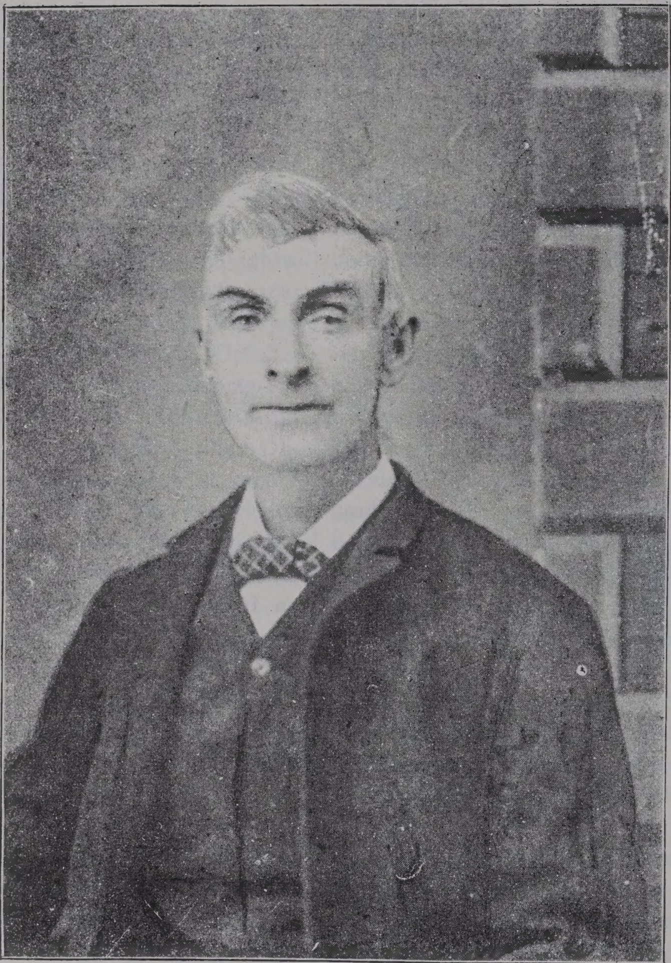
JONATHAN TUMBLESON, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, March 26, 1828, and is a son of John and Susannah (Bowers) Tumbleton. The birth of John Tumbleson occurred in Pennsylvania about 1800, and when but a lad he came with his parents to Ohio, the family being among the early settlers of the county of Wayne. Later, he went to Tuscarawas county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, remaining there until 1838, when he changed his residenee to the county of Allen, thence, two years later, moved to Van Wert county, locating in Pleasant township, where he had previously purchased a tract of unimproved land. He at once erected a small log house, began the task of removing the forest, and in due season developed a good farm, upon which he lived until the latter part of the sixties, when he disposed of his place and emigrated to Polk county, Iowa.

John Tumbleson was married, about 1822, to Susannah Bowers, and the following are the names of their children: James, Joseph, Jonathan, Daniel, Eliza J. (wife of Samuel Miller), Franklin, Florella (wife of Eli Lane), and George. Mrs. Susannah Tumbleson was born in Bedford county, Pa., about the beginning of the present century, was reared in the Lutheran faith, but at the time of her death was a member of the German Baptist, or Dunkard church. Mr. Tumbleson subscribed to the Methodist creed, was originally a whig in politics, and later became a republican. He was called to fill, at different times, positions of honor and trust, and was one of the useful citizens of the community. He was a man of much natural



JONATHAN TUMBLESON

MRS. JONATHAN TUMBLESON.

genius, readily adapted himself to any circumstance, and wherever he lived enjoyed, in full measure, the esteem and confidence of all of his fellow-citizens.

Jonathan Tumbleson, the immediate subject of this biography, received an English education in the little log school-houses, common many years ago, in Tuscarawas and Van Wert counties, and on attaining his majority, went to LaGrange county, Ind., where he learned the plasterer's trade. In 1850 he returned to Van Wert county and entered into a partnership with Lewis Heigh, with whom he worked for a period of ten years, at the end of which time, in 1860, he purchased his pleasant farm in Pleasant township, where he has since resided. As is well known, the country at that time was but sparsely settled, and Mr. Tumbleson did his full share toward its development, clearing the woods from his land, under-draining the same, and otherwise improving it, until he now has a well-cultivated farm, supplied with good buildings and all the necessary equipments of modern agriculture. As a farmer he is progressive, and in addition to tilling the soil pays considerable attention to stock-raising, in which his success has been most encouraging. He is active in promoting the best interests of his community, supports the republican party, and has been honored by his fellow-citizens by an election to the office of trustee, the duties of which position he has discharged very satisfactorily for several years.

On the 15th of August, 1850, Mr. Tumbleson and Lucinda J. Eller were united in the bonds of wedlock. Mrs. Tumbleson is a daughter of Frederick and Eliza J. (Huston) Eller, and was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1836. The following are the names of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Tumbleson: Clara A., who died in infancy; Alice D., wife of I. C. Warner; George W.; Emma, wife of Albert Terry; Alfred S.; Elmore, deceased; Eliza J., wife of James Bowers; Mary, wife of John Kreider; Addie B., wife of F. Arnold; Susan, wife of John Eckfelt; Onoma, wife of Ken Gamble; Rosa, wife of Adam Gilliland; Birdie, Frank J., Cecelia and Charles.

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THOMAS MARION THORPE, postmaster of Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, is also a thoroughly accomplished salesman, and for the past ten years has been in the employ of Henry Althoen, hardware merchant of Willshire. His grandfather, William Thorpe, was a native of England, where he was married, and a few years after that event occurred, sought a home in the United States. Benjamin F. Thorpe, son of William, was born on Albion's isle, and was an infant in his mother's arms when brought to this country. For some years after reaching maturity he followed agricultural pursuits, and during this period married Cynthia Feebus, to which union were born the following children: Daniel O., Jemima, Isaiah (deceased), James (deceased), Darius, Frank, Thomas M., and Nancy (deceased). For eight years the father, quitting agriculture, was engaged in general merchandising at LaPorte, Ind., and at the same time conducted an insurance agency. From LaPorte the family moved to Three Rivers, Mich., where, for several years, the father was a confirmed invalid and eventually died; his widow subsequently made her home with her son, Thomas M., in Willshire, where she was called to her final rest February 3, 1883.

Thomas M. Thorpe was born in Elkhart county, Ind., November 6, 1844, received a good common-school education, and December 9, 1860, enlisted in company F, First Michigan light artillery, and served his country three years and six months with true valor and patriotism. He was active in the campaigns in

Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, and was, in fact, in all the battles of the army of the Cumberland, in which his regiment had a hand, from Richland, Ky., in 1861, to Nashville, Tenn., in December, 1864. The following are the principal engagements that Mr. Thorpe engaged in while a member of the Cumberland army, viz: Elizabeth, Ky., Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh, siege of Corinth, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Stone River, Resaca, and then on the Atlantic campaign and at the fall of Atlanta; then, under Gen. Thomas' command, was at the battle of Franklin and second battle of Nashville. During this long period of service, he was never sick, wounded nor taken prisoner. March 6, 1885, Mr. Thorpe was happily married to Mary F. Alspaugh, daughter of Ansley and Margaret (Dellinger) Alspaugh, to which union were born three children, viz: Otto, Cynthia and Eugene, all still living to gladden the home of their father, the mother having been called away to a still brighter home, March 13, 1894. Mr. Thorpe owns a tasteful modern village residence, with very pleasant surroundings. He is a democrat in politics, has served as township clerk, pike commissioner, and was appointed postmaster August 18, 1893. Fraternally he is a Mason, and was worshipful master for six years of Willshire lodge, No. 402; he is also a member of the chapter and council at Van Wert, and a member of Heath post, No. 351, G. A. R., at Willshire. Socially he stands very high and every one knows him as a genial and accomodating salesman for Henry Althoen, with whom he has been for so many years associated.

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JOHN T. THOMAS, of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Wales, where his birth occurred March 8, 1830. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Davis) Thomas, were also natives of that country, and the following are the names of their children: William, a resident of Allen county; Thomas, deceased; David, deceased; John; Hugh T., a farmer of Jennings township; Evan and Edward, the last two dead.

John T. Thomas remained in his native land until attaining his majority, at which time, in 1851, he came to the United States, locating first in Pennsylvania; then moved to Paddy's Run, Ohio; thence, the following year, went to Cincinnati, where for about six years he worked at the trade of boiler making. In 1858, he came from Cincinnati to the county of Van Wert and purchased eighty acres of land in Jennings township, all of which, with the exception of three acres, was unimproved. He at once set about erecting a cabin, and making other improvements, and in September, 1861, brought to his new home a helpmate, in the person of Miss Margaret Richards, to whom he was united in marriage on the 21st day of the aforesaid month, Since moving to Van Wert county, Mr. Thomas has given the greater part of his attention to agriculture, and has met with well merited success in that useful calling. He owns a pleasant home of eighty-seven acres, upon which he has recently erected a modern brick residence, and in addition to the place where he lives has land in the township of York. Mr. Thomas was one of the first men to introduce the manufacture of drain tiling in Van Wert county, and to him, as much as to any other individual, is due the credit of encouraging the present successful system of underdrainage, by means of which so much land has been reclaimed and made fruitful. He also manufactured brick for some years, and supplied building material for many of the best residences in the county of Van Wert. Mr. Thomas' has held every official position in the Calvinistic church, being at this time an elder of the local congregation, and also trustee. In township affairs, he has been active in promoting the material interests of the country, having been called to fill various offices, at different times.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are the parents of six children, viz: Jeannett died in childhood; Hugh R., a farmer, married Miss Lizzie Ann George, whose father is one of the best known and highly respected citizens of York township. The third in order of birth is Robert, a merchant of Venedocia, who wedded Ann Morris; Mary R. is the wife of William G. Jones, of Allen county; Thomas R. is a medical student of Chicago, Ill., and Sarah Elizabeth is still with her parents. The parents of Mrs. Thomas, Robert and Jeannett (Owens) Richards, were natives of Wales. Robert Richards came with his family to America, going direct to Racine, Wis., where he remained three years, when he moved to Van Wert county, Ohio, locating in York township, where he purchased a farm and spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1875 at the age of seventy-five years. There were but five Welsh families in Van Wert county when Mr. Richards arrived; his children, three in number, were as follows: Margaret, Hugh and Richard, the last-named of whom died in the old country.

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EZRA THOMAS, deceased, was a native of Perry county, Ohio, and was born August 2, 1834, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Miller) Thomas, also natives of Ohio. The father was a well-to-do-farmer, and both he and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both parents breathed their last in Perry county, where they had reared a family of six children, viz: Elizabeth, wife of J. Gaines; Ezra, our subject; Lucretia, deceased; Wesley, of Perry county; Jacob, deceased, and Almeda, wife of W. Turner, of Picking county, Ohio.

Ezra Thomas was educated principally in the common schools of his native county and also at the Rushville academy. He followed farming until 1865, when he went to New Salem, Fairfield county, Ohio, where he was for a short time engaged in the hotel business, and later in the dry-goods trade, until 1870, when he located in the Van Wert and opened in a book and stationery store, which he profitably conducted until his death, which took place April 27, 1873. He was married in Van Wert, June, 1869, to Miss Anna Rebecca Pennell, who was born in New Salem, Fairfield county, Ohio, October 12, 1845, and is a sister of William Pennell, of whom an extended notice is given elsewhere. To the brief but happy marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were born two children, of whom the elder, Albert, was early called away, dying at the home of his mother of that fell disease, consumption, at the age of about twenty-four years—honored by a large circle of friends, not only for his sterling qualities of noble young manhood, but also for a genius that promised a bright and useful future. The younger child born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, named Malvern E., is at present a popular young druggist of Van Wert.

Ezra Thomas, in religion, was a believer in the doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was an active and pious member, and was also a leading and active member in the Sunday-school. In politics he was a republican, and in the early days of the Rebellion did good and faithful service as a soldier. He enlisted in Rushville, Ohio, October 11, 1861, in company D, Sixty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served until honorably discharged, January 16, 1862. He next enlisted at Jamesville, in company C, One Hundred and Sixtieth regiment Ohio volunteers, in which he served as corporal until his final discharge. He was subsequently granted a pension of $12 per month, which, with back pay, amounting in all to $2,222.38, was recently turned over to his widow; he also left real estate, including a business room on West Main street, and a valuable dwelling.

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SIMON TIMBERS, a reliable and substantial farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born at Amanda, in Fairfield county, May 31, 1845. His father, Reuben Timbers, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1807, was an orphan, and served an apprenticeship of five years at the blacksmith's trade. When a young man he came to Ohio, settled at Amanda, Fairfield county, and there married Barbara Kessler, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, which union resulted in the birth of eleven children, viz: Peter, George, Sarah, Eli, William, Simon, Charles, John, Mary Ann, Reuben and Alice—the eldest eight being born in Fairfield county, and the youngest three in Van Wert county, to which county Mr. Timbers moved about 1853, and bought 176 acres of land in the woods of Washington township, now occupied by his son Simon, our subject. After clearing up this farm, Reuben Timbers here died, in 1883, at the age of seventy-six years, a member of the Methodist church, and in politics a republican—greatly respected by his fellow-citizens and sincerely mourned by his surviving family.

Of the above-named children, George, Eli, William and Simon were soldiers in the late Civil war—George and Eli in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry. George served about eighteen months, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability; Eli served through his full term and veteranized, was wounded and taken prisoner at Murfreesboro, was confined in Libby prison two months, was exchanged, and finally received an honorable discharge on account of his wounds; William served nine months in the Fifty-fifth Ohio infantry, and was honorably discharged at the cessation of hostilities.

Simon Timbers was a lad of but eight years when brought to Van Wert county by his parents, was here reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools. July 1, 1863, he enlisted, at Van Wert, in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Walter T. Davis, to serve three years or during the war, and faithfully executed his duty as a soldier until honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, July 3, 1865, the war being at that time at an end. His service was principally performed at this camp, guarding prisoners, of which there were at one time from 12,000 to 15,000 in confinement. These rebels were treated well and were fed with good and wholesome rations, and were strong, resolute men, when contrasted with the unfortunate Union soldiers brought in for exchange, who were so emaciated as to be hardly able to walk, and many so far weakened by starvation in southern prison pens that they had to be carried.

While in the performance of his duty, Mr. Timbers was seized with typhoid fever, which caused his confinement in hospital about three months, and, going on duty again when but convalescent, was permanently injured. He was ruptured while on duty, on the memorable "cold New Year's day" of 1864—the coldest day for many years and well remembered by soldiers and old settlers alike. After the war Mr. Timbers returned to his home and former employment. December 24, 1874, he married Miss Maggie Carpenter, who was born July 4, 1850, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a daughter of William and Susan (Ream) Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter came to Van Wert county about 1851 and cleared up from the woods a farm of 160 acres, and is the father of twelve children—Wilson, Jane, Ann, Rebecca, Maggie, David, Emma, Clara, Lincoln, Minerva, Lucetta and Nora. He is still living on his farm, an honored citizen. His son William was a soldier in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio infantry, fought in many battles, and for a long time was confined in a rebel prison. Mr. Timbers, after his marriage, partly cleared up a farm in Washington township, then moved to another farm, which he also partly cleared and resided upon until 1891, when he entered upon his present handsome estate, which is the old homestead. His happy marriage with Miss Carpenter has been blessed with five children—Nellie, Ova, Earnest, Harley and Price—ane is very comfortably and happily situated. He and wife are consistent members of the Methodist church, and in politics he is a republican. He has been an industrious man, but this industry has been guided by an intelligence that has resulted in a competency. He is recognized as a truly honorable man and as a useful and worthy citizen, and but few men in the township stand in a more favorable light in the esteem of their fellow-men than he.

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JOHN A. TOMLINSON, one of the prominent and thoroughly competent agriculturists of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, as a native of Mercer county, in the same state, and was born October 11, 1848. His father, Joseph Tomlinson, was also a native of the Buckeye state, and was born in 1824, in Madison county. The mother of our subject, Mary (Arnold) Tomlinson, was born in Fayette county, Ohio. Joseph Tomlinson was taken, about the year 1836, from his native county to Mercer county, he being then twelve years of age, by his paternal grandfather, John Tomlinson. Joseph was reared to manhood in Mercer county, where he still resides, a prosperous farmer and land owner. To his marriage with Miss Mary Arnold have been born the following children: Elias, who died in childhood; John A., the subject of this sketch; Elijah, a farmer of Mercer county; Madison, of York township, Van Wert county; Rachael, widow of Edward Hughes, a late conductor on the Panhandle railroad—Mrs. Hughes being now a resident of Indianapolis, Ind.; Nancy, wife of George Pritchard, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Priscilla, deceased; Charles, residing on the old homestead in Mercer county, and Ida, wife of Walter Nichols, also of Mercer county. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tomlinson are devout members of the Methodist church; in politics Mr. Tomlinson is a republican and for many years has served as trustee of Union township, Mercer county, where he is highly esteemed by the citizens.

John A. Tomlinson was reared on the home farm, where he rendered his father most valuable assistance. November 4, 1873, he was united in wedlock with Miss Martha E. Gilliland, daughter of Adam and Sarah Gilliland, of whom mention is made in detail elsewhere in this volume. To this genial union have been born eight children, in the following order: Mabel, Edward, Lulu, Bertha, Wilma, Clarence, and two that died in infancy. In 1872 Mr. Tomlinson bought seventy acres of land in York township, Van Wert county, but this tract he disposed of in 1882, and bought his present handsome place, containing 140 acres, in Ridge township, which he has converted into a model farm. In politics Mr. Tomlinson is a republican, and in 1889 was elected assessor of his township; in 1890 he was elected township clerk and was re-elected in 1894, and has always performed the duties of the office in a most satisfactory manner.

He and wife are devoted members of the Methodist church, and socially hold a high position with the citizens of Ridge township.

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WILLIAM V. TOPE, a rising young farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, was born in Allen county, Ohio, March 5, 1852, and is of German descent. His grandfather, George Tope, was married in Virginia and soon afterward came to Ohio, and located in Carroll county, where he erected a grist-mill, which still bears his name, and in Carroll county he and his wife both died. Their son, Levi Tope, who was a native of the county of Carroll, was born December 25, 1813, and was reared in his father's mill. His education was acquired in the common schools and he also obtained a fair knowledge of music, becoming an instructor in the vocal branch of that art. He married Miss Sarah Davis, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Melville) Davis, to which union were born the following children: Hiram J., Martha A., George D., Eli H. (deceased), Catherine, Sarah E. (deceased), William V., Melville F. and Celina (deceased). For some time after marriage Levi Tope continued to work in the grist-mill and then entered a farm of eighty acres in Allen county, but afterward sold this place, and, in 1861, came to Van Wert county and bought 155 acres in Willshire township; here his wife died March 18, 1872, and here, also, his own death followed November 14, 1889.

William V. Tope has always been a farmer and received the common-school education usually falling to the lot of farmers' lads. November 29, 1879, he married Miss Myra B. Smith, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Read) Smith, but his connubial bliss, in this instance, was of short duration, as his bride died May 16, 1881, in the full faith of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Tope next married Miss Alverda B. Beiler, daughter of Cicero and Mary J. (LaRue) Beiler, and this union was crowned by the birth of two children—Roy B. and Goldie B., the latter deceased. Mrs. Alverda Tope was a devout Baptist, who never failed to attend divine services, and in the sanctification of that faith was called away May 26, 1888. The third marriage of Mr. Tope was with Miss C. Viola Snyder, daughter of Martin and Minerva (Agler) Snyder, whose other children were named Melissa Emma B., and Minerva (deceased). To Mr. Tope's third marriage has been born one child—Ray F. The farm of Mr. Tope comprises seventy-seven and a half acres of good arable land, and is under an advanced state of cultivatoin, suggested by the most approved modern theories of agricultural development. In politics Mr. Tope is a democrat and has been elected to the office of township trustee; in religion he is a Baptist and is a deacon in his church—while his wife is a member of the United Brethren church; fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, and is a noble grand of Willshire lodge, No. 813; he was also a charter member of Willshire grange, P. of H., and for five years was master thereof, but the grange is now defunct; he likewise was a charter member and first president of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit lodge—Honey Hook lodge No. 5,580—and is altogether a progressive and enterprising citizen, who enjoys the respect of the entire community.

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WILLIAM A. TOWNSEND, a well-to-do farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 16, 1849, and is a son of Jesse and Jane (Maxwell) Townsend—the former of whom was born in eastern Ohio, April 7, 1812, and was a son of Benjamin Townsend, of Welsh descent.

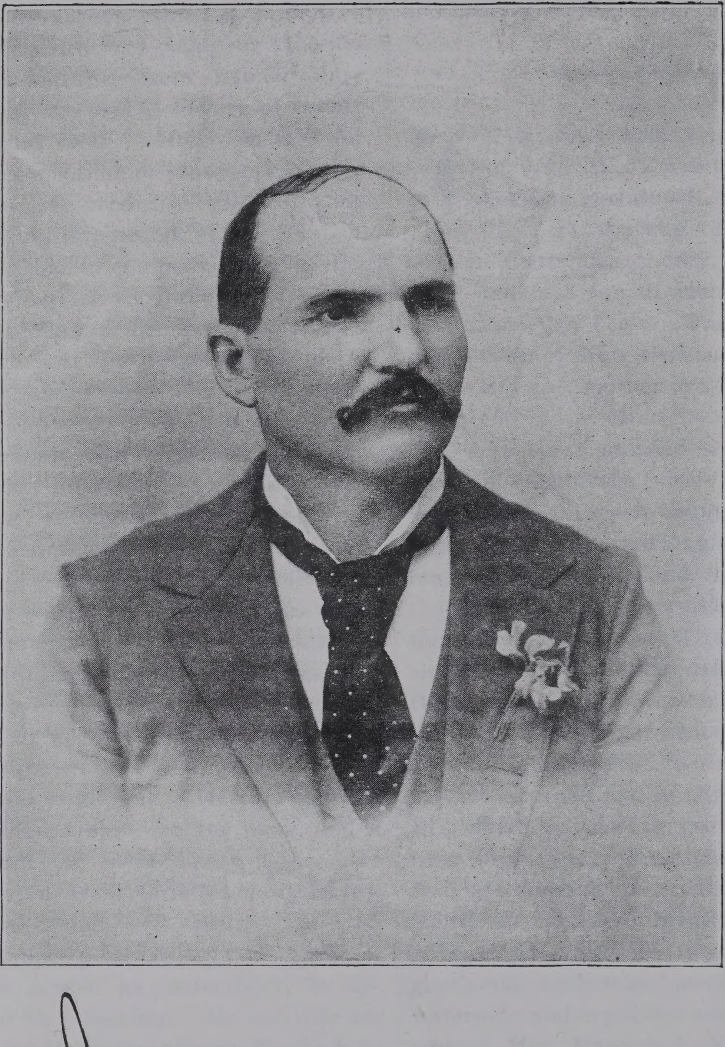
Jesse Townsend, one of the seven children, was reared a farmer, and about 1833 married Miss Maxwell, also a native of the eastern part of Ohio, and born in 1813, the result of this union being ten children, who were born in the following order: A daughter who died in infancy; Aaron, deceased; Alvina, widow of James Nelson, of Mercer county; Jacob Neisley, deceased; Melvina, widow of William Fryar, of Mercer county; Sarah, deceased wife of E. Slantz; Frank, deceased member of the Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry; Rebecca, deceased wife of L. Price; William A., of this mention, and Mary, wife of J. Miller, of Jennings township. After marriage Jesse Townsend located in Columbiana county and farmed until the fall of 1849, when he moved to Van Wert county, Ohio, and bought a quarter section of land, on part of which our subject now lives. Here his wife died May 17, 1868, a member of the Church of God, and for his second wife he chose Mrs. Sarah (Partner) Sheets. Mr. Townsend was in politics a stanch republican, and for several terms served as township trustee; in religion, he was first an adherent of the Church of the Disciples, but later became a Baptist, and in the latter faith he died December 30, 1879, an honored and useful citizen. His widow, Mrs. Sarah (Sheets) Townsend, then married Richard Hantz, and is now a resident of Spencerville, Allen county.

William A. Townsend, like his father, was reared a farmer, and received a good literary education in Jennings township. At the age of eighteen years he became a school-teacher, and for eleven years taught in Van Wert and adjoining counties. March 25, 1875, he married Miss Mary Sheets, who was born in Salem township, Anglaize county, Ohio, October 3, 1856, a daughter of Harrison and Sarah (Partner) Sheets, of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend has been blessed by the birth of four children, viz: Mabel, wife of Elijah Goodwin, a teacher of Elgin; Ethel, Frank, and Pearl. After marriage Mr. Townsend settled on his home place, where he still resides, engaged in farming. He is a stanch republican in politics, and has served two terms as township trustee. As a member of the Church of God, he has been an elder for several years and has filled other offices. Fraternally, he is a member of the F. M. B. A. He is liberal and public-spirited as a citizen, as a farmer is enterprising and successful, and as a neighbor is respected by all who know him.

ELIJAH TRACY, a highly respected old settler and farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born April 15, 1832, in Licking county, Ohio, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Tracy) Tracy—the mother, although bearing the same family name, being nevertheless of no known relationship. Tego Taacy, the founder of the family in America, came from England in colonial days, and a descendant, John Tracy, Sr., paternal grandfather of our subject, was a farmer of Westmoreland county, Pa., where John Tracy, Jr., his son, was born, and whence he moved to Licking county, Ohio, thence to Jefferson county, thence to Franklin county, Ohio, and thence to Michigan; in 1852 he returned to Ohio and located in Van Wert county, but in 1855 emigrated to Iowa, where he entered eighty acres of land, and died, about 1865, at the age of eighty-seven years. He was highly respected, and for two years served as clerk of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and was twice elected treasurer of his township in Monroe county, Iowa; he and his wife were parents of eight children, viz: Mary A., Keziah, Sarah, Ruth, Elijah, Basil, John and one that died young.

Elijah Tracy was twenty years of age when he came to Van Wert county with his parents. Two years later, January 5, 1854, he married Sarah Reed, daughter of Daniel Reed, whose biography will be found on another page. To this marriage have been born six children, of whom two died when very young, and the four that grew to maturity were named Mary, Victor, Ulysses (who died at the age of twenty-four years) and Dora. After marriage Mr. Tracy resided some time in Jennings township, and, later on, removed to Tully township. August 13, 1862, he enlisted, at Spencerville, Allen county, Ohio, in company A, Eighty-first Ohio infantry, to serve three years, if not sooner discharged, and this event occurred at the end of one year and four months, in December, 1863, owing to disability, which resulted from exposure. He had done duty chiefly at Memphis, Tenn., and on a very hot day he, and fifty men from his regiment, were detailed to bury an officer with the honors of war, and were double-quicked four miles back to camp, Mr. Tracy becoming over heated and then drenched with a heavy rain storm, which came down unexpectedly. The next day he was seized with hemorrhage of the lungs, was soon found to be in a very critical condition, and was sent to hospital at Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was pronounced incurable, honorably discharged, and sent home. Here he was sick a long time and unable to do any work, and is even now unfit for any ordinary labor. He has, however, a good farm of forty acres, nicely improved and well tilled. He is a member of Capper post, No. 153, G. A. R., of which he has served as commander, by appointment, to fill a vacancy. He and wife are members of the Methodist church, in which he has held the office of steward, and in politics he is a republican, under which party he has served as township supervisor. Mr. Tracy and his family are greatly respected by the community. His daughter, Mary, is married to John Lare, a farmer of Tully township, and has four children: Victor, his son, married Jane Close, and has two children; Dora, the youngest daughter, is married to Oscar Baxter, and has one child.

JOHN VAN LIEW, clerk of the courts of Van Wert county, Ohio, and the present cashier of the First National bank of the city of Van Wert, was born in Crittenden county, Ark., October 18, 1851, and is a son of Henry C. and Hannah J. (Foster) Van Liew. The father was born in the town of New Brunswick, N. J., May 7, 1825, and the mother in Memphis, Tenn., in 1833, and in the latter city the couple first met and were there married in 1848. They resided in Tennessee until 1851, when they located in Crittenden county, Ark., where the father followed farming until 1854, when the family came to Richland county, Ohio, where the father continued farming until 1855, when they returned to De Witt, Mich., where he engaged in the lumber trade until 1856; he then continued in the same business for a year in Mansfield, Ohio, whence they removed to Columbia City, Ind.; thence, in 1860, moved to Larwell, Ind., and in 1870 went to Chicago, Ill., where he was engaged in the drug business until 1872, when they returned to Indiana and located at South Bend, where Mr. Van Liew handled drugs until his death, which occurred in 1888. He was a finely educated gentleman, an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, and in politics was a democrat. The widow, Mrs. Hannah J. Van Liew, still resides in Chicago, the mother of five children, viz: Alpheus O., a druggist of Lakeville, Ind.; John, whose name opens this sketch; Julia, deceased; Thomas, deceased; and Thomas L.,



Jno Van Liew

MRS. EMMA A. VAN LIEW.

clerk in the office of the Chicago, Milwaukee & Saint Paul Railroad company at Chicago.

John Van Liew led a somewhat nomadic life with his parents until 1865, when he began his business life as a brakeman on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad, which position he held for one year and then acted as clerk for the freight agent of the company at Columbia City, Ind., until transferred to Larvill, Ind., where he filled the position of acting agent until 1871, when he was transferred to Ada, Ohio, where he became agent for the company, and in 1877 came to Van Wert, where he filled the position of agent until 1887, when he resigned to accept the position of general freight and passenger agent of the Ohio division of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad company, but a year later retired on account of a change of administration. No more competent gentleman could have been chosen to fill these responsible positions, and his retirement from the employ of the company was by far a greater loss to it than to himself. The two succeeding years were passed in traveling through the western states in pursuit of pleasure and business. In politics Mr. Van Liew is a democrat, and in 1889 he was elected common pleas clerk of Van Wert county, and so faithfully and ably did he perform the duties of the office, that he was triumphantly re-chosen for the same position in 1892. During his second term he was solicited, January 19, 1895, to accept the position of cashier of the First National bank of Van Wert, and this position he at present most ably fills. Mr. Van Liew was chosen clerk of the courts of Van Wert county by a most flattering majority, and is the present incumbent of that position of honor and trust. The marriage of Mr. Van Liew was happily consummated in Larwell, Ind., February 9, 1869, with Miss Emma A. Robinson, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, August 8, 1852, a daughter of S. F. and Mary Robinson, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two daughters: Lou E., wife of C. L. McFadden, and Winifred, at home. Mr. Van Liew is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine, and is probably to-day the most popular man in Van Wert county with all classes. He is foremost in every enterprise worthy of support, and a potent factor in its successful prosecution. His integrity is without a blemish and his word is as acceptable to a creditor as a doubly endorsed promissory note. No work of this character would be complete without mention of this talented man of business. To know John Van Liew (and who does not know him?) is to know one of the most genial and popular gentleman of the county and state.

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THOMAS J. TRIPPY, a prominent member of the Van Wert bar, is a native of the county of Van Wert, Ohio, and son of Levi and Matilda Trippy. Levi Trippy was born November 13, 1823, in Columbiana county, Ohio, of English-German ancestry; and the mother, whose maiden name was Matilda Fisher, a native of Pennsylvania, dates her birth from the 7th day of March, 1833, her family being of German-Irish origin. They were married December 19, 1851, in Van Wert county, and have since been well-known residents of Jennings township, where Mr. Trippy owns a well improved farm in the oil belt. To Levi and Matilda Trippy have been born the following children: Henry N., of Jennings township; Mary, wife of William Haver, of Van Wert county; Thomas J., whose name introduces this sketch; George, deceased; Anna, wife of L. L. Rupert, of Allen county, Ind.; Susan, wife of William Fisher; Jennie, wife of H. Haver; William H., and Nora, at home.

Thomas J. Trippy was born and reared to manhood on the home farm in Jennings township, received his early education in the common schools, and later attended the Normal school at Ada, Ohio, where he made substantial progress in the higher branches of learning. For some time after leaving the latter institution, Mr. Trippy engaged in teaching, which profession he had previously entered, having taught his first term at the early age of nineteen years. He continued in educational work for eleven successive years, a part of which time he was located in the town of Spencerville, where, for four years, he was engaged in merchandising, in partnership with J. M. Bond. Finding the mercantile trade not to his taste, Mr. Trippy severed his connection with the same, and effected a co-partnership in the real estate and insurance business with J. J. Miller, which firm continued until 1892. In the meantime, having decided to make the legal profession a life work, Mr. Trippy pursued a course of reading, and, in the summer of the same year, entered the law department of Ada university, from which he was graduated in the fall of 1893. He was admitted to the bar October 5, 1893, at Columbus, Ohio, and immediately thereafter engaged in the practice at Van Wert, where his ability soon won for him recognition among his professional brethren, and a lucrative business in the courts of this and adjoining counties. In the fall of 1894 Mr. Trippy, was nominated, by the republican party, candidate for prosecuting attorney, and at the ensuing election received a majority of 485 over his competitor, and upon the 1st of January, 1895, entered upon the discharge of his official functions. Mr. Trippy bears the reputation of an able and pains-taking lawyer and of being a safe counselor, and has been successful since his admission to the bar. In every capacity, professional and official, he has discharged his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public, and by his genial, kind-hearted and courteous conduct, has won for himself a prominent place in the estimation of the public.

Mr. Trippy was married in Allen county, Ohio, May 26, 1881, to Cynthia Rupert, a native of the same county and state, whose birth occurred on the 25th day of February, 1862. Mrs. Trippy is a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (McMillan) Rupert, and is the mother of two bright boys, Clarence W. and John H.; she is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and moves in the best social circles of the city. Mr. Trippy has been successful in the accumulation of means, owning a nice residence property on Wall street; he is a member of the Pythian order and has before him a future of much promise.

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SCHUYLER SIMPSON TUTTLE, M. D., a young and popular physician of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in this city September 1, 1869, and is a son of M. H. and Mary J. (Murphy) Tuttle. He received his preparatory education in the county schools and at the Middlepoint academy, graduating from the latter in 1885, when he entered the office of T. S. Gilliland, of Lima, Ohio, as book-keeper, remained a short time only, and then for two terms taught school in Union township, this county, at the conclusion of which he began the study of medicine under Dr. E. L. Wilkinson, of Van Wert, and after a year's reading under his able instruction, read the following year at home, and then passed a year at the Newburg Insane asylum at Cleveland; then entered the Rush Medical college of Chicago, from which he graduated March 28, 1892, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Van Wert, where he has met with phenomenal success for one so newly admitted to association with high-rank medical practitioners.

The doctor was joined in wedlock, in Van Wert, October 4, 1893, to Miss Mary C. Clay, a native of Mendon, Ohio, born October 24, 1872, and a daughter of John Clay, also a native of the Buckeye state. One son was born to this union November 16, 1894, viz: Miles Henderson. Mrs. Tuttle is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the doctor is a member of the order of Maccabees and the Independant order of Odd Fellows, as well as the the Northwestern Ohio Medical association and the Van Wert county Medical society, in all of which he is very highly esteemed; in politics he affiliates with the republicans, and his position in the social circles of Van Wert, like that of his aimable young wife, is all that could be desired. The doctor has a beautiful home on West Main street.

**ALFRED S. UHRICH**, one of the oldest and most successful farmers of Pleasant township, is a native of the Buckeye state, born in Tuscarawas county, April 17, 1832. His grandfather, John Uhrich, was born near Philadelphia, Pa., in 1751, and the tradition is that the family is descended in a direct line from a son of Gustavus Adolphus, who, being disinherited, on account of his marriage with a Jewish lady, came to America in the time of the colonies and founded the family of his name in the United States. Jacob Uhrich, the subject's great-grandfather, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and was noted for his great physical strength.

In 1802, John Uhrich moved to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, making the journey from Philadelphia in a wagon, and the year following his father joined him, bringing the machinery for the first flouring-mill ever erected in the state of Ohio. John Uhrich was a farmer, and his death occurred about 1840; his son, also named John, father of the subject of this mention, was born near Philadelphia in 1801, was reared on the frontier, married, in 1831, Mary A. Everett, daughter of John and Rebecca (Taylor) Everett, and reared a family of three children—Alfred S., Cyrus and Rebecca, wife of W. C. Lindsey. In 1838, John Uhrich, Jr., and family moved to Adams county, Ind., where he carried on farming in connection with his trade of carpentering until 1840, at which time he moved to Mercer county, Ohio; thence, eighteen years later, to the county of Vun Wert, where he resided until his death in 1883. Both he and wife were active members of the Church of God, and politically he was an an old-line whig, and later a republican. He was a good and useful citizen and belonged to that class of pioneers to whom the western country is so largely indebted for its present greatly advanced state of civilization.

Alfred S. Uhrich remained under the parental roof until early manhood, attended the common schools as opportunities afforded, and has been a farmer all his life. When a young man he spent a year in Shelby county as a farm hand, was similarly engaged for about the same length of time in Iowa, and in 1861 was united in marriage with Sarah J. Goodwin, daughter of Jacob and Parmelia (Keith) Goodwin. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Uhrich purchased a farm in Van Wert county, where he has since made his home, owning, at this time, 160 acres of valuable land, which, under his successful management, has been brought to a high state of cultivation. For a number of years he was the leading saw-mill man of this county, and probably furnished more building material than any other person in this part of the state. Mr. Uhrich is a republican in his political belief and has very decided opinions upon the leading questions of the day. While not a member of any church, he believes in all moral and religious movements, contributes liberally to their promotion, and has done much for the general welfare of the community in which he resides. The following are the names of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Uhrich: Elmer E., Cyrus M., Frank L., Arthur M., Drusilla D., Minnie A., John, Annie (deceased), Ulysses and Byron.

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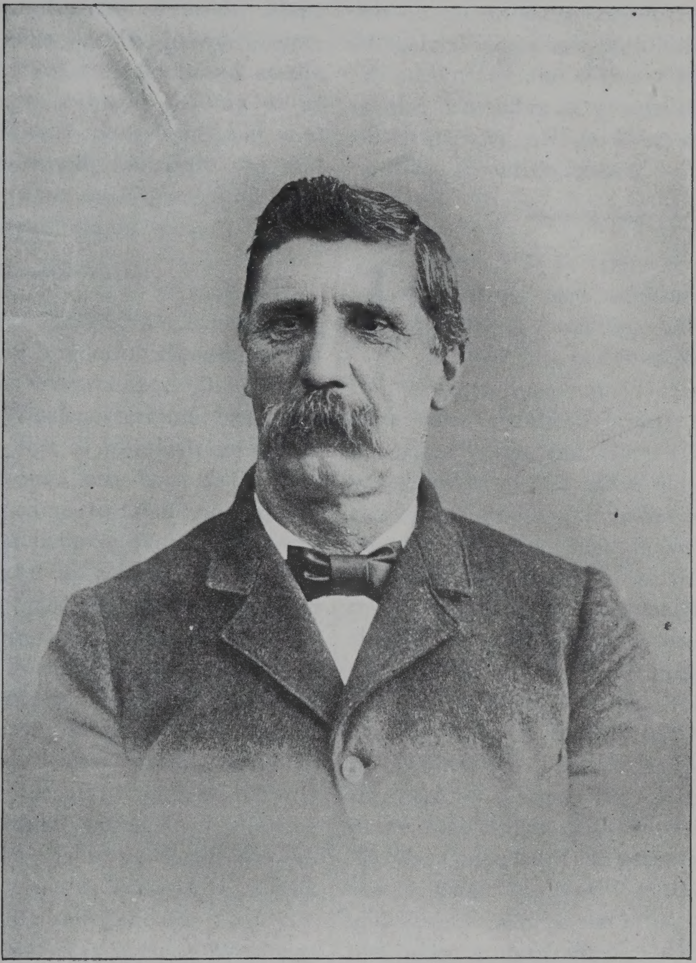
**JOSEPH UNDERWOOD**, a retired farmer and patriotic soldier of the late war, living in Van Wert, was born April 10, 1843. He is a son of Lorenzo Underwood, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, and at an early age learned the trade of brickmason, at which he worked most of his life, or until old age compelled him to retire from active life. After his marriage to Miss Martha Warner, of Crawford county, he removed to Knox county, Ill., and lived there three years. Afterward he went to Iowa and settled in Appanoose county, where he remained ten years, still working at his trade and at the same time following farming to some extent. In 1858 he and nine others started for Pike's Peak, Colo., in search of gold, but Mr. Underwood fell ill of a fever and died the same year. In the early years of his life he was a whig, but when the republican party was organized he became a republican, and so remained until his death. In religion he was a Quaker, and was a liberal-minded and kind-hearted man. At his death he left his family in comfortable circumstances. By his marriage to Miss Warner he became the father of the following children: Joseph, Valentine, John and William, all of whom are living but William, who died in 1880. William had married Miss Sarah Mohler, who is still living. Valentine is married and living in Crawford county, and John is married and living in Dickinson county, Kans.

Joseph Underwood was born in Crawford county, Ohio. He was reared a farmer, and when about twenty years of age left his home, and remained away until his father's death. He then returned to Crawford county and remained there two years, when he came to Van Wert county, and here followed farming until he was drafted into the army from Harrison township. He went to the front and participated in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., and in the battle of Nashville, in which latter battle he was wounded, December 15, 1864, being hit by a musket-ball in the right leg. He was taken to the hospital, but amputation of the leg became necessary, and, in consequence of the loss, he is now in receipt of $36 from the government. He was a member of company F, Forty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, and fought under Gen. George H. Thomas. Mr. Underwood is a strong republican, is a member of the Lutheran church, and is willing to lend his aid to any public enterprise that promises well for all concerned.

Mr. Underwood was married, in 1862, to Miss Mary Zimmerman, of Salem, Ohio, and by her is the father of the following children: Catherine Jane, born January 9, 1864; John H., born February 15, 1869, and William L., born September 5, 1880. Catherine and John are married and William is at home attending school. Mary Zimmerman was born September 15, 1839, and is a daughter of Henry Zimmerman, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1819. He was reared on a farm and followed that occupation until his death, which occurred on August 11, 1887. He was married to Miss Myra Cook, of Columbiana county, Ohio, who died in 1844. By her he had three children, viz: Mary, John and Catherine, all of whom are living. Mr. Zimmerman's second marriage was to Miss



JOSEPH UNDERWOOD.

Mary Fagley, of Salem, Ohio, in 1851. She died in 1879. Mr. Zimmerman was a democrat in politics, a Methodist in religion, and was a hard-working, economical man, accumulated considerable property, and at his death he left his family comfortably situated. Mary Zimmerman, the wife of Mr. Joseph Underwood, was born in Salem, Ohio, and at the age of two years was brought to Van Wert county by her parents. Here she met and married Mr. Underwood, and here she still lives, surrounded by her family and by a large circle of kind and true friends.

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HENRY K. VINCENT, farmer and contracting builder of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is of ancient Welsh extraction, but descends from a long line of American ancestors. His grandfather, Henry, was born in Connecticut, and in 1802 came to Ohio and entered land in Washington county, Waterford township, where he cleared up a farm of 400 acres. He married Sarah Cogshall, and both he and wife died in Washington county. Henry Vincent, the father of Henry K., our subject, and son of the Henry above mentioned, was born in Washington county, Ohio, in 1812; taught school for many years, and married Miss Elizabeth Wood, daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Bilu) Wood, to which union the following children were born: John A., Sarah W. (deceased), Thomas, Johanna, William H., Lydia (deceased), Henry K. and Rebecca.

Henry K. Vincent was born in Washington county, Ohio, October 6, 1849, passed his early life on the farm of an uncle, R. Wood, was well educated, and also learned the trade of carpenter. During the summer season for twenty years he has contracted for and erected buildings. He has been a resident of Van Wert county since 1872. February 6, 1879, he married Miss Mary E. Hattery, daughter of Nathaniel and Ellen (Atcheson) Hattery. This union has been blessed by the birth of four children—Margaret E., Eugene O., Elizabeth I. and Elsie V.—all attending school, except the youngest, Eugene. In politics Mr. Vincent is a prohibitionist, and in religion, both he and wife are Presbyterians; he is also a member of grange No. 400, Patrons of Husbandry, of Van Wert county, in which he takes an active interest.

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ROBERT WADE, one of the most worthy and substantial farmers of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of West Virginia (as the state is now named) and was born in Greenbrier county February 24, 1831. His parents, George and Mary (Childers) Wade, were natives of the same state, and in 1837 came to Ohio and purchased lands in Clinton county, on which they made a home until their earthly toil was closed—that of the mother at the age of seventy-four years, and that of the father at ninety years. The marriage of this couple was fruitful, their progeny being represented by the following names: Clark, who grew to manhood, but was killed by a falling tree; Robert, whose name opens this sketch; George W., after reaching maturity, was drowned in the reservoir at Saint Mary's, Ohio; Eliza M., the deceased wife of Joseph Flint; William, who died in childhood, and Frances, who is the wife of Charles Drake, of Clinton county, Ohio.

Robert Wade was reared to farming and really learned more in the fields and woods, and in contact with the people of the world, than he did in the school-house, although his literary education was not entirely neglected. On March 10, 1859, he wedded Miss Ursulla Fultz, daughter of John and Nora M. (Campbell) Fultz, and the eldest of the following family, who were named, excluding her own name, in order of birth, as follows: Nancy Elizabeth, now wife of Joseph Flint, of Clinton county, Ohio; George W., who died in early manhood; Zachariah, married to Christina Haverstick, and residing in Clinton county; David William, who died in boyhood; Rachael Jane, widow of John Hillings; Phœbe Ann, wife of Ephraim Adams, of Clinton county; John, who resides on the homestead; Maggie and Carson, twins, and Edith Grace, wife of Leonidas Smith. The mother of this large family died January 12, 1894. The children born to Robert and Ursulla Wade, thirteen in number, were named, in order of birth, as follows: Joseph, who died in childhood; Minnie Elvie, wife of Samuel Farling; Frank E., married to Cora Shire; Ishum, husband of Susan Fowler; Mary Susan, wife of Elmore Kittle, of Adams county, Ind.; Rosa, married to Alva Kittle, of Mercer county, Ohio; Jamie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Nora Etta, wife of William Bigham, of Ridge township, Van Wert county; John Brough, who died at the age of six years; George Robert, who died when seven years of age, Henry Irvin, died when but a year old; Martha Maud, now thirteen years of age, and Francis Quigley, aged eleven years. In 1864 Mr. Wade purchased a farm of 133 acres in Pleasant township, and there remained until 1891, when he sold and bought where he now owns, in Ridge township, 160 acres. No better farm can be found in the county. Like all other members of the Society of Friends, to which he, his wife and children belong, he is economical, but generous, and has ever since his residence in Ridge township enjoyed the true and undisguised respect of his neighbors. He is, of course, like all other Quakers, an uncompromising republican, and was always a bitter opponent of the ownership of man by man, or, in other words, the slavery institution as it formerly existed in his native state of Virginia and elsewhere.

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JOHN WAGONER, florist and gardener, of Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in Allegheny county, Pa., Jannary 14, 1838. His father, William Wagoner, was born in the state of Delaware, October 14, 1791, and was a son of Thomas Wagoner, a native of the same state and of German descent, who settled in Pennsylvania in 1812, and lived in that state until 1844. His son William, father of John, our subject, was reared a farmer in Allegheny county, Pa., was there married to Mary Ann Baggs in 1820, and by her became the father of ten children, viz: Ann, wife of William Reno, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Hester, deceased; Lettie, wife of John A. Glasor, of Lawrence county, Pa.; Susan and William deceased; Andy, of Van Wert, Ohio; Thomas, a carpenter of Pennsylvania; John, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, of Lawrence county, Pa., and Mary, of Allegheny county, Pa. The father of this family died September 9, 1864, and the mother in August, 1884, in the Presbyterian faith; in politics the father was a democrat.

John Wagoner, our subject, was reared on the home farm in Allegheny county, Pa., and at the age of fifteen years left his home and began business life for himself as a general gardener and so continued until 1867, when he went to Marion county, Ill., rented land and engaged in general gardening until 1871, and then moved to Lafayette, Ind., followed the same business until 1876, and then moved to Fort Wayne, Ind.. where he was engaged in gardening until 1888, when he came to Van Wert and engaged as florist and gardener for H. C. Glenn, with whom he remained for four years. In 1892, in company with W. H.

Wagoner, of Pennsylvania, he bought fifteen lots and erected the present green-house, which covers 15,000 square feet, and is stocked with a choice variety of plants, including exotics and the more comprehensive flora of the temperate zone.

Mr. Wagoner was married in Allegheny county, Pa., June 29, 1859, to Miss Elizabeth C. Masenhall, a native of the county, born April 18, 1844, and daughter of Peter and Hannah (Kruger) Masenhall. To the union of John and Elizabeth Wagoner have been born eleven children, named as follows: Wilbert and Lawrence, deceased; Albert, now with his father; Thomas, Walter, Isabelle and Oliver—all four deceased; Morgan, Mary, Robert and Franklin, at home. Mrs. Wagoner is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Wagoner is in politics a democrat. Since their sojourn in Van Wert the family have won the respect of all with whom they have become acquainted.

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JOHN WAGONER, a well-to-do farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, is a native of the state and was born in Richland county July 9, 1842. His grandfather Thomas, who spelled his surname Waggoner, was of German descent, was a pioneer of Allegheny county, Pa., was a farmer, and married Isabel Russell, of Irish and German extraction, and to their union were born nine children, as follows: Thomas, Nancy, Sarah, Joseph, Andrew, Jane, Edward, Isabel and James. By a previous marriage, Thomas Waggoner was the father of six children—John, William, Susan, Mary, Rachel and Betsey, but of these no further record is obtainable.

Edward Wagoner, son of Thomas Wagoner by his marriage with Isabel Russell, was born in Allegheny county, Pa., about 1828, was reared on the home farm and was taught the trade of carpenter. When a young man he came to Ohio and located in Ashland county, where he married Margaret Adams, the union resulting in the birth of two children—John and Susan E. Returning to Pennsylvania to work at his trade, Mrs. Wagoner died in Beaver county. Going then to Allegheny county, Edward married his second wife—Cynthia Bradley—and to this union were born four children: Albert, Thomas, Emma and one deceased. Mr. Wagoner later returned to Ohio and lived in Ashland county until some time during the progress of the Civil war, when he moved to Van Wert county, where he purchased and cleared up forty acres of land, and later moved to Allen county, prospering as a farmer and enjoying the esteem of his neighbors. He reached a good old age and died in the faith of the United Brethren church.

John Wagoner, the subject of this biography, was reared on the home farm until August 11, 1862, when, at the age of twenty years, he enlisted in Ashland county, in company B, One Hundred and Second Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until July 8, 1865—or nearly three years—when he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio. He fought in the campaigns of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, and was in the battle of Decatur in the latter state, and in the famous march from Franklin, Ky., to take part in the battle at Perryville—besides dozens of other serious engagements and skirmishes. He was always faithful and cheerful, was always with his regiment and doing his share of its work, except when sick for two weeks in hospital at Covington, Ky., and when on detailed duty with the first Tennessee battery, with which he drove a team eleven months.

Mr. Wagoner was married, in 1868, in Allen county, to Miss Sarah A. Brand, who was born in the county November 19, 1839, a daughter of John and Harriet (Creager) Brand. John Brand was born in Fayette county, Pa., February 19, 1794, and was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 25, 1832, to Henrietta Creager, a native of Maryland, born March 26, 1806, of German descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Brand were born eight children, of whom five lived to adult age, viz: Sylvester J., Rachel, Sarah A., Lucinda and Mary. In October, 1832, Mr. Brand settled in German township, Allen county, on 105 acres, became one of the county commissioners, and was one of the builders of the old brick court house at Lima; he lived to the great age of eighty-four years and died in 1880, a member of the Methodist church, and a very prominent citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner, after marriage, settled in York township, Van Wert county, on forty acres of woodland, which he cleared up, and then moved to Washington township, in 1882, and bought eighty acres, then all in the woods, but which he has converted into an excellent farm, improving it in most admirable style, and expending $1,000 on drain tile alone, so that it will now favorably compare with any farm of its size in the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner have been born three children—Thurman B., Mary B. and Nettie B.—all born in York township. Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner have done a vast amount of hard work, have reared a respected family, and are honored by all who know them.

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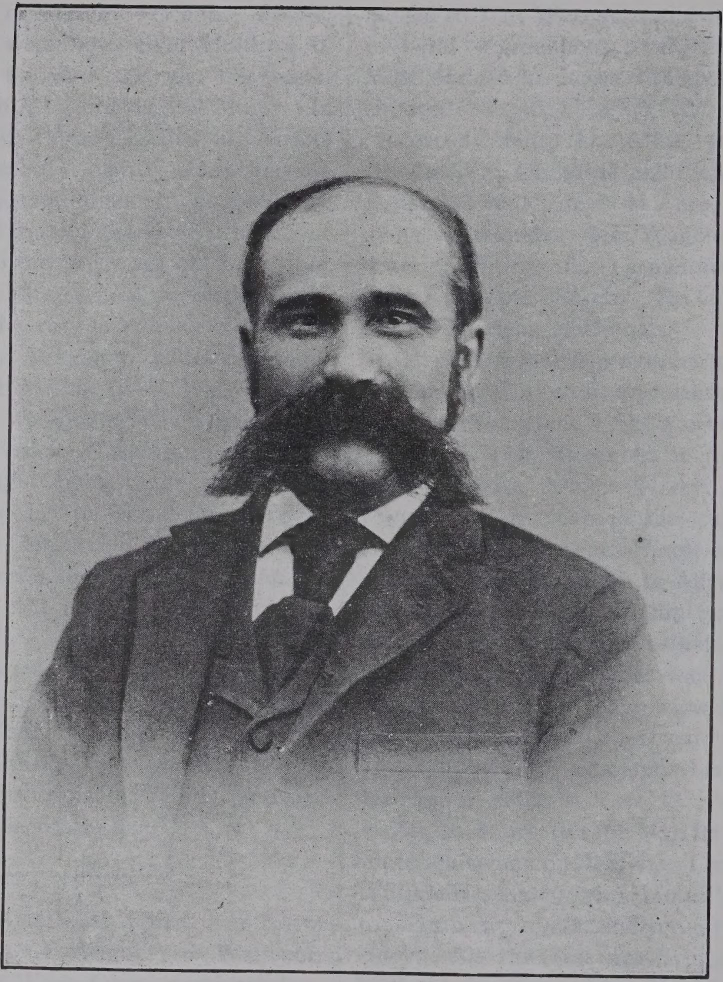
W. H. WAGONER, florist, member of the firm of Wagoner & Wagoner, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born January 6, 1867. He is a son of Andrew Wagoner, who was born December 13, 1833, in Allegheny county, Pa., and is of Irish and German parentage. At an early age Andrew learned the trade of ship-carpenter, at which he worked for eleven years with unusual success. On the 21st of September, 1869, he was married to Miss Sarah J. Marlatt, of Allegheny county, Pa., and continued to work at ship-carpentering and at the general carpenter's trade until 1894, when he removed to Van Wert to assist his son, W. H., to build a greenhouse. By his marriage to Miss Marlatt he is the father of the following children: E. C., Celina, W. H., Frank L. (deceased), Mary L., Alice, James W., and Joseph W. Of these eight children, Celina, James W. and Joseph W. are dead, all three dying in infancy. Mr. Wagoner is a republican in politics, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is also a member of the American Mechanics.

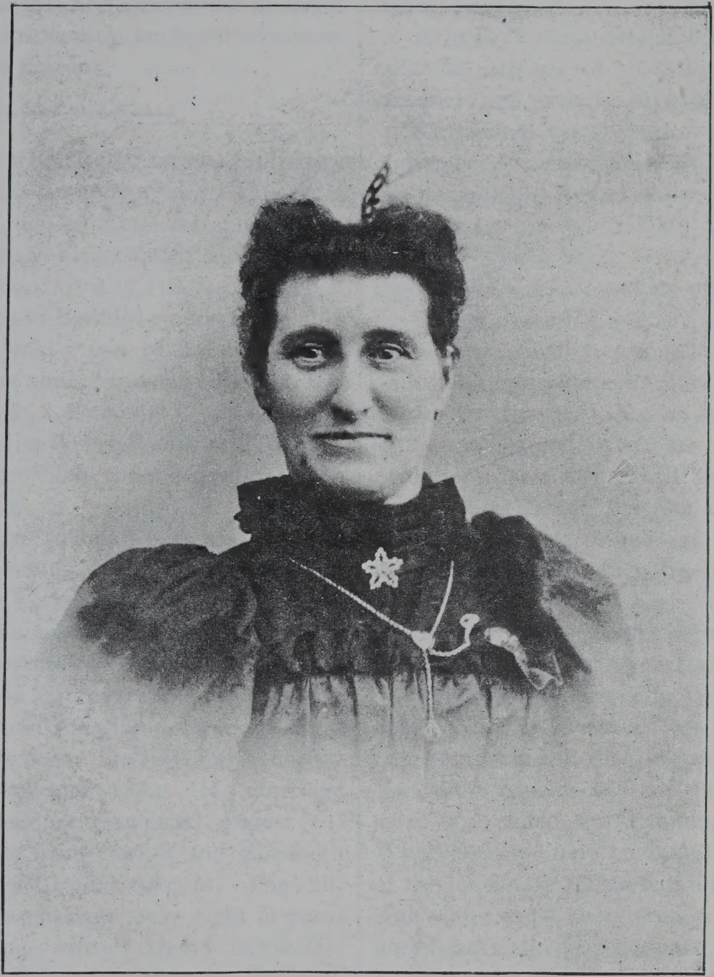
Mrs. Wagoner is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and takes great interest in religious matters. She was born August 13, 1839, and is the daughter of Joseph Marlatt, who was born in New Jersey. When yet a young man he learned the carpenter trade. He married Miss Agnes Hires, of New Jersey, and afterward removed to Allegheny county, Pa., where he followed his trade with great success. In politics he was a democrat, was a Methodist in religion, and was very liberal in his assistance to all religious and other enterprises of which he approved. He lived in Allegheny county, Pa., until his death, which occurred in 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marlatt were the parents of thirteen children, viz: Charles, Michael, William H., Elias, John, James W., Ella, Mary E., Sarah A., Lydia, and three that died in infancy. All the rest are living, married, and heads of families. Mrs. Marlatt, the mother of these children, died in 1887. She was a native of New Jersey, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a most excellent woman in every way, highly respected by all that knew her.

W. H. Wagoner is a popular and highly



Orm. G. Vickroy



Rebecca Vickroy

respected young business man of Van Wert, and is at the present time the proprietor of one of the finest greenhouses in the state of Ohio It is the pride of the city of Van Wert, and is situated on Cemetery street, near Woodland cemetery, and in this fine greenhouse all kinds of plants and shrubs may be found whenever demanded by his patrons.

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ORIN G. VICKROY, farmer and stock raiser of Union township, Van Wert county, son of Emanuel and Matilda (Hardman) Vickroy, was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 3, 1854. Emanuel Vickroy was born in Bedford county, Pa., July 11, 1824, and was a son of John Vickroy, whose family was among the early English settlers of that state. Emanuel Vickroy was a farmer, remained in Pennsylvania until November 4, 1853, at which time he emigrated to Ohio, settling in the county of Richland, where he purchased a small farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Later he abandoned farming, and for a time was engaged in merchandising in the town of Bellville, but after three years' experience in the grocery business he returned to the country, rented a farm and continued his former vocation until about 1873, in which year he began the huckster business, following the same until 1884. His marriage with Matilda Hardman occurred August 14, 1848, her parents being Jacob and Elizabeth Hardman, both of German descent. The children born of this marriage were eight in number, viz: Remina, wife of Henry Schwartz; Martha A., Orin G., Jacob, Mary E., deceased wife of E. R. Kelly; Sarah, John H.; Alice, wife of Cassius Huntsman. The mother of these children was born in Bedford county, Pa., September 10, 1831, grew to womanhood at the country home of her parents, came to Richland county, Ohio, November 4, 1853, and her death occurred in Richland county, Ohio, December 25, 1863. She was an earnest member of the Disciple church, a kind and loving wife and mother, and her death was deeply lamented by the community where she has so long lived. .

Orin G. Vickroy attended,in his youth, the common schools of Richland and Morrow counties, and early learned the dignity of labor with his father on the farm. After his father commenced the huckster business young Vickroy became dissatisfied and concluded he would look out for himself and left his home and engaged as a farm hand, for a time; then thinking that he was not making money fast enough he bought territory and engaged in selling a patent fence until he lost faith in the business, and then quite poorer by considerable than he began, but thought what he lost in dollars and cents was gained in experience, and went to again on a farm with a will, and in 1876 went to Wyandot county, where for one year he worked as a farm laborer, after which he rented some land, which he successfully cultivated, and after making several moves in Wyandot county, thought perhaps he might do better by coming further west, so in the spring of 1884, after a heavy rain, it being so wet he could not work the land that he was cultivating, he concluded that he would come out to Van Wert county and see the black swamps, as it was called by Wyandot county people. When he came here he found the greater part of the land near his present location inundated with water. He borrowed a pair of rubber boots and walked over a part of the land that he now owns, and finding that there was sufficient fall so the land could be underdrained, concluded that he had better purchase eighty acres and bought it before he left the county, thinking it would be a good investment if he never moved on it. After going back to Wyandot county he told his wife that he had purchased eighty acres of the black swamps, and asked her how she would like to move out there, where they had plenty of music, made by frogs, cow bells and mosquitos. She said she would rather live on land of their own than to rent. So in the fall of 1884 O. G. chartered a car and moved to his present location in Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, arriving at Convoy November 22. 1884, which place is three miles from his farm.

March 18, 1880, Mr. Vickroy and Miss Rebecca Gongwer, daughter of Philip and Saloma (Long) Gongwer, of Ashland county, Ohio, were united in marriage. Mrs. Vickroy was born in the aforesaid county, June 21, 1859, her father being a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Vickroy found the Van Wert people sociable and clever, but there was something else to look after; it was necessary to have something to eat and how to get it on a farm that was in woods and covered with water was the question that came to Vickroy's mind, not having any cleared land that he could raise a crop. So by asking some of the near neighhors he found that Shepard of Convoy bought elm stave bolts, and having some cull elm timber he commenced making bolts and made enough money at it to keep the wolf from the door, but when spring come there was something else to do; the land had to be drained before there could be any clearing done. Vickroy hired some hands and commenced making the outlet for his land, and while making it he found another drawback; most of the people of northern Van Wert allowed their stock to run at large, and the cattle were tramping the outlet ditches shut; he thought it all wrong to work hard to make a ditch and have cattle following up and tramping it shut, so after being here a few years, he saw that it was absolutely necessary to enforce the stock law, and he with the aid of a few others succeeeed in having the stock laws enforced, against great opposition. After Vickroy had an outlet made for the water from his land, he commenced clearing, underdraining, and farming his land, and by careful management and hard work he succeeded in placing his farm in its present condition. Mr. Vickroy is what may be properly termed a self-made man, having gone out to battle with the world, without the assistance of a dollar from any one, yet by his well directed and persistent efforts he has accumulated a goodly share of this world's goods, owning a finè farm of 237 acres and other property of value. Mr. and Mrs. Vickroy while not members of church are liberal in their support of all worthy charities, and they have always exerted a wholesome moral influence in the neighborhood. Mr. Vickroy is a practical man, enterprising and public-spirited, and is popular in his county; politically he is a democrat, but has no political aspiration whatever, and while not an office-seeker himself, he loves to see good honorable men elected to fill our offices; he has been honored by his party with positions of trust in his township without any opposition at the election; the opposite party did not run a man against him. Mr. Vickroy attributes his success in getting a farm to industry, fair dealing, and doing the right thing at the right time. Mr. and Mrs. Orin G. Vickroy have no children of their own, but have reared a boy who was born October 1, 1880.

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GUY CARLTON VANHORN, one of the thriving farmers of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old Holland-Dutch family of New York state. His father, John Vanhorn, was a native of the Empire state, and there married Mary Burton, who bore five children—William, James, Sarah, Ellen and Guy C. From New York Mr. and Mrs. Vanhorn moved to Bradford county, Pa., and thence came to Ohio, in 1852, and settled in Franklin county, where he lived to be eighty-seven years of age. He was a republican in politics, and two of his sons, James and William, faithfully served in the Union army during the late Civil war.

Guy Carlton Vanhorn, our subject, was born in Bradford county, Pa., September 20, 1847, and was consequently but five years of age when brought to Ohio. He was reared to farming and carpentering in Franklin county, and in 1867 married Mrs. Susan J. Leap, a daughter of Isaac Wooley; this lady bore Mr. Vanhorn four children—Alice, Isaac, Frances and Zeneth G.—and then passed away in 1871. Mr. Vanhorn came to Van Wert county after the death of his first wife, having married, March 6, 1878, Mrs. Eliza Roberts, a widow, and daughter of Thomas Johnson. To this marriage three children have been born, viz: One that died in infancy, Ida M. and Cora E. When Mr. Van horn bought his present homestead of eighty acres it was deep in the woods, but by hard labor he has cleared it up, and it is now as neat and well cultivated a place as can be found in the township. He is entirely a self-made man, but has been ably aided by his faithful wife to secure his present competency. His daughter Alice is married to S. Sponseller, a farmer of Tully township, and has one child; Isaac Vanhorn married Ida Zinn, and is a farmer of Harrison township; Fannie is married to Frank Zinn, a farmer of Tully township, and has one son, born July 4, 1895. The mother of these children sickened shortly after her arrival in Tully township, and an expenditure of $500 for doctors' bills, through a period of eighteen months, failed to save her, and when she died her eldest daughter was but six years of age; and so Mr. Vanhorn struggled on for nearly three years before he again married and again became happy in the aid and comfort afforded by woman's presence, through his marriage with Elsie Johnson.

Thomas J. Johnson, the father of the present Mrs. Vanhorn, was born in Loudoun county, Va., but when a young man came to Clinton county, Ohio, and married Hannah Frey, who became the mother of Mrs. Vanhorn. Mr. Johnson, after marriage, returned to Loudoun county, Va., resided there seven years, came back to Ohio, and in 1880 settled in Convoy, where he worked at his trade of wagon making until his death, in 1886, at the age of sixty-nine years. He and his wife were members of the Friends' church, and were the parents of eleven children, viz: John H., Sarah C., Jane, Michael, Cyrus, Elsie, Nicholas, Mahala, Harriet, Elizabeth and America. In politics Mr. Johnson was a republican, but yet had a son who was forced into the Confederate army, and who died six months later. Mr. Johnson, being a Union man, was obliged to leave Virginia in 1862 and seek refuge in Maryland, and thence flee to Ohio. Mr. Vanhorn is also a stanch republican.

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LUZERNE WAGNER, farmer and tile manufacturer, of Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state, born in Franklin county, November 19, 1849, and is of German extraction. His grandfather, Jacob Wagner, was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Franklin county, Ohio, entered 160 acres of land, which he cleared up with his own hands, and there married a Miss Danalds and passed the remainder of his life in that county. James Wagner, son of Jacob and father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania in 1812, and was seven years of age when brought to Ohio (1819). He was reared in Plain township, Franklin county, and later became thoroughly identified with the interests and prosperity of the township and county. He there married Lydia Parks, by which union were born. Jacob T., Elizabeth (deceased), Antoinette, Theressa (deceased), and Luzerne. The mother of these children was a devout member of the Methodist church, and in that faith passed to her long rest. The second marriage of Mr. Wagner was with Electa Smith, and to this union was born eight children, viz: James (deceased), Lydia (deceased), John, Mattie (deceased), Effie, Kittie, Charlie (deceased) and Willis. The father owned a farm of 165 acres, was first an old-line whig in his politics, then became a stanch republican, and was a highly honored and influential and public spirited citizen.

Luzerne Wagner, our subject, was reared, as most farm lads are, to hard work, but obtained a better education than was usual at that day. He graduated from a normal college and for fifteen years taught school in Franklin and Van Wert counties. November 19, 1874, he married Mary J. Alspach, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Henry) Alspach. Jacob Alspach was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 11, 1829, on the farm on which he is still living; his wife was born in the same county, September 12, 1832, and died October 4, 1889, a member of the United Brethren church, of which the husband is still a member, while in politics he is a democrat. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Alspach were named William W., Mary J., Sarah (deceased), Viola, George H. (deceased), Lucy, Christina C., Ella M. (deceased), Charles E. and Eugene. The grandfather of Mrs. Wagner, John Alspach, was a native of Perry county, Ohio, married Catherine Bevelbyman, a native of the same county, lived three years in Fairfield county, and then moved to Franklin county, where the grandmother killed a cub bear the first day of her arrival, in the absence of her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Luzerne Wagner came from Franklin county to Van Wert county soon after marriage—in 1875—and settled on their present farm of forty acres, now improved with a new two-story brick residence. Mr. Wagner also owns and successfully operates a modern tile and pressed brick factory, worth $2,500 or $3,000, and his farm is conceded to be the best tilled of any of its size in the county. Mr. Wagner is in politics a stanch republican; in religion he and his wife are adherents of the United Brethren church, which he aided liberally in building and of which he is a trustee. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner comprises the following children: Earnest J., Clarence L., Gladys V., Clarissa P. and Lucy V.—all still living to bless the home of their beloved parents.

* * *

ELIJAH WALLER, one of the oldest settlers of Tully township, Van Wert county, and a prosperous farmer, descends from an old Virginia family of English extraction. His father, John E. Waller, was born in Fauquier county, Va., came to Ohio when about eighteen years of age, was here married to Elizabeth Largent, daughter of Abraham and Annie Largent, and located in Champaign county, where he taught school and farmed, and where were born all his children, viz: Francis A., Mary W., Sarah J., Amanda, Lucy, Charles, Elijah and Elisha (twins), Lewis E. and Epanetus, deceased. In 1851 Mr. Waller came to Van Wert county and bought eighty acres of land, which, with the assistance of his sons, he cleared up and converted into a fertile farm. He was one of the pioneer school teachers of the county, was a deacon and elder in the United Brethren church for a number of years (of which church his wife was also a member), and died in January, 1860, aged about sixty years. In politics he was a democrat and had served as township trustee and clerk, and was honored as a man of the strictest integrity.

Elijah Waller, our subject, was born May 11, 1837, and when fifteen years of age came to Van Wert county with his father, whom he assisted in clearing up the homestead from the wilderness. October 11, 1857, he married Susanna Henney, daughter of William and Mary (Sands) Henney. William Henney was the son of a Revolutionary soldier and was born in Pennsylvania in 1797; he was a pioneer of Stark county, Ohio, and in 1839 came to Van Wert county; here he was the fifth settler of Tully township, which was at the time, of course, a dense wilderness, but by perseverance he succeeded in accumulating and clearing 280 acres, and became a wealthy farmer. He and wife were the parents of nine children, viz: Betsy, Nancy, Solomon, Susanna, Mary, Hettie, Phebe, David and William. Mrs. Henney was a member of the Church of God; Mr. Henney was in politics a democrat, was a justice of the peace, was a most highly-respected citizen, and died August 5, 1881, at the very venerable age of eighty-four years.

After marriage Mr. Waller lived on the home place until 1894, when he erected his present tasteful residence. Assisted by his faithful wife, he has accumulated 100 acres of first-class farming land, all well cultivated. He and wife are the parents of the following children: George W., Mary E., Phebe, William H., David P., Irene L., Elijah, Merritt and Ira C. Of this family, George W. married Dora Tracy and is the father of two children; Mary E. is the wife of R. H. Sherman, and is the mother of two children; Phebe is married to Leonard Calvert, and is the mother of three children; Irene L. is married to William A. Nantz, and has two children. Mr. and Mrs. Waller are members of the Church of God, and in politics he is a democrat. Mr. Waller has never been known to connive at wrong-doing in any form, and enjoys the unbounded confidence of the entire community in which he lives.

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JOHN WALLICK, one of the oldest and most experienced farmers of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, was born in the year 1822, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Haverstock) Wallick, who came from Pennsylvania in the days of their single blessedness. They were wedded in Tuscarawas county, and there had born to them the following children: Henry; Mary Ann, wife of Philip Getzman; Rebecca, who died in infancy; John; Daniel, who lives in Oregon; David, of Van Wert county; Catherine, wife of T. T. Bartlet; and Emanuel, who died in early manhood.

Jacob Wallick, the father of this family, died in 1877, at the advanced age of ninety years; his helpmate, Elizabeth, having passed away in 1875. He came to Van Wert county in 1852, and purchased eighty acres of land. John Wallick, our subject, spent his earlier life on a farm in Tuscarawas county, and at twenty-four years of age married Rebecca Ann Rainsberger, to whom were born four children, viz: Baker; oue who died in infancy; Urias, who wedded Mary Hartels, and Ezra, deceased. The mother of these children was called from earth September 2, 1860, and in 1868 Mr. Wallick was united in marriage with Anna Gibson, who bore one child—Viola: this lady was also called away, dying August 17, 1877.

John Wallick, who has been thoroughly trained in the science of agriculture, and has been taught the important lessons of industry and economy, set manfully to work to clear up his present farm, which, upon his first settlement was imbedded in a forest of dense woods abounding in game, and his farm is now one of the best improved in the township and is a source of pride, not only to its owner, but to the residents of the entire neighborhood. Mr. Wallick has always been a God-fearing man, identified with some church organization, and at present holds membership with the Christian Union denomination, and he saw well to it that all the members of his family were likewise reared to become devout Christians. In politics Mr. Wallick has always been an ardent democrat, and while he does his duty as a citizen, giving voice to his honest sentiments at the polls, he has never felt the ambition to hold office.

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JESSE WALLS, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Beaver county, Pa., January 14, 1827. His father, Jesse Walls, was born December 5, 1785, in Sussex county, Del. At an early age he learned the wagon-maker's trade, but did not work at that trade exclusively throughout his life. He was married to Miss Leah Salmons, a native of the same county with himself, and by her had the following children: Isaac, Margaret, Nancy, Nehemiah, Ellen, Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas, John, Jesse and Samuel, eight of whom are dead. All were married except Isaac, who died a single man in his twentieth year. Mr. Walls, the father of these children, upon leaving Delaware, located in New Castle, Pa., where he bought a farm, which he worked for a number of years. When the war of 1812 came on he went as a substitute for Joseph Long to Lake Erie, and served three months as fifer. After the expiration of his term of service he returned to New Castle and lived upon his farm until 1846, when he sold out and removed to Van Wert county, Ohio, in which county he purchased 160 acres of land, upon which he lived and labored until old age compelled him to retire from active business. In 1857 he went back to Pennsylvania on a visit to friends, and died there, that year, from a stroke of paralysis. His wife died October 13, 1865. Mr. Walls was a whig in his early life, and until the organization of the republican party, and then for the last year or two of his life he was a republican. He was buried in Pennsylvania, where he had died. Both he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church, and were excellent people in every way.

Jesse Walls, the subject of this sketch, while yet a boy, learned the art of spinning, and worked at it more or less until old age came on. When his father brought his family to Van Wert county, he was nineteen years old, and for several years thereafter he worked on his father's farm. In 1850, when he was twenty-two years of age, he married Miss Anna Rigby, of New Castle, Pa. She was a member of the Christian or Disciples' church, bore him four children, and died in 1855. The names of these four children were as follows: Margaret, Jessie D., Mary J., and Cyrus, the last of whom died in infancy. The others all married and had families of their own.

In 1855 Jesse Walls was married to Miss Marinda Joseph, of New Castle, Pa., by whom he had fourteen children, as follows: John E., born December 3, 1856; Lydia J., born February 6, 1858; William W., born March 10, 1859; Samuel S., born June 10, 1861; Caleb J., born July 2, 1863; Carrie, born August 16, 1865; Lulu R., born May 10, 1867; Warren, born March 4, 1869; Maud E., born September 19, 1872; Iona, Daniel and Ida, all born December 8, 1876; Harry J., born December 5, 1877; and May, born December 13, 1880. Lydia died February 20, 1858; Samuel, December 4, 1862; Lulu, October 5, 1864; Ida, December 10, 1876; Daniel, December 22, 1876; Iona, January 9, 1877, and Caleb, August 6, 1890. The other seven are still living.

May 2, 1864, Mr. Walls enlisted in company A, One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, Col. Marble commanding. The regiment was a 100-day regiment, and was sent to Washington, D. C., to aid in protecting that city from capture by the rebels, and at the end of his term of service he was honorably discharged. Then, returning to Van Wert county, he again took up the duties of civil life, and he is now receiving a pension of $8 per month.

Miss Marinda Joseph, second wife of Mr. Walls, was born June 22, 1837. Her father, William Joseph, was a native of New Castle, Pa., was reared on a farm, and lived thereon until his death, which occurred September 7, 1851. His wife was Lydia Brown, of Beaver county. They were the parents of the following children: Marinda, John, Caleb, Call, Mary, Ella, William and Josephine; Call, William and Josephine are dead. After the death of William Joseph, his widow married Robert Stevens, of Indiana. William Joseph was a Methodist, while his wife was a Seventh Day Adventist. Miss Marinda Joseph was born in Beaver county, Pa., and resided with her parents until she married Mr. Walls. She now resides with her husband in Van Wert, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in every way a most excellent woman.

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WILLIAM G. WALTERS, a leading farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, was born in Richland county, Ohio, February 10, 1842, and is of German descent, paternally, his great-grandfather having come from Germany and engaged in farming in Washington county, Pa., but dying in Van Wert county, Ohio.

George Walters, grandfather of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Washington county, and there married Mary Shaffer; he then came to Ohio and first located in Jefferson county, where he cleared up a farm, but sold it and moved to Richland county, where he again cleared up a farm of 160 acres from the wilderness, on which he died, a member of the Lutheran church, his wife dying a Baptist.

William Walters, son of George and father of our subject, was also a native of Washington county, Pa., and was but a small boy when brought to Jefferson county, Ohio. Here he was reared to manhood on the home farm, in the meantime learning the tanner's trade. He purchased a farm in Richland county, as his first business venture, but later sold it and bought a tanyard in Richland county; a few years later he disposed of this, and in 1845 settled on a part of the farm now owned by our subject in Van Wert county—which land had been previously entered by his father-in-law, James McDermot. Mr. Walters was married, in Richland county, to Miss Harriet McDermot, daughter of James and Jane (Bell) McDermot, the former of whom lived to be 104 years of age. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Walters were named as follows: Jane, Mary A., Eliza, Elsie, Dorcas, Matilda, Rebecca, Melissa, William G., Wesley J. and Hadessah.

William G. Walters enlisted, in May, 1863, in company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio national guard, and served on guard duty at Point Lookout, Md.; after his return home he was drafted and assigned to company B, Thirty-second Ohio infantry, was again detailed for guard duty, and was honorably discharged in May, 1865. April 17, 1866, he married Jane M. Anderson, daughter of Thompson Anderson, of Guernsey county, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with the following children: Maria, William (deceased), Chalmers S. and Sumner E. Mrs. Walters, whom Mr. Walters first met when she was teaching school in Harrison township, Van Wert county, was reared to the faith of the United Presbyterian church, but on her marriage united with the United Brethren Radical church, of Willshire township, and in this faith she died February 10, 1881. Mr. Walters selected for his second wife Miss Emma J. Adelblue, daughter of Wilson and Mary A. (Badger) Adelblue, and to this union have been born the following children: Mary G., John S. (deceased), Xanthus, Maud B., Lulu P., Stanley and Russell B. Of the children of the first marriage Chalmers S. and Sumner E. have attended Middlepoint Normal college—Chalmers S. having also successfutly taught school four terms. Sumner E. has attended the Toledo Business university, and has also taught school three terms. Mr. Walters is a stanch republican, has filled various township offices, and is a pillar of the United Brethren church; he is a man of broad caliber, is a successful farmer and a very highly rgespected and useful citizen.

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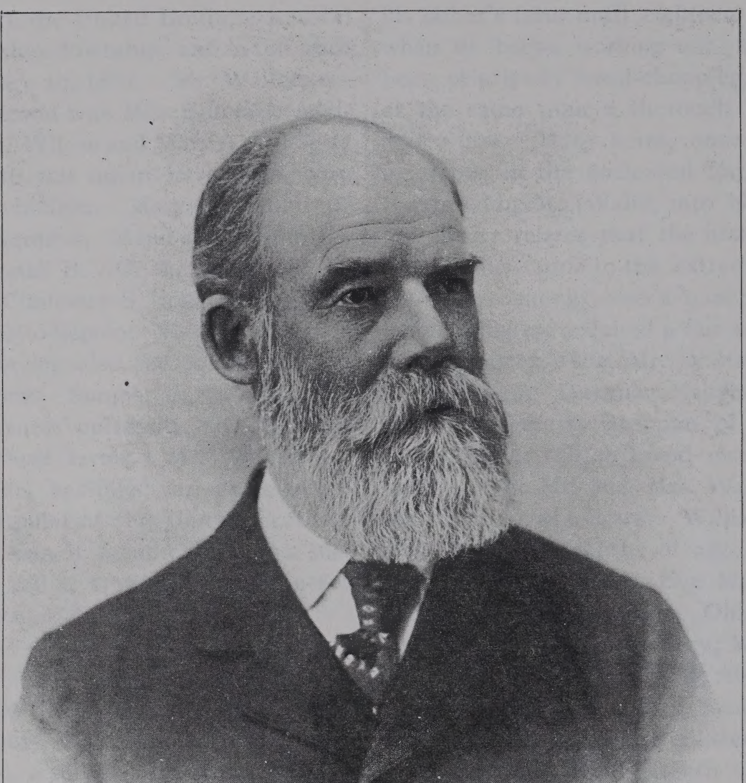
JOSIAH WALTZ, a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, was born February 22, 1839, a son of Andrew and Sophia (Angler) Waltz, natives of Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in childhood. Andrew Waltz was an experienced farmer, likewise a gunsmith and general blacksmith, and an allround mechanic. The children born to himself and wife were: Emanuel, of Union township, Van Wert county; Josiah, our subject; Lewis, who died while serving in the late war of the Rebellion; Sylvester, who grew to manhood but is now deceased; Henry, who resides in Paulding county, Ohio, and Hannah, deceased, wife of Jonas Harp, also deceased. In 1854 these parents came to Van Wert county, and located in Ridge township, where the father, Andrew, died of heart disease, having been preceded by his wife to the grave five years previously.

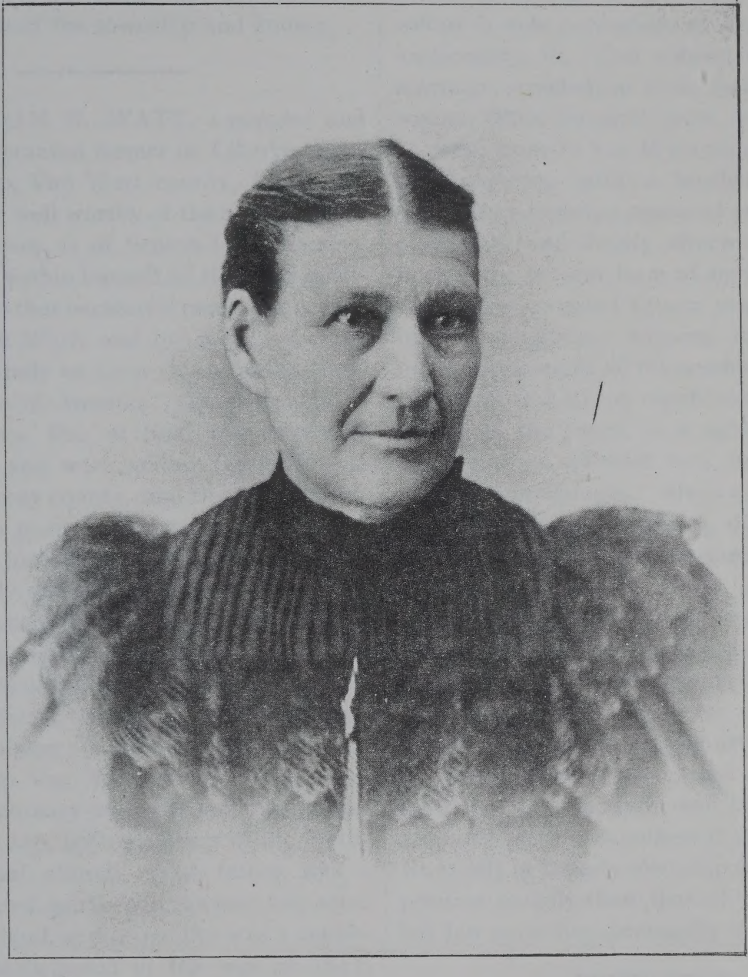
Josiah Waltz, our subject, was reared on his father's farm until eighteen years of age, when he began working out, his occupation being principally wood-chopping, but he gained at the same time a thorough knowledge of agriculture. Many acres, once the scene of his labor in the uncleared forest, have been converted by Mr. Waltz, into blooming fields. Mr. Waltz relates that the first school he attended was crude to the extreme, with a cat-and-stick chimney, and a puncheon floor, but he nevertheless acquired a fair education.

October 2, 1862, Mr. Waltz was wedded to Sally Ann Dustman, daughter of George and Milly (Peters) Dustman, of whom an extended notice will be found elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Waltz have been born children as follows: William Edgar, who died at fifteen months of age; Emma Alice, wife of Henry Smith; Eva May, married to Henry Maisch, of Lima, Ohio; Henry C., who wedded Minnie Woolery; Mary Gertrude, married to Elma Bevington; Alvin and Alma, twins, who died in infancy; Isaac Wilbur and Oscar Burt. Mr. Waltz enlisted July 1, 1862, in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until honorably mustered out in 1865, having done garrison duty most of the time, and having also been confined about three months by illness.

Mr. Waltz's first purchase of land was forty acres, to which he added eighty acres, all in the wilderness when the purchases were made; this land he has converted into one of the neatest and best kept farms in the county of Van Wert, all being thoroughly drained and entirely free from stumps. Mr. and Mrs. Waltz are members of the Methodist church, as are all the family, and in politics Mr. Waltza



WM. N. WATT.



MRS. MARGARET T. WATT.

stanch republican. Mr. Waltz stands high in the esteem of his neighbors, being recognized as one of the foremost and most substantial citizens of the township, ever ready to lend his aid, financially and otherwise, to every enterprise designed for the welfare and advancement of the interests of the township and county.

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WILLIAM N. WATT, a popular and substantial farmer of Liberty township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and one well worthy of the confidence of his fellow-citizens, is of Scotch-Irish descent, and possesses within himself all the good qualities inherent to that wonderful race. His grandfather, Joseph Watt, and his wife, were the first of the family to come from Ireland and found a home in America. They located in Chester county, Pa., at first, but afterward came to Ohio and were among the early settlers of Guernsey county, and there the grandfather died in peace, an honored citizen. A son of the Joseph above mentioned, also named Joseph and also a native of Ireland, was but two years of age when he was brought to America by his father. Here he grew up, and was married in Guernsey county, Ohio, to Barbara Williams, daughter of Charles and Sarah (Rosenberry) Williams. In 1870 the family came to Van Wert county, where the father died February 26, 1881, and the mother October 30, 1889, both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The father was a highly respected gentleman, owned 265 acres of good farm land, and in politics was a republican. He participated in the war of 1812, and was stationed near Sandusky, Ohio.

William N. Watt was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, February 2, 1835, and was reared to farming. On December 24, 1857, he married Margaret T. Willson, daughter of Jesse and Rachel (Powell) Willson. Jesse Willson was born in November, 1809, in Fayette county, W. Va., and his wife, a native of Chester county, Pa., was born in February, 1810. Jesse and Rachel Willson were married in Guernsey, Ohio, in 1832; the father died in Richland county, Ill., August 31, 1844; his widow is now a resident of Robinson, Crawford county, Ill. Our subject and wife, after marriage, resided on their farm in Guernsey county, Ohio, for eight years, and then, March 1, 1866, came to Van Wert county, purchased, in partnership with a brother, a saw-mill, which they together operated prosperously for nine years, and shortly afterward our subject bought the present farm of eighty acres, which they have occupied fifteen years, Mr. Watt, in the meantime, winning for himself the golden opinions of all his neighbors. In politics Mr. Watt is a strong republican, has served as justice of the peace, is a notary public, and once made a splendid race for the office of county commissioner. He is a steward of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member, and is also a member of Liberty grange, No. 322, P. of H. Mr. and Mrs. Watt have had born to them a happy family of five children, named as follows: Alice B., Minnie F., Henry G., Isabelle M. and William W. The young ladies have all been school-teachers, Minnie F. having attended the Middlepoint Normal college, and also the Angola normal of Angola, Ind., and Isabel M. having attended Methodist college at Delaware, Ohio. No family in Liberty township stand in a higher position socially than that of Mr. Watt's, and but few excel him personally in popularity.

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GEORGE HENRY WAPPNER, junior member of firm of Long & Wappner, the well-known real estate brokers, of Van Wert, Ohio, born in Mansfield, in the same state, May 6, 1846, a son of

Peter and Martha C. (Ries) Wappner. The father, Peter Wappner, was born in Helmershausen, Germany, in 1824, and when a child was brought to America by his mother, who settled in Mansfield. There Peter grew to manhood, became a stone-cutter, and in 1844 married Martha C. Ries, who was born in Germany December 25, 1825, a daughter of Christian and Mary Ries. To Peter and wife were born two children—George Henry and D. P., the latter an employee of the Standard Oil Company at Lima, Ohio. The father, Peter Wappner, in following his trade, had laid the foundation of a large barn, at Mansfield, and in February, 1849, while assisting at the raising of the structure, met with a sudden death through the falling of the timbers. He was a well educated man and a great lover of music, a member of the Pioneer volunteer fire department of Mansfield, and a devout Christian. His widow is now a resident of Elkhart, Ind., is a devout member of the Christian church and is highly respected by her neighbors.

George H. Wappner, from the age of two and one-half years until six, was cared for by his maternal grandparents, at that time residents of Van Wert county; he then returned to his mother, and at the age of fourteen was employed by Judge McGavren, of the probate court of Van Wert county, and also attended school until sixteen years of age. He was then, in 1862, employed as assistant to W. A. Clark, postmaster of Van Wert, with whom he remained four years; then attended Tuttle's select school and assisted Judge McGavren in the probate office one year, when he felt himself prepared for marriage, of which important event mention will be made of further on. He then went to Grand Traverse county, Mich., where he was employed in farm labor six months, but, being tendered a position as book-keeper by W. A. Clark, in the book store at Van Wert, as well as assistant in the express office, he returned and remained with him two years; then, for the next four years, he was book-keeper for the Ohio Stave company; the next four years, he was book-keeper in McCardy's hardware store, and then formed a partnership with John Matthias and William Phingstay in the Van Wert Carriage Manufacturing company, which partnership lasted three years. He was then appointed auditor and purchasing agent for the C., J. & M. R. R. company, in which capacity he acted until January, 1888, when he associated himself with S. W. Long in the real estate and insurance business until 1890; he then went to Chicago and was there connected with H. E. Wells in the real estate business for a year, when he returned to Van Wert, kept books for T. S. Gilliland until September, 1892, when he again joined Mr. Long in the real estate and insurance business. The firm represent, in the insurance branch, the Phœnix, Northwestern Mutual, Masonic Mutual, Accidental and other responsible companies, and in the real estate branch their list of realty is extensive and varied—the firm making a specialty of handling both foreign and local capital, and of dealing in farms of Van Wert and Paulding counties.

In August, 1867, Mr. Wappner drew up the license for his own marriage, while assistant in the probate court, to Miss Jennie McPeek, a native of Washington county, Ohio, and daughter of John and Jane McPeek. This union has been blessed by the birth of one child—May W., the wife of J. G. Rowland, jeweler, of Van Wert. Mr. and Mrs. Wappner are members of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Wappner is the superintendent of the Sunday-school. Fraternally, Mr. Wappner is a member of F. & A. M., and of the Knights of Maccabees; politically he is an influential republican, has served as a member of the republican central committee, and in 1890 was appointed land appraiser of Van Wert county. He is a useful and prominent citizen, and he and family rank high in the social circles of the city and county.

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HENRY WASSENBERG, a master wheelright and dealer in agricultural implements and manufacturer of and dealer in carriages, wagons, bicycles, etc., at Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 16, 1850, a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Allman) Wassenberg. The father, Andrew Wassenberg, a native of Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, was born about the year 1811, and in 1845 came to America. He located at Canal Dover, Tuscarawas county, was employed in a tannery until 1847, when he married Miss Allman, and then worked one week in a cooperage as a journeyman; he now opened a shop of his own for the manufacture of flour barrels, and carried on this business until his death, in 1871. His wife, Elizabeth Allman, was born in Germany in 1809, and died in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1869, the mother of two children—Henry, whose name is at the opening of this paragraph, and Catherine, the wife of J. F. Rice, a merchant of Mineral Point, Tuscarawas county. Andrew and Elizabeth Wassenberg were both sincere followers of the Evangelical Lutheran faith, while in politics Andrew was a democrat.

Henry Wassenberg, subject of this biography, acquired a good, solid general education in the schools of Canal Dover, and remained with his parents until he had reached the age of seventeen years, when he began learning the trade of a wheelwright, at which he worked, in Canal Dover, until 1868, or for a little more than a year, when he went to New Philadelphia, a pleasant little town in Tuscarawas county, and there followed his trade until 1871, when he came to Van Wert, and for three years worked as a journeyman for W. H. Himmelreich; in 1874, he opened, on his own account, a small shop on North Jefferson street, worked industriously and prospered, and at the termination of two years bought the lot, 44 x 66 feet, on which his present substantial shops are erected, and where he has since been actively occupied in the manufacture of carriages and wagons and in doing all kinds of repair work, as well as in handling a fine line of agricultural implements and bicycles—making sales, in 1894, of thirty-nine of the last named articles.

Mr. Wassenberg was united in matrimony, at New Philadelphia, Ohio, November 11, 1872, to Miss Lizzie Buss, a native of Switzerland, and to this union have been born two children—Charles, a clerk in G. M. Hall's dry-goods store, and Catherine May, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wassenberg are members of the Lutheran church, in which he is an elder. Fraternally, Mr. Wassenberg is a Free Mason, and also a member of the Improved Order of Red Men and of the National Union; in politics he is a republican, and in 1893 was elected a member of the city council, and is one of Van Wert's most popular, prominent and useful citizens. Through his own business tact, added to suavity and a disposition to oblige, and his strict integrity and unwillingness to misrepresent, Mr. Wassenberg has won his way to the high position he now holds in the public esteem, and which he so well deserves.

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I. W. WARD, postmaster of Cavett, Van Wert county, Ohio, and also merchant, was born in Paulding county, August 14, 1865, and is a son of Joseph and Mary J. (Patrick) Ward, the former of whom was born in Champaign county, Ohio, February 16, 1829, the son of a Virginian, who was born about 1800.

I. W. Ward, our subject, was reared a farmer, and was educated partly in Paulding county, but chiefly in Van Wert county, and in November, 1884, married Miss Ella Hattery, who was born in Van Wert county, August 30, 1866, a daughter of Andrew and Laura (Kennedy) Hattery, of whom further mention is made on another page of this volume. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ward three children have come to brighten their home, viz: Joseph M., Violet and Henry W. (the last named now deceased). After marriage, Mr. Ward employed himself in farming in Union township until 1891, when failing health compelled him to relinquish agricultural pursuits and enter upon a less laborious occupation. Consequently, he purchased his present mercantile establishment, and April 20, of the same year, was appointed postmaster; May 20, 1892, he was made ticket agent for the railroad company, which position he held until the fall of 1895. He enjoys a good country trade and has the full confidence of his patrons, and as an official has given thorough satisfaction to the public as well as to the post-office department. Politically Mr. Ward is a republican and is a stanch supporter of his party's principles; in religion, his wife is an adherent member of the Methodist church; fraternally he is a member of lodge No. 251, I. O. O. F., and as a citizen stands deservedly high in the esteem of the general community. See sketch of the Ward family, on page 532, in the Allen county department of this work.

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GEORGE C. WEAVER, of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, June 2, 1852, a son of Philip and Adaline (Dozer) Weaver. Philip Weaver was a native of Bavaria, Germany, was born in 1828, and came to the United States in 1834. His people located in York, Pa., and about 1837 came to Ohio, and settled in Muskingum county, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying in 1889. His widow yet survives, having borne her husband eleven children, viz: George C., Maria, Mattie, Carrie, Thomas, Reuben, and Lizzie all still living. and Emma, Clara, Ira and Eddie, deceased. The father was a shoemaker and was of much respectability; with his wife, he was a member of the Lutheran church, and in his politics he was a democrat, under the auspices of which party he filled the office of township assessor at one time, and that of land appraiser in 1880.

George C. Weaver was reared to manhood in his native county and there received his preliminary education in the common schools, and this was supplemented by a full course in the Ohio Central Normal school, at Worthington, where he was fully prepared for teaching, and this vocation he followed with great success in Wood and Muskingum counties for fifteen years; he then engaged in farming in Wood county until 1888, when he engaged in handling musical instruments, locating in Jerry City, Wood county, until 1891, when he came to Van Wert and embarked in the same line of trade. He handles chiefly the Estey and Star pianos, and also the Estey, Farrand & Votey, and Kimball and other makes of organs, and has won for himself a large clientage. Mr. Weaver was most happily married, in his native county, December 25, 1879, to Miss Alice E. Swingle, who was born in Morgan county, Ohio, June 5, 1857, a daughter of Frank and Lucretia (Springer) Swingle, five children being the result of the union, viz: Oliver F., Pearl G., Florence M., Paul L. and Charles F. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver are Lutherans in their religious belief and in politics Mr. Weaver is a democrat, having served as justice of the peace in his own and in Wood counties. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Weaver has built up a large trade since coming to Van Wert, and is very favorably and widely known throughout this and adjoining counties.

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HENRY WEGESIN, one of the well-known citizens and a leading farmer of section No. 36, Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born July 6, 1836. He is the son of Henry and Catherine (Luebrecht) Wegesin, both natives of Hanover, Germany. The father was a farmer and he and his wife lived and died in the old country, his death occurring in 1852, and that of his wife in the same year, in the faith of the Catholic church. There were seven children born to the parents, six sons and one daughter, all of whom, with the exception of our subject, are now dead. One brother, Herman Wegesin, came to America in 1844, and became a farmer and citizen of Van Wert county, living in Washington township, where he died in 1885, leaving a widow and six children.

Henry Wegesin was reared on the farm in the old country, was given a good public-school education, and at the age of fifteen years began an apprenticeship at the stone-mason's trade. In 1854 he came to America, arriving at New York city, on the second day of November, after a voyage on the sailing vessel Audubon, an American ship, lasting five weeks and three days. He came on to Delphos, Ohio, direct from New York, going first by rail to Buffalo, N. Y., thence by lake to Toledo, Ohio, and then by the canal to Delphos. The first winter after getting to Van Wert county he spent with his father on the farm. He was next on the farm of John H. Baumgarte, father of Conrad Baumgarte, of Washington township. He next went to work on a section of the Ohio & Indiana (now the Pennsylvania) railroad, where he put in about six months during the winter. In 1856 he went south to Cincinnati, where he worked for about a year driving team. From Cincinnati he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, for about a year. In the spring of 1858 he returned to Delphos, and there went to work at his trade in a marble shop for the firm of Reed & Seiser. He remained in that shop for a couple of years, during which time the firm changed several times, and then became a partner in the same, he and Mr. Seiser purchasing it together, and the firm becoming Seiser & Wegesin. In about 1862 Mr. Seiser sold out his interest to T. J. Tolan, the firm becoming Tolan & Wegesin. The firm now bought the Noble stone quarry, in Paulding county, near Charles, Ohio, and worked it successfully for about two years, taking out building stone of a very fine quality. In 1868 Mr. Wegesin sold out his interest in hoth the quarry and marble business to his partner, and then engaged in contracting for bridge abutments and general masonry work, at which he continued successfully until about 1883. In 1871 he purchased his present farm, and in 1875 he moved upon the same, still carrying on his contracting business, however, and having an overseer for the farm work. Since 1883 he has given all his time and attention to his farming. His farm embraces 160 acres, eighty of which is in Monroe township, Allen county, and eighty in Washington township, Van Wert county. In 1874 he built his present handsome frame residence, which, with his grounds, makes one of the most pleasant homes in the township.

Mr. Wegesin was married on October 24, 1861, to Caroline Ballmann, who was born in

Hanover, Germany, in 1839, and is the daughter of Bernhardt Ballmann, who came from Germany to America in 1864, was one of the old settlers of Delphos, and was a carpenter by trade. To their union eight children were born, as follows: Frank, born August 15, 1862; Annie, born December 18, 1864; Rosa, born September 28, 1867; Fred, born February 25, 1870; John Hemisius, born December 18, 1871, and died August 24, 1872; Caroline, born August 28, 1874; John H., born July 7, 1877, and Catherine, born October 11, 1880. Mr. Wegesin and family are all members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church of Delphos, of which he was trustee for six years. Mr. Wegesin served as city marshal of Delphos for about six years, and was for five years one of the trustees of Washington township. He has always been a member of the democratic party, and has been quite prominent in the affairs of the township.

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ISAAC S. WEIBLE, deceased.—Biography exercises its highest function when it indites a memoir to one who lived a life of such signal usefulness and honor as did he whose name initiates this review and who so bore himself as to gain the confidence and good will of all with whom he came in contact. Here was a man who stood four square to every wind that blew, whose friends were legion, and whose death was counted an irreparable loss far outside the sacred confines of the immediate family circle.

Isaac S. Weible was born near Canal Dover, Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on the 22d of May, 1844, and was the son of John and Anna (Thomas) Weible, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and traced their lineage back to sturdy German origin. His venerable father is still living, but the mother entered into eternal rest in the year 1887. Some time after his marriage John Weible removed with his family to Ohio, becoming one of the pioneers of Tuscarawas county, whence, in 1865, they came to Van Wert county, which ever afterward figured as their home. Our subject retained his residence in the county of his birth until he nearly attained his majority, and then accompanied his parents upon their removal to Van Wert county, where the residue of his days were passed. His preliminary educational discipline was secured in the common schools, and as he was possessed of a singnally alert and receptive mentality and was imbued with an ambition which was one of action, he profited by the instruction which he received, while in later years he builded on this firm and stable foundation a superstructure representative of broad intellectuality and mature judgment, showing that his power of assimilation was exceptional and that his wisdom was, in a measure, intuitive. He continued his studies in the public schools until he completed the high-school course and had graduated. Practical utility is the test which modern life puts upon knowledge and ability of whatever sort, and from this test our subject did not flinch, for we find that in 1871 and 1875 he taught in the schools of Delphos, proving a most capable and successful instructor and gaining the hearty endorsement of the patrons of the school. This honorable vocation is one that has served as a stepping-stone to many of the eminent men of our nation, and in the case at hand it was but in precedence of higher honors, for Mr. Weible's official career in Van Wert county was one of long duration and of signal efficiency and of fidelity to the duties imposed. He had served in some public capacity from almost the first day of his residence in Van Wert, and the various incumbencies which he retained may be briefly noted as follows: He served as deputy auditor under Capt. Exline, as assistant under Surveyor Jones, and as deputy clerk of the probate court and deputy treasurer under Corbet. It was often said that there was not a county office which he could not enter and acceptably fill on the briefest notice, and his value was duly appreciated by the various officials of the county. During the illness of the city and township clerk, in the winter of 1887–8, he discharged the duties of this office and administered its affairs with the greatest exactitude and success. He never neglected any duty which devolved upon him, and his genial, hopeful and sunny nature gained and retained to him the abiding friendship of a very wide circle of acquaintances throughout the county. His knowledge of the German language, as conjoined to the noble attributes of his character, gave him a particular hold upon the confidence and friendship of the German element in the county, and at Delphos, where he had once maintained his home, his death was deeply mourned by almost the entire community, irrespective of nationality.

February 17, 1868, Mr. Weible was united in marriage to Miss Elmira E. McCoy, who was born in Van Wert county, on the 30th of January, 1849, the daughter of Alexander and Eliza (Gillespie) McCoy, to whom extended reference is made in connection with the biography of their son, Moses McCoy, of Ridge township. Mrs. Weible was the tenth of the children born to her parents, and her education was received in the excellent schools of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Weible became the parents of two children: Della, wife of John W. Carpenter, a skilled mechanic of Youngstown, Ohio; and John, who is chief clerk in the railroad shops at Chattanooga, Tenn. These, with the devoted wife and mother and the venerable father, were left to mourn the loss of the one who had represented all that was true and noble in private as well as public life.

In his political adherency our subject was identified with the republican party, while fraternally he was a member of the Improved Order of Red Men and the National Union. He was an earnest believer in the christian religion, and had made arrangements to unite with the Presbyterian church only a fortnight before he was called upon to obey death's inexorable summons. His widow is a devoted member of that church. The death of Mr. Weible occurred on the 29th of June, 1888, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and his age was therefore forty-four years, one month and seven days. The last sad obsequies were conducted at the Methodist church, on the Sunday succeeding his demise, the Rev. E. W. Work, of the Presbyterian church, officiating, and then were laid to rest the remains of one who had acted well his part in life and merited all the honor bestowed on him.

MILTON WELKER, a skillful farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of Frederick and Phebe (Travis) Welker, natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, in which county, also, our subject was born, May 12, 1844. Frederick Welker was a farmer and carpenter, was an industrious, and, consequently, a thriving citizen. To his union with Phebe Travis he had born to him a family of nine children, all boys, viz.: Robert; two sons that died in infancy; Milton, the fourth son, is the subject of this sketch; Fielding, reared a family and died, in Van Wert county, in 1885; F. M. is a resident of Van Wert city, in the feed and grain trade; Malcolm died in childhood; James is a farmer of Indiana, and E. E. is a resident of Delphos, Ohio. In the year of 1861 or 1862, Frederick Welker brought his family to Van Wert and purchased forty acres of land in Ridge township, which he assiduously cultivated until his death, which occurred in 1880, he having survived his wife about two years. Milton Welker lived on the old home place until he attained his eighteenth birthday, when he enlisted in company D, Fifty-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, under Capt. Moore, in Auglaize county, Ohio, where Frederick Welker had been residing some years previously. Milton Welker was initiated in the sanguinary experiences of war at Pittsburg Landing, following which he took part at Corinth, whence he was sent to Memphis, where the troops lay idle for three months, and he then was engaged in the fight at Chattanooga, next in the Atlanta campaign, and so on to the sea with Gen. Sherman, serving until his discharge at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1865. Returning to Ohio he located in Allen county, where, in 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucinda Ballard, who bore him two children, the elder being a son, H. D., and the younger being Bertha Lee now the wife of Howard Sellers, a physician of note, residing near Cincinnati. The mother of these two children was called from earth in 1876, and Mr. Welker next married, in 1880, Miss Lydia Snyder, of Van Wert county—a daughter of Jacob Snyder—and to this marriage six children have been born, named Frank, Walter Joe, Sadie, Freddie and Bennie.

Since 1873 Mr. Welker has owned his present farm, which first consisted of eighty acres, to which he has since added forty acres, making him now the owner of 120 acres. This land, when Mr. Welker first bought it, was in a dense forest, and in such a condition being low and flat, that he and his brother were forced to lay rails down for a road bed before they could do any hauling; but at present the farm presents an appearance that may well excite the admiration of the citizens of the township. In addition to the military duty rendered by Mr. Welker he has served his fellow citizens, as a republican, in the capacity of trustee for two terms, and in 1893 he was the choice of his party as justice of the peace; since his incumbency of this office it can be said, to his credit, that no appeal has ever been made from his decisions. Mr. Welker is a conscientious member of the Methodist church, and few people in Ridge township are more respected in their social relations than the Welker family.

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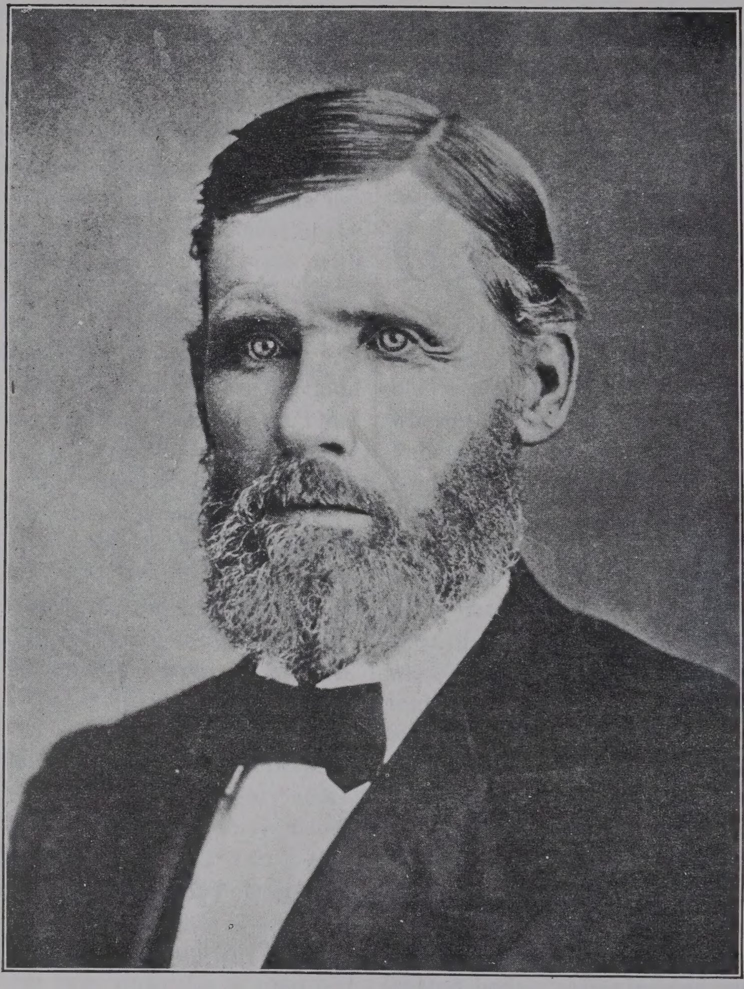
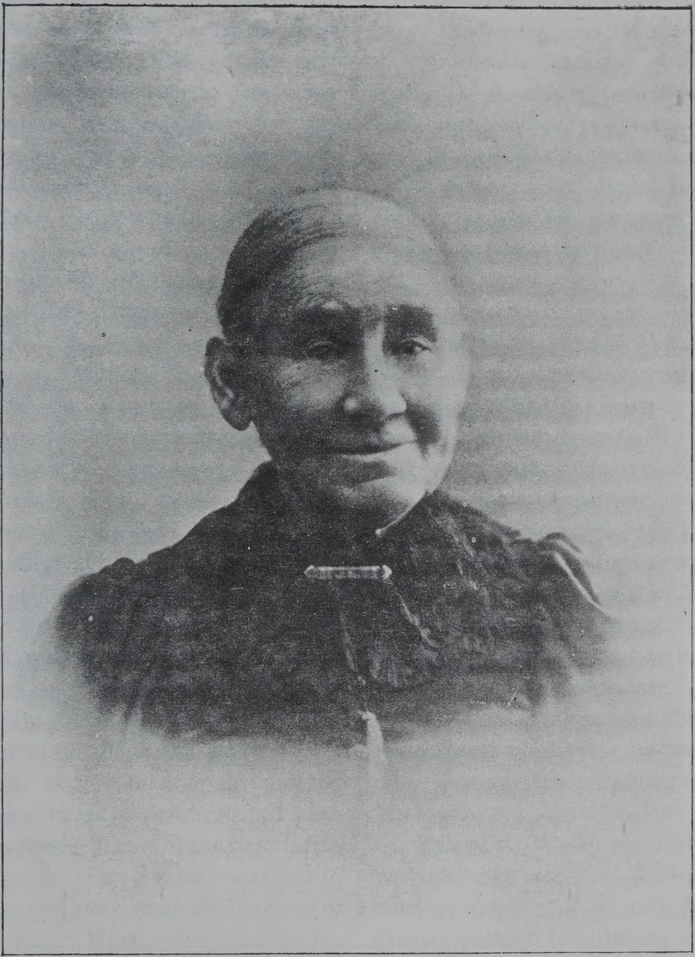
WILLIAM WAUGH, deceased, was born in Pennsylvania; his father, Samuel Waugh, was born in Ireland, and there received a good education. In 1782 Samuel Waugh came to America, landing in New York with considerable wealth. After considering for a while where to locate and buy, he decided to go to Pennsylvania on a William Penn grant of land, which was covered with woods and water—a most uninviting condition, yet by hard work and good draining he soon converted it into a good farm. Living alone in this wilderness, he became very lonely and felt the need of a companion and helpmate, but there were very few maiden ladies to be found at that time in this new country. So, with others, he sent to Ireland, and as a consequence a ship arrived with a goodly number of women on board, and there he met his future wife, Jane Graceson. After a short courtship they married and went to live on his farm, where he became quite prominent, at one time serving as a member of congress and assisting in the forming of some of the first laws passed by that body. After leaving congress he lived in retirement on his farm until his death. In politics he affiliated with the democrats; in religion he was a strong and faithful Presbyterian. Samuel Waugh was the father of nine children, viz: Samuel, Jane, Nancy, Mary, Sarah, Maggie, James, John and William.



JOHN NEWMAN.



MRS. SUSAN WAUGH.

The subject of this mention, William Waugh, was educated in the county schools in Pennsylvania, and at the death of his father fell heir to considerable wealth. He then came to Ohio and settled in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, and with his education and wealth was soon recognized as one of the most prominent and influential farmers of that township. The farm which he bought was then covered with a dense forest, and the lofty oaks seemed to defy man, but he set resolutely to work and by hard toil he soon succeeded in clearing a good farm, which he continued to improve until it became one of the best in the township. In 1843 Mr. Waugh married, in Richland county, Ohio, Susan Newman, who was born in Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, in 1822. Her father, Michael Newman, was born in Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. By trade he was a cooper, at which trade he worked until he bought and located on a farm near Mansfield, Ohio, being one of the first settlers there. During the Civil war it was destroyed by raiding rebels. He helped to build the first grist-mill in Richland county. In 1812, when the war broke out, Mr. Newman was drafted, and walked twenty-five miles to Fort Findlay, in which he served for nine months on garrison duty; after his time expired he returned to his trade and was prosperous; later he went to his farm again and by hard work and judicious expenditure of considerable money, made it one of the best farms in that section. In 1820 he was married to Elizabeth Copsy, and they were the parents of twelve children, viz: Mary, who died in Indiana; Henry, who died in Richland county, Ohio; Susan, widow of the subject of our sketch; Jacob, Jane, John, William and Harriet, all five of whom are deceased; Margaret, who died in Illinois; Elizabeth, died in Huron county, Ohio; Charlie and Andrew, who went to California thirty-four years ago and have not been heard from since. After his marriage Mr. Waugh brought his wife to his farm in Hoaglin township, where he prospered and was respected by all. Death called him away in 1885. In politics he was a democrat and in religious matters he was ever a faithful member of the Presbyterian church, and had assisted in establishing several churches. He gave freely to good and worthy enterprises. He left considerable property to his wife, who lives in Van Wert off the income of her property. She is a member of the United Brethren church and a liberal giver to all charitable and educational purposes.

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EDWIN RYAN WELLS, deceased, a son of Elisha and Hannah (Spicer) Wells, was born in Erie county, Pa., January 9, 1818. The parents were natives of Rensselaer county, N. Y., where the father was a farmer, but removed, some years after marriage, to Erie county, Pa., where they resided until 1819, when they came to Ohio and settled in Richland county, where they passed the remainder of their days. In politics the father was a whig, and in religion both he and his wife were communicants in the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of seven children, of whom two only now survive—Laura and Olive, both of Michigan.

Edwin R. Wells, the fifth child born to his parents, was reared and educated in Richland county, Ohio, yet it may be stated that the greater part of his literary education was self-acquired. When nearly twenty years of age he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, with his parents, who settled at the crossing of Mattox creek and the Willshire and Decatur roads, then an unbroken wilderness. Mr. Wells was a zealous student, spending the time that could be spared from his business pursuits in reading and acquiring knowledge from books and papers, and was the first subscriber at Van Wert for the Cincinnati Daily Commercial, from which he gained a general knowledge of the current events and politics of his country. He was chosen to teach the first school of Van Wert, and during his minority he was appointed auditor of Van Wert county, but the books and papers of the office being at Willshire, the first county seat, he took his trusted rifle and made a trip to that town and returned, bringing the records of that office tied up in a pocket handkerchief. Not being provided with printed blanks, he was compelled to rule with his pen many of the forms used in that office. The salary of the office, then about $100 per year, payable in county orders worth 12½ cents on the dollar, not being sufficient to pay his board, he was compelled to clerk in a store and do other odd jobs, as the duties of the office did not require his full time. The fees of the office not meeting his requirements, he resigned in 1845, and afterward served as clerk of the court of common pleas until 1852, when he engaged in mercantile business. In 1855 he moved to Waterloo, Iowa. Returning from Waterloo to Van Wert, on account of the precarious condition of the health of his parents, he cared for them until their death. Engaging in the banking business in the spring of 1856, in company with Dr. Charles Emerson, he founded the first banking institution in Van Wert county, and from 1856 until 1872 remained connected with the banks and banking interests and was reasonably successful in all his undertakings. In 1866 he retired from active business and went to his farm west of town, greatly improving the same; but age and declining health coming upon him, he again returned to live in Van Wert in 1889, and here he spent his remaining days in ease.

The marriage of Mr. Wells took place in Van Wert June 11, 1843, to Miss Sarah Thorn, who was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, December 1, 1821, a daughter of William and Margaret (Fulks) Thorn, of Virginia. Miss Thorn had come to Van Wert for a temporary stay, and here met Mr. Wells when he was teaching, and she herself was a pupil under another tutor. The romance following need not be detailed. The result of this union was nine children, viz: An infant, deceased; George E., attorney; Edgar R. farmer; Milton, deceased; an infant, deceased; Emeline, wife of Robert Hook, a farmer; Charles, at home with his mother; Frauk and Harriet, both deceased. Mr. Wells lay down his life burden February 3, 1894, and his mortal remains were interred in Woodland cemetery, where a magnificent monument marks his resting place. Mrs. Wells, a sincerely christian woman and a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, resides on South Wall street, beloved by all with whom she comes in contact. She still retains a finely improved farm of 280 acres, and several improved city lots left by her deceased husband.

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JOHN WELLMANN, one of the well-known farmers and leading citizens of Washington township, Van Wert county, living two and a half miles northwest from Delphos, was born on the farm where he now resides, March 1, 1855. His parents were John C. and Anna M. (Beckman) Wellmann, both of whom were born in Hanover, Germany, and both came to America in 1842, before they were married, in Putnam county, Ohio, the fall after they came over. They came to Van Wert county in 1843 and purchased eighty acres of land from the government, and, settling on the same, farmed the remainder of their lives, he dying January 1, 1870, and his widow dying August 30, 1881. There were five children born to the parents, of which five children two daughters and one son (our subject) are now living. They were both members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church at Delphos.

John Wellmann was reared on the home farm, and secured his education by attending the common schools of the neighborhood and the public schools of Delphos. He has remained on the farm all his life, living at home with his parents until their deaths, then taking his share of the old homestead and later purchasing the balance of it. He owns 100 acres, lying in section No. 13, all under fence and all but twenty acres improved,

Mr. Wellmann has been twice married, the first time on November 11, 1880, to Mary Feirbaugh, who was born in Allen county, Ohio, and was the the daughter of Casper and Margaret Feirbaugh. Her death occurred on March 22, 1894, leaving two sons and two daughters, as follows: Henry B., born February 18, 1883; Nellie E., born November 8, 1885; Dora A., born April 6, 1889, and Vincenz G., born March 22, 1891. On February 26, 1895, Mr. Wellmann was married to Julia Gladent, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 27, 1859. Her father was Bernard Gladent, now deceased. Mr. Wellmann is a member of the democratic party, and has been active in public matters. He has always been prominent in the township and has held a number of public offices. His first office was that of school director, to which office he was first appointed and afterward elected, and reelected, serving eleven years in succession. He was then out one year, and in April, 1895, was again elected to that office. His next office was road supervisor, which he held two terms. In April, 1889, he was elected township trustee, and was re-elected in 1892, holding that office six years. He has also served three years as director of the German Mutual Fire Insurance company of Delphos, and on December 27, 1894, was made treasurer of that company and holds that office at present. Mr. Wellmann and family are members of Saint John's Roman Catholic church, of Delphos.

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DENNIS WELCH, night baggage master and ticket agent for the Pennsylvania railroad company at Van Wert, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, December 30, 1834, a son of Benjamin A. and Electa (Adams) Welch. The father, Benjamin A., was born in New York in September, 1807, and was a son of David Welch, also a native of New York, and of Scotch descent. David was a physician of some prominence, and in 1812 came to Ohio, locating in Delaware county, where he practiced his profession many years, and then removed to Union county, where his death took place in 1868. His eight children all grew to maturity, and of these the father of our subject was the fourth in order of birth. Benjamin A. Welch was five years of age when his parents located in Delaware county, and there he grew to manhood and studied medicine under his father, although he did general labor work until thirty-five years of age. In November, 1848, he came to Van Wert county and settled in Liberty township, where he practiced the botanic system of medicine until his death, November 18, 1892—having been remarkably successful in his practice, which success was attributed to his profound knowledge of the virtues of roots and herbs. He had married, in Delaware county, Miss Electa Adams, who was born in New York, January 8, 1808, and to this union were born eight children, viz: Israel S., Charles, Dennis (our subject), and five now deceased—Louisa, Sabra K., Naomia, an infant unnamed, and Staunton S. The mother of this family died in 1891, a member of the

Baptist church, of which church her husband was also a member. Dr. Welch, in politics, was a whig, and once served as coroner of Van Wert county; he was also a patriot, and enlisted, in September, 1861, in company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, but in 1862 was taken sick and and was sent home. On his recovery, however, he enlisted in company M, Second Ohio heavy artillery, and was detailed as acting surgeon until the close of the war, and at his death was drawing a pension of $16 per month.

Dennis Welch had reached the age of fourteen years when his parents brought him to Van Wert county, and here he was educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until twenty-four years old, when his marriage took place. He was then employed in general labor until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when he enlisted, October 18, 1861, in company E, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, or during the war. At Mission Ridge he lost a toe—his first injury—but continued with his regiment in all its marches, skirmishes and battles until July 22, 1864, when he was struck in the right shoulder by a rifle-ball, and was sent to the hospital at Marietta, Ga., where he was confined six weeks, and then received a furlough home for thirty days; at the expiration of his leave of absence he went to Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until the expiration of his term of enlistment, when he was honorably discharged, and mustered out November 18, 1864. On his return to Van Wert he was employed as a railroad section hand for four years, then as a section foreman four years on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago road, and was then watchman of the same tracks for about two years; he was then located in the city as pumper and wood-piler, and two months later was made day baggage-master, a position he held six years; in 1878 he was appointed night baggage-master and ticket agent and general assistant—his present position.

Mr. Welch was first married in Van Wert county, July 10, 1859, to Miss Sarah M. Budd, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, July 10, 1838, a daughter of Inman and Polly (Hooks) Budd, and this union resulted in the birth of four children, viz: Benjamin I., Edith (deceased), Polly A., and Elnora (deceased). The mother of these children died October 16, 1869, and Mr. Welch was next married, in Van Wert city, November 30, 1871, to Sarah C. Weible, a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, who bore five children, as follows: Anna A., Frederick C., Edgar B. (deceased), Bruce H., at home, and S. C., deceased. The mother of this family was taken away in 1882, a member of the Baptist church, of which Mr. Welch is also a member. Mr. Welch is a republican in politics, and for four years served in the city council. Fraternally, he is a member of the I.O.O.F., and I.O.R.M., and is recognized as an upright and useful citizen. He resides on his premises on North Vine street, where he owns four lots, beside his dwelling.

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**CHARLES A. WELSH**, formerly a popular conductor on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad, was born at Spencerville, Ohio, May 14, 1867. He is a son of Marcus Welsh, who was born at Columbus, Ohio, and whose father Davenport Welsh, was born in England. Davenport Welsh, when yet a young man, emigrated to the United States, and after being in this country for some time, married a Miss Shawn, by whom he had the following children: Davenport, Chester, Emma, Grace, Millinca, Noble and Marcus, and two others that died in infancy. Mr. Welsh was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a liberal, broad-minded man.

Marcus Welsh, at an early age, learned the cooper trade, working at that trade for some time in Columbus, and then went to Spencerville, where he learned the carpenter trade. From Spencerville he removed to Van Wert, Ohio, and here he worked at the trade of carpenter and builder until his death, which was caused accidentally while he was at work erecting a building for A. Moebus. The scaffold upon which he was standing gave way with the weight upon it, and Mr. Welsh fell on a picket fence, and was so badly injured that he died three days thereafter. Mr. Welsh was a most excellent man, strictly moral and upright, a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a republican in politics. He served in the 100-day service during the Civil war, and was fully as dutiful as a soldier as he was in the civil walks of life. His death, caused in the way that it was, was a great shock to his immediate family and also to his many friends.

His son, Charles A. Welsh, the subject of this sketch, received a good common-school education, and early in life began to work on the railroad as a section hand. This was on the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad. After working in this position for some time he secured a position as brakeman, from which position he was promoted to that of fireman, and finally, in 1892, to that of conductor, all of which is sufficiently indicative of the confidence placed in him by the company. Mr. Welsh was married, July 31, 1892, to Miss Arrilla McConnell, of Bryan, Ohio. Her father, James McConnell, was born in Ohio, and is a very prosperous farmer. He was married to Sarah Michel, of Pennsylvania, by whom he had the following children: George, James (deceased), Charles, Cora, Miella and Arrilla. Mr. McConnnell is now living retired in Van Wert, is a strong democrat, is a member of the Lutheran church, and is in every way a much respected man.

Charles A. Welsh is a most highly respected young man, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, is modest in his demeanor, and though thus quiet, is yet a man of pronounced convictions and not afraid to express his thoughts. In politics he is a republican, and true to the principles of his party. His wife is a young woman of many excellent and pleasing qualities of mind and heart, and is everywhere well liked and highly esteemed. January 2, 1896, Mr. Welsh bought the F. W. Manship grocery, and is now one of Van Wert's young and popular business men.

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JOSEPH WERT, farmer of Liberty township, son of George and Mary A. Wert, was born at Leesville, Crawford county, Ohio, February 28, 1839. The father, George Wert, was born in Pennsylvania about 1812, and was the son of Joseph Wert, a native of that state, and of German descent. By occupation, George Wert was a saddle and harness maker, and worked at his trade until the year 1846; in 1836, he married Mary A. Armstrong, daughter of William Armstrong, of Pennsylvania; she was born about 1822, in Crawford county, Ohio, and bore her husband eight children, whose names are as follows; Joseph, subject of this sketch, William; Barbara A., wife of Richard Sands; Elizabeth, wife of G. Jewell; George, John, Thomas and David F. In his youth George Wert accompanied his parents to Crawford county, Ohio, where he lived until 1846, at which time, he moved to the county of Van Wert and purchased to 200 acres of land, from which he improved a farm. Mr. Wert was a democrat in politics, a Presbyterian in his religious belief and his death occurred on the 5th day of January, 1876.

Joseph Wert, our subject, was reared a farmer, ond received the benefits of a common-school education. He became a resident of Van Wert county in 1846, and with the exception of several years spent in the county of Richland, has made his home in the same ever since. At the breaking out of the Civil war he tendered his services to his country, enlisting in September, 1862, in company G, Twentieth Ohio voluntary infantry, and served with the same until honorably discharged at Vicksburg, Miss., in July, the following year. He participated in the battles of Raymond and Champion Hill, and was at the storming of Vicksburg, where he had a very narrow escape, his canteen having been torn away by a piece of shell. After his discharge Mr. Wert returned to Ohio and engaged in farming, and December 16, 1869, was united in marriage with Miss Orpha Leppo, daughter of James and Barbara (Neal) Leppo. He then located in Richland county and resided there until 1873, when he returned to Van Wert county, and purchased his present home in Liberty township. Several years after the death of his father he purchased the home place, consisting of 160 acres, which he still owns. Mr. Wert is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of the township, and stands high in the community as an honorable and trustworthy citizen. He supports the democratic party with his ballot, and, while not a partisan, takes an active interest in politics, having decided opinions upon all questions of the day, and is fearless in his defense of the same. While not a member of any church organization, he is a believer in religion and contributes liberally towards its support.

Mrs. Wert was born in Richland county May 24, 1846, and is the mother of the following children: George Earnest, born March 14, 1871; Anna B., born February 19, 1874; Della, born April 27, 1876, died in infancy; Zanta, born December 11, 1878; Laura M., born February 21, 1885, and James W., whose birth occurred February 25, 1887. Mrs. Wert and daughters are members of the Church of God. Sames Leppo, father of Mrs. Wert, was born of German parentage, in Washington county, Md., October 14, 1817; he married October 7, 1845, Barbara Neal, daughter of Martin and Nancy Neal, and reared a family of seven children: Orpha, the subject's wife; Mrs. Sarah Everett; Mrs. Mary E. Dougal; Margaret, wife of William Lamb; Franklin P.; Hannah R., wife of David Hutchinson, and Nancy W., wife of J. Bevier. The father of these children died in 1865. Mrs. Leppo, wife of James, was born December 16, 1817, and departed this life April 26, 1876.

George E. Wert, one of the prominent young business men of Van Wert county, and eldest son of Joseph and Orpha (Leppo) Wert, is a native of Ohio, born in the county of Richland. He laid the foundation for his education in the common schools, came with his parents to Van Wert county in 1873, and in 1888, entered the Chicago college of Pharmacy, from which institution he was graduated, after completing his course. On leaving the country schools, he took a scientific course at the Ada and Middlepoint normal schools, graduating from the latter in 1890, and the following year completed the course of pharmacy in the former institution. He successfully passed the state examination in pharmacy, after which he accepted the postion of manager of drug houses at Cleveland, Ohio City and Rockford, for a Mr. Vance. In 1893, Mr. Wert purchased a drug store at the town of Scott, owned by Tillman Rogers, added to the stock and soon built up quite a large and lucrative business. In 1894, he further enlarged his business by adding a large stock of general merchandise, and his store is now one or the most successful of the kind in Van Wert county. Mr. Wert displays business ability of a high order, and by his courtesy and fair dealing has won the regard of all with whom he comes in contact, and it is safe to say that no one stands higher in the estimation of the community than he. He is conservative in politics, voting the democratic ticket, and fraternally belongs to Pequod tribe, No. 202, I. O. R. M.

Mr. Wert was married June 8, 1892, to Sarah, daughter of John and Ellen (Montgomery) McCoy. Mrs. Wert was born in Van Wert county, January 22, 1873, was graduated from Western Ohio Normal school at Middlepoint, and for some years was a successful teacher, a part of the time in the city schools of Van Wert. She is an accomplished lady, moves in the best circles of society, and is a very earnest and sincere worker in the Presbyterian church.

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ARNOLD WHEELER, a prominent farmer of Jennings township, is a native of Ohio, born in the year 1831, in Harrison county, son of Thomas and Rachael (Tipton) Wheeler. Thomas and Rachael Wheeler were also Ohioans by birth, moved to Harrison county many years ago, and there reared their family, consisting of the following children: Arnold; Henry; Thomas; Keziah, wife of David Barnett; Martha, deceased wife of Adam Hoogbler; Eleanor, deceased wife of Samuel Courtright; Mary, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Reuben Tedrow, and Rebecca. The parents of these children died at the ages of eighty-four and sixty-two years, respectively.

Arnold Wheeler, remained on the home farm until about twenty years of age and began life for himself as an employee of the Pan Handle Railroad company, with which he was connected for a period of four years. While thus engaged, he succeeded in saving a sufficient amount of money to enable him to go west and enter land in the sate of Iowa, where he resided for a short time, subsequently disposing of his farm there, and, returning to Ohio, located in the county of Tuscarawas. Here, in 1855, he was united in marriage with Catherine, daughter of John and Anna (Condo) Stall. The father of Mrs. Wheeler was the first settler on the present site of the town of Jewett; he had a family consisting of the following children: Jacob, deceased; Margaret, wife of Thomas Lucas; Mary Ann, wife of David Hazlett; Samantha Jane, wife of Albert Houk; and the wife of the subject of this sketch, who was third in order of birth. Mr. Stall died in 1872—the mother dying in 1896, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

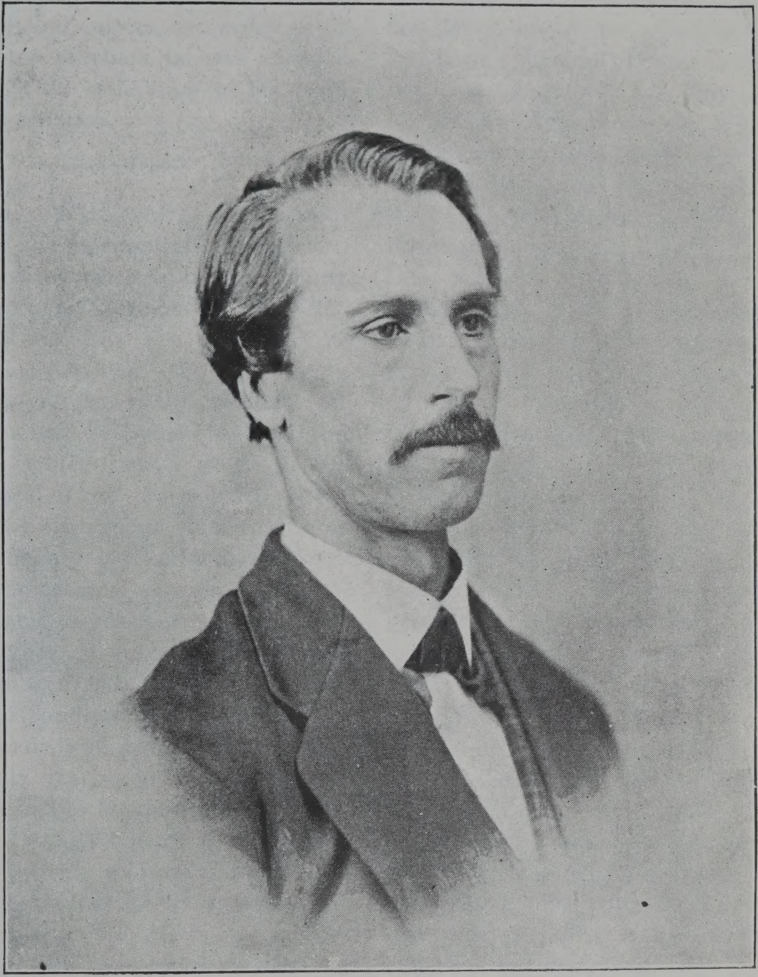
Mr. Wheeler resided upon his farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, for six years, and thence, in the fall of 1862, moved to the county of Van Wert, and purchased a farm of seventy acres in Jennings township, to which he has since made additions until his place at this time embraces an area of 130 acres, upon which many valuable improvements have been made. Mr. Wheeler cleared the greater part of his farm with his own hands, worked early and late, and succeeded in placing himself in very comfortable circumstances. He is one of the leading farmers of his community, a man of excellent character, and possesses the confidence and esteem of all who know him. The following are the names of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler: Albert, who died at the age of thirty-two; Mary Ellen, wife of Seward Gardner; Rachael Ann, deceased wife of James Burnett; Ira and Ida, twins. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler are members of the Methodist church; Mr. Wheeler is a republican.

HARRIET WEAVER, the subject of this sketch, and widow of Charles L. Weaver, of Pleasant township, Van Wert county, is a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, born in 1848, the daughter of Michael and Margaret Horn.

Michael Horn, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in the year 1819, and was the son of John Horn, a representative of one of the pioneer families of the Keystone state. By occupation, Michael Horn was a blacksmith, which trade he followed for some years in Pennsylvania, and when a young man moved to Ohio, locating in Tuscarawas county, where he followed his chosen calling for a limited period, and then moved to the county of Coshocton. He was married in the latter county, in 1846, to Margaret Albert, daughter of John and Catherine (Cutshall) Albert, a union blessed with the birth of the following named children: Nancy J., who died in infancy; Eliza, wife of Noah Stettler; Catherine, wife of Willis L. Stettler; Mahala, wife of John Plants; John, deceased; George, deceased; Seth, deceased, and Harriet—the last named being the oldest member of the family. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1832, and is still living. In 1853, Mr. Horn moved to Mercer county, where, in addition to working at his trade, he engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, purchasing a farm, upon which he spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1863. He is remembered as a good citizen, industrious and progressive, and was highly regarded by the community in which he resided. In 1865, his widow was united in marriage with Richard B. Coppersmith, a native of Maryland, but at that time a resident of Mercer county, Ohio, a union which resulted in the birth of three children: Margaret E., deceased, Clara V. and James M. Mr. Coppersmith died in 1880, and in 1884, Mrs. Coppersmith entered into the marriage relation with Jefferson Andress, of Mercer county, with whom she is most happily living at this time.

Mrs. Harriet Weaver, the immediate subject of this mention, attended in her youth the country schools, acquiring therein a fair education, and in 1866 was married to George W. Fisher, to whom she bore three children —Euphemia, wife of Cyrus Uhrich, of Pleasant township; Lewis and George M. Mr. Fisher was born in the year of 1840, in Fairfield county, Ohio, son of Thomas and Margaret (Goodwin) Fisher, and when a boy accompanied his parents to the county of Mercer, where he grew to manhood, assisting his father on the farm in the meantime. He resided in Mercer county until 1869, at which time he disposed of his interests there and moved to Wisconsin, where he resided for a period of about eighteen months. During that time he met with severe financial reverses, losing the greater part of his possessions, and he died in that state in 1871. Mr. Fisher served in the late war as private in company F, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, and took an active part in the campaigns of Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, participating in the bloody battles around Atlanta, and was in Sherman's celebrated march to the sea.

On the 17th day of August, 1875, Mrs. Fisher became the wife of Charles L. Weaver, the issue of which was five children: Catherine J., James L., John C., and an infant that died without being named. Charles L. Weaver was a native of Pennsylvania and son of William and Margaret (Gunnett) Weaver. He was born March 22, 1839, attended in his youth the schools of his native state and Ashland county, Ohio, and afterward pursued the higher branches of learning in Haysville college. Subsequently he engaged in teaching, which profession he followed at Athens for a number of years, and afterward worked at



CHAS. L. WEAVER.

carpentering and bridge-building in various places throughout Ohio. After his marriage, he purchased land in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, from which he developed a good home, and continued to reside upon the same until his death, July 9, 1885. Mr. Weaver was a man of liberal culture, succeeded in the different vocations in which he was engaged, and stood high in the estimation of his neighbors and fellow-citizens.

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SAMUEL WHYMAN, a prosperous farmer and representative of citizen of Jennings township, Van Wert county, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, August 8, 1844, and is a son of A. L. and Mary (Williams) Whyman—the father a native of England, and the mother of Ohio. A. L. Whyman was born December 8, 1811, and at the age of eighteen, came to the United States, and located at Portsmouth, Ohio, where he pursued his trade of cooper. Later, he went to the county of Clermont, where he met the lady who became his wife, and in the year 1849 became a resident of Van Wert county, and purchased 120 acres of government land in section No. 28, Jennings township. Upon this land no improvements of any kind had been made, and when the family came out the following year, a small, inconvenient one-room cabin had to be rented for their accommodation. Mr. Whyman, in due time, succeeded in preparing more elaborate quarters, but for several years the family was almost isolated, the neighbors being few, and but one house was at that time to be found between our pioneer's cabin and Spencerville, a distance of six miles.

A. L. and Mary Whyman reared a family consisting of the following children: Rebecca, wife of Henry Cary; Samuel, Barbara, deceased wife of C. S. Drake; John, wedded to Eliza Book; Mary, deceased; Lucinda, deceased; the last two named died within a few hours of each other, and were both buried in the same grave; the next in order of birth was Mary, and the youngest, Lincoln, wedded Eliza Stose and lives in Defiance. A. L. Whyman has served in all the offices of his township, and from a poor cooper boy became one of the well-to-do farmers of Van Wert county.

Samuel Whyman spent the years of his youth and his early manhood with his parents on the home place, and assisted his father on the farm until February, 1864, when he enlisted in company D, Eighty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, with which he served until March of the following year, when, by reason of an accident, he was compelled to leave the service. His leg was shattered by the explosion of a magazine, necessitating his being taken to the hospital at Long Island, N. Y., where his limb received proper treatment. When sufficiently recovered, Mr. Whyman returned to his home, but for some time thereafter, was compelled to use crutches to assist him in walking. His first employment after leaving the army was teaming, which he followed six months, and then began coopering, which he continued until the fall of 1867, in Van Wert. In the latter year he opened a shop of his own in Spencerville, where he conducted a good business for three years, and later engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he still carries on in Jennings township, where he owns a finely-improved farm, in connection with which, since 1872, he has run a general store, his postoffice being known as Centerville, and has done well.

On the 5th day of December, 1868, Mr. Whyman and Sarah E. Nugent, daughter of John and Mary Nugent, were made man and wife, to which union two children, Mary A. and Sarah E., were born. Mrs. Whyman died January 26, 1873, and subsequently Mr.

Whyman was united in marriage with Mrs. Sarah E. Nunneviler, widow of Joseph Nunneviler, and daughter of Joseph B. and Elizabeth (Standring) Smith. By her previous marriage Mrs. Whyman had become the mother of four children, viz: William, George, Oliver L. and Joseph K. By her marriage with Mr. Whyman she has had five children, three sons and two daughters: Hannah, Abraham L., Thomas W. (deceased), Lydia Lucinda and Henry C. Mrs. Whyman's parents were natives of Pennsylvania and England, and she was their only child. Her mother died in 1870; her father is still living, his home being in Delaware county, Pa.

Mr. Whyman experienced many difficulties and hardships after returning from the army. and for some time he was compelled to struggle almost constantly against adverse circumstances, which would have discouraged the majority of men. His early education was of necessity much limited, but, in spite of this, he is an intelligent man and has succeeded well in life, accumulating a goodly share of this world's goods and winning for himself an excellent reputation among his fellow-men. He is a member of the Methodist church, to which his family also belong, Mrs. Whyman having joined the church when but eighteen years of age.

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ELI L. WILKINSON, M. D., physician, ex-soldier, merchant and editor, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, December 31, 1843, and is a son of Cyrus G. and Rebecca (Ladd) Wilkinson. The father, Cyrus G., was born in Fayette county, Pa., in 1808, was reared on a farm and early in life served an apprenticeship at shoemaking. In 1826 he came to Ohio, located in Columbiana county and followed his trade until 1840, when he removed to Hancock county, where he carried on the boot and shoe business in connection with farming, at Findlay, until 1871, when he settled in Van Wert and continued in the shoe trade, in partnership with his son Mahlon, until his death, in 1883. He had married, in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1830, Miss Rebecca Ladd, a native of Lynchburg, Va., born in 1811; to this union were born the following children: Elizabeth, Washington (deceased), Cornelius, Lewis (deceased), John (deceased), Caroline (deceased), Eli L. (our subject), Rebecca, wife of Joseph Fisher, Susan (deceased), Townsend (deceased) and Cyrus. The parents of this family were members of the Society of Friends, the father being a republican in politics and an active operator of the underground railroad between Findlay and Perrysburg; he was successful in life, and left behind an estate valued at $8,000; his widow resides on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and is highly esteemed as a neighbor and as a christian lady.

Eli L. Wilkinson was reared on the home farm in Hancock county, Ohio, there received his primary education, and enlisted at the age of eighteen years, at Findlay, August 11, 1862, in company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry; he was assigned to the army of the Cumberland and participated in the battles of Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Kingston, Dalton, Adairsville, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, Lost Mountain, and Kenesaw Mountain. In the last-named strife he was shot through both thighs, June 18, 1864, and was first taken to the field hospital, thence to Chattanooga, then to Nashville, and then transferred to the invalid corps and appointed assistant steward at Camp Morton, Indianapolis, where he served about ten monts, and was then honorably discharged. He then returned to Hancock county, and began reading medicine, at Mount Blanchard, under Dr. C. D. McDonald, with whom he assiduously pursued his studies for three years, and then attended lectures at Starling Medical college until his graduation therefrom in the spring of 1870, when he began practice in Burlingame, Kans., where he remained until 1874, when he settled in Van Wert, Ohio, where he has been in active and remunerative practice until the present, making a record of which any physician might well feel proud. The doctor was united in matrimony in Burlingame, Kans., October 20, 1870, with Miss Mary A. Wendell, a native of Fox Lake, Wis., born in 1850, and daughter of William and Hannah (Morse) Wendell, natives of New York. To this happy marriage of the doctor have been born three children, viz: Della C., now the wife of W. R. Mosier; Lulu M., married to B. M. Sargent, and Barnard M., at home. The doctor is a knight templar Mason, is the proprietor of the Van Wert Republican, a decidedly newsy and bright local weekly journal, and is also engaged in the boot and shoe business at Van Wert, where he is deservedly esteemed as a gentleman of enterprise and public spirit.

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T. CHARLES WILKINSON, proprietor of a fine job printing office in Van Wert, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, September 2, 1864, and is a son of Cornelius S. and Sarah A. (Stacy) Wilkinson. Cornelius S. Wilkinson was a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, but was taken early to Hancock county, and there spent his manhood's days. While a young man he learned the shoemaker's trade, married in Hancock county, and in 1871 removed to Putnam county, where he worked at his trade, living ever since then in Columbus Grove. His wife, Sarah A. Stacy, was born February 13, 1838, in Mahoning county, and was a daughter of Joseph and Jane Stacy. To the marriage of Cornelius and Sarah A. Wilkinson there were born five children, viz: Townsend Charles, Leonidas, Sarah, Caroline and Cora A., all deceased but Townsend Charles, the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children died January 14, 1868, and the father married, for his second wife, Lodemia Dorsey Ensminger, a native of Hancock county, by whom he has had two children, viz: Guy T. and Frank, the latter deceased. Mr. Wilkinson is a republican in politics, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and of the order of Odd Fellows. He was in the late war, and has served as a member of the board of education and as a member of the corporation council.

Townsend Charles Wilkinson was about seven years old when his parents moved to Putnam county, was educated in Columbus Grove, and there learned the printer's trade in the office of the Vidette, a local publication, and in this office he filled every position from that of "devil" up to and including that of foreman. In 1882 he accepted a position with the Van Wert Times, with which paper he remained four years. After this he was in the office of the Van Wert Republican nine years as owner and local editor, his partner being Dr. E. L. Wilkinson. In the fall of 1894 he sold his interest in the office and paper, and purchased, in the summer of 1895, the job printing office of C. E. Detter, which he has fitted up in a splendid manner, adding new type and other new material needed, and now has one of the finest job printing offices in northwestern Ohio.

October 5, 1887, Mr. Wilkinson married, in Van Wert, Ohio, Miss Ettie B. McConahay, who was born December 3, 1867, a daughter of A. P. McConahay. To their marriage have been born one child, Townsend Clarence Wilkinson, August 8, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson are members of the Presbyterian church, Mr. Wilkinson being a republican and a Mason.

Mr. Wilkinson, when elected master of Van Wert lodge, No. 218, F. & A. M., was the youngest master ever elected to that position in Van Wert. At the present time he is publishing the Van Wert Presbyterian, a local church paper. Mr. Wilkinson is an exemplary citizen, standing high in his church, in the Masonic fraternity, and in the republican party, of which he has always been an adherent since attaining his majority.

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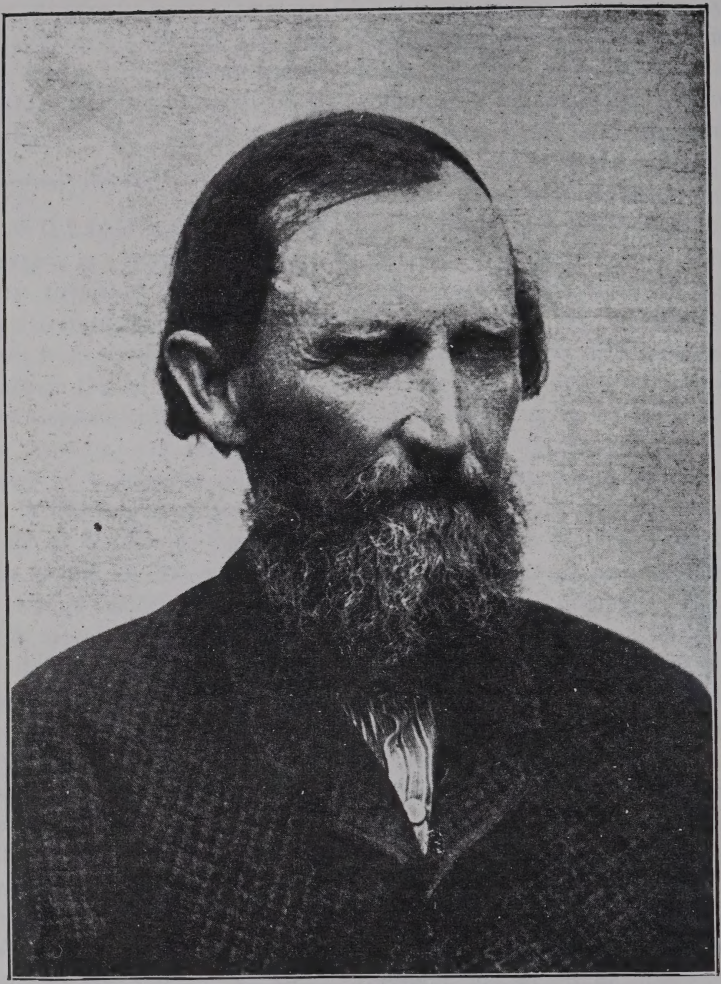
HENRY C. WILLIAMS, the subject of this biography, is a substantial farmer of Liberty township, and a representative citizen of the county of Van Wert. He descends from an old New England family, his grandfather, Daniel Williams, having been a native of Connecticut, and for many years a resident of New London county, that state, near the towns of Colchester and East Haddam. Daniel Williams was of Scotch descent, and spent all of his life in his native county and state as a tiller of the soil. His son, also named Daniel Williams, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in the year 1790, in New London county, Conn., and at an early age was apprenticed to learn the carpenter's trade, which he afterward followed in connection with farming. The early life of Daniel Williams was one of great privation, and it is tated that his first pair of boots was not purchased until after he had reached the age of twenty-one years. He married, in Connecticut, Alice Blish, daughter of Daniel Blish, and reared the following children: Daniel B., Abraham F., Henry C. and William T., all of whom grew to maturity and became heads of families. After his marriage, Daniel Williams, Jr., and wife immigrated to Ohio, and settled in Cuyahoga county, fifteen miles from the city of Cleveland, where Mr. Williams entered land and made a good farm, working, in the meantime, at his trade. He became a large land owner in Ohio, and accumulated considerable wealth, the greater part consisting of real estate. He was a well educated man for his day, an old-line whig in politics, and, like his ancestors for many generations, was a Presbyterian in his religious belief. After his death, which occurred in 1843, his widow, a woman of noble character and fine intellectual endowments, kept the family together and gave all her children good educations. She taught for some time, and managed her husband's estate with tact and good judgment. She was a woman of wide and varied experience, having visited many states, and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. Her second husband, Sherman Skidmore, died October 11, 1888.

Henry C. Williams, the immediate subject of this biography, is a native of Ohio, born in Cuyahoga county, January 15, 1839. He was reared a farmer, and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he went to California in order to engage in gold mining in that far away part of the country. He made his trip to the Pacific coast via New York and the Isthmus of Panama, spent three years in the gold mines, and for the same length of time was engaged in the saw-milling and lumber business. During his sojourn in the west, Mr. Williams experienced many vicissitudes, met with many thrilling adventures, and encountered dangers, the narration of which would fill a good-sized volume. He was fairly successful in the mines, and lost nothing in his other business adventures in California. Among the incidents which he relates, is that of an attempt on the part of fifty Chinamen to dislodge him from a little cabin on the Uba river, where he had taken refuge from these murderous celestials. He had on his person, at the time, about $3,000 in gold dust, and he defended himself all night long with two guns,



DAVID WRIGHT.

while his would-be captors hurled volleys of stones on the roof and through the door and windows of his little fortress.

On returning from California, Mr. Williams visited the old home for six months, and in 1868, came to the county of Van Wert, locating in Liberty township, with which part of the county he has since been prominently identiged. In addition to farming, which he has carried on with most encouraging results, since becoming a resident of Van Wert county, Mr. Williams has also been engaged in the manufacture of lumber, in Liberty township, with success and financial profit. He has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable fortune, the greater part of which is the result of his persistent toil and excellent business management, and he is now comfortably situated and enabled to pass the remaining years of his life in the enjoyment of the results of his labors. His home farm consists of 172 acres, well improved, containing a substantial brick residence, commodious barn and other buildings, and he also owns valuable real estate in other parts of the county. Mr. Williams has made it a rule of his life to pay as he goes, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that there is not a man in the world to whom he is indebted to the amount of one dollar. He is progressive in all that pertains to the growth and development of the township, and is an enthusiast in educational matters, having served as chairman of the school board of his township for several years. Politically Mr. Williams is a republican, but has never sought or desired official preferment. In religion he is liberal in his views, and accords the same freedom to others, but contributes to the support of churches and all worthy charities. He belongs to the Odd Fellow and Masonic fraternities, and also the Patrons of Husbandry, in the last of which he has held various positions.

Mr. Williams was married October 21, 1869, to Anna Catherine Brown, who died January 30, 1875, aged twenty-nine years, six months and twenty-four days. She was a devout member of the Lutheran church, noted for her christian activity, and was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances; she bore her husband two children: Alice D., who married Otto Pollock, and Cora E., one of the successful teachers of Van Wert county. On the 5th day of October, 1876, Mr. Williams married his second wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Dobson, daughter of Hugh Dobson; she also was a Lutheran and a great Sunday-school worker, and her death, which occurred July 13, 1891, was a sad bereavement to the family, and a great loss to the community; she bore her husband three children, Chauncy H., Anna M., and William H., all of whom are still living.

* * *

DAVID WRIGHT, the subject of this biography, an old and well-known citizen of Jennings township, was born March 8, 1821, in Montgomery county, Pa., a son of Jacob and Annie (DeHaven) Wright, natives respectively of Germany and Pennsylvania. Jacob Wright was a prosperous farmer in Pennsylvania, and at the time of his death owned 200 acres of valuable land in the county of Montgomery; he departed this life at the age of seventy-four, his death having been hastened by reason of an accident; his wife died at the age of seventy-three; they were both devout members of the German Reform church, and reared a family consisting of six children. The oldest son, Samuel, died March 12, 1895, aged eighty-one years; Joseph died, September, 1892, aged seventy-three; the third in order of birth is the subject of this biography, who has reached the age of seventy-four; Jane, the elder daughter, married Henry Neevil, but is now deceased; William died in April, 1895, and Mary, wife of Oliver Culp, is living at this time.

David Wright was reared to agricultural pursuits, and remained with his parents until his twenty-eighth year. On the 24th of January, 1850, he married Hannah Knipe, daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Sherer) Knipe, and five years later moved to Van Wert county, in company with his brother Joseph, who joined him in purchasing 160 acres of land. They held this land together for five years, at the end of which time David purchased his brother's interest and still owns the entire tract, to which he has made additions, until he is now the possessor of 268 acres. Mr. Wright's first dwelling was a very modest structure, made of small round logs with clapboard roof, through which, during part of the year, the winds and rains entered at will. This primitive residence was in due time replaced with a more comfortable and substantial building, and the present home is of modern design, supplied with many conveniences. Mr. Wright's farm is a model of neatness, contains some of the finest land in Van Wert county, and is well underdrained and thoroughly tilled. His barns are large and commodious, his other buildings are in keeping, and everything on the place bears evidence of the best kind of mangement. Mr. Wright has served as trustee of his township, baving been elected as a democrat, to which party he has given allegiance ever since attaining his majority.

The oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wright is Wilson Pierce Wright, who married Mary Elizabeth Mark, the result of which union was two children, David Allen and Edward Edgar. The mother of these children dying, Wilson Wright afterward wedded Rachael Burnett, who became the mother of one child, a daughter—Ethel.' The second son of the subject is Bane Hickman Wright, who had a twin sister, Ann Elizabeth, the latter dying at the age of twenty-one. B. H. Wright married Josephine Crider, and has three children: David Madison, Eva Alice, and Frances. The youngest son of the subject was Joseph Edgar Wright, who died at the age of eight months. The parents of Mrs. Wright, Joseph and Susannah Knipe, were natives of Pennsylvania; the father died at the age of eighty and the mother at the age of eighty-two. They were Lutherans and came to Ohio about the year 1857, locating in York township, but spent their last days in the town of Spencerville, Allen county. Mrs. Wright had one brother and one sister, viz: Charles Knipe, who resides in York township, and Elizabeth, deceased wife of John Nunneviler. Mrs. Wright is a member of the Christian Union church, and a very estimable lady.

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DAVID W. WILLIAMS, of York township, Van Wert county, is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, born April 16, 1853, and is a son of William and Ann (Evans) Williams, natives of Wales. The mother was a mere child when brought to America, and the fahter came to this country upon attaining his majority. The father was born December 11, 1821, and died August 5, 1892; the mother was born March 25, 1828, and is still living in Venedocia, Ohio. The father was a boiler-maker and worked at this business at Cincinnati for more than forty years; was married January 18, 1840, and to his union were born eight children as follows: Sarah Ann, who became the wife of Owen Tudor, she and her husband being now deceased; Margaret Jones, widow of T. J. Jones, late of the firm of Davis & Jones, of Van Wert; David W., our subject; William Henry, who died in 1894, in Venedocia, and who had been associated in business with his brother, David W., for a period of seventeen years;

John R., in business in Minneapolis; Mary Elizabeth, deceased wife of David T. Jones, a contractor of Venedocia; Frances Ellen, and Rachel Susannah, both the latter of whom died in childhood.

In 1863 the parents of our subject came to Van Wert county, and purchased 120 acres of woodland, which is now a most beautifully improved farm and the property of our subject and other heirs. David W. Williams had good school advantages, attended commercial college and taught school for several years. In 1877 he married Miss Elizabeth Morgan, the union resulting in the birth of eight children, Mary, Elmer, Alwin, Oscar, Ann, Norma, Willard and Ruth.

The first business venture of Mr. Williams was in the grocery trade, in which he embarked with a capital of $50, his storehouse being the Clover Leaf depot; for a year and a half he carried on business alone; he then associated with himself his brother-in-law, T. J. Jones, the business being conducted under the firm name of T. J. Jones & Co.; in 1880 William Henry Williams, his brother, was taken into equal partnership; Mr. Jones having retired in 1884, the business was conducted under the firm name of Williams Bros., and was dissolved in 1894 by the death of William Henry, and immediately after the event M. P. Jones became his successor, and until June, 1894, the business was conducted under the style of Williams & Jones. The building used by Mr. Williams and his brother was erected by them and is still owned by our subject and the heirs of the deceased brother. Their business embraced many branches, including many agricultural implements, boots, shoes, clothing and grain, of which latter they shipped large quantities. Mr. Williams was a notary for ten years and for nine years was agent for the Clover Leaf Railroad company. Notwithstanding the multiplicity of his business affairs, he learned tolegraphy and was an operator for two years. Mr. Williams also established a paper known as the Venedocia Leader, of which he was himself the editor; he is pike commissioner, real estate and loan agent, is a member of the Knights of Pythias, also of the Welsh Presbyterian church, and has been in the undertaking business for ten or twelve years. On January 23, 1896, he purchased the business of H. J. Lehman & Son, of Van Wert, and now resides in that city. March 13, 1896, he also opened a branch store in Ohio City. He is well and favorably known throughout the township and enjoys the respect of all who know him.

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GEORGE C. WILSON, a native of the state of Ohio, and now among the very prominent farmers of Union township, Van Wert county, was born in Ross county in 1835, a son of John and Rebecca Wilson, natives of Virginia. James Wilson, grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, in Washington's army, and was severely wounded. He lived on a plantation in old Virginia until 1800, when he came to Ross county, Ohio, making the trip in wagons in midwinter, spending six weeks on the road and arriving on Christmas day. Here he bought a piece of land, cleared it and raised a respected family, and died, about 1838, in Cincinnati, at the home of a son, with whom he had spent the declining years of his life.

John Wilson, son of the above James and father of our subject, George C., was born in Greenbrier county, Va., about 1794, and was but six years old when brought to Ross county, Ohio. Here he was reared on his father's farm, and was identified with the agriculture of the county all his life. In 1815 he was united in marriage with Rebecca Hicks, daughter of Richard and Nancy (King) Hicks. This lady was born in Virginia in 1791, and was brought by her parents to Ross county, Ohio, in 1799, and here reared, surrounded by Indians and wild animals. She bore her husband twelve children, seven of whom lived to maturity, viz.: James, deceased; Mary, deceased wife of George Wilson; Caroline, wife of Samuel Blake, of Ross county; Richard, deceased; Quintilda, deceased wife of Henry C. Roten, of Ross county; Hester A., and George C., our subject. Mrs. Rebecca Wilson died in Ross county in 1867. Her husband, John Wilson, was an aggressive democrat in his politics and was frequently selected by his party to fill county offices; he was not a member of any religious organization, but was liberally generous in his support to both churches and schools, and was altogether a public-spirited, progressive and useful citizen. His lamented death took place in 1871.

George C. Wilson, the gentleman whose name opens this biographical notice, was reared to the noble vocation of farming on his father's homestead, and his education was acquired in the common schools of his native county. In 1865 he purchased a farm of seventy acres in Ross county, but this land he later sold and went to Hardin county, where he purchased and resided upon another farm for one year; selling this property, he removed to Washington, Fayette county, and thence, shortly afterward, to Clinton county, where he again purchased a farm, on which he made his home for six years; then sold, and purchased a farm in Washington township, Van Wert county, but this farm he soon traded for a tile factory at Middlepoint, and in 1891 sold his factory and purchased a farm in Union township, Van Wert county, but later sold and purchased his present farm.

The marriage of Mr. Wilson took place in 1855 to Eliza Wood, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1832, a daughter of Benjamin and Jane (Winset) Wood, natives of Maryland. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have been born three childred, viz: Dr. Richard S., of Scott; Dr. John B., also of Scott, and William, deceased. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the United Brethren church, and Mr. Wilson, although not identified with any denomination, is not backward in pecuniary aid to all; in politics he is a stanch democrat, but is not an office-seeker, and devotes his attention to his own affairs and to the prosperity of the community in which he lives.

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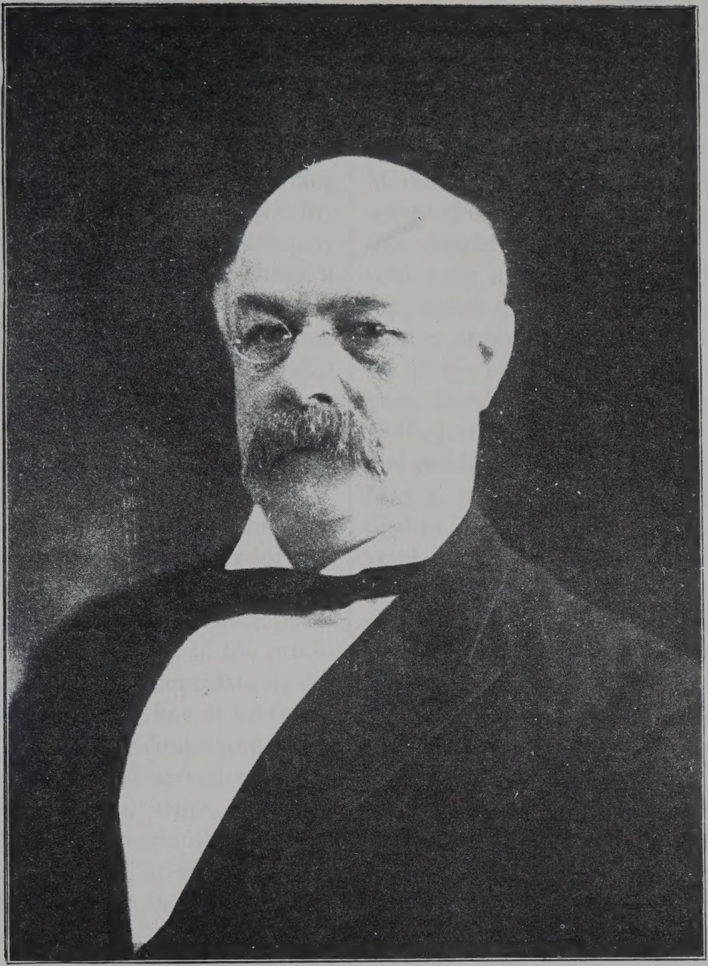
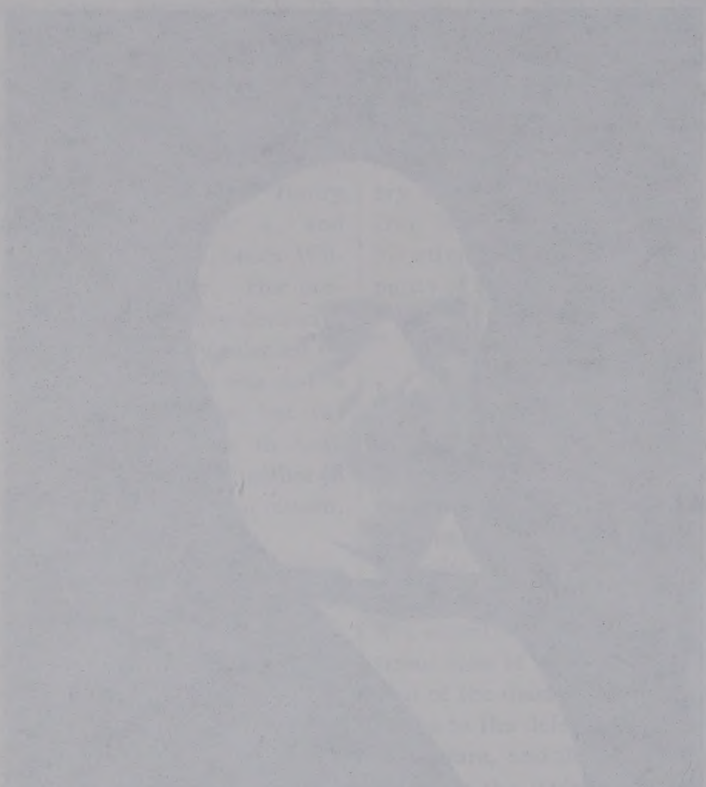
NELSON L. WILLIAMS.—It is with distinctive satisfaction that the biographer directs attention to the life-history of him whose name initiates this paragraph, for not only is the record of his personal worth and accomplishments such as bears its lesson, but in the tracing of his ancestral history there issue many points of interest —a narrative that tells of honest and industrious sons of the republic, that gives intimation of the deeds of loyal men who gave themselves to the defending of their country in time of warfare, and that speaks of incidental conquests in the "piping times of peace." Our subject is a native of the Buckeye state, and there must be to him a due quota of satisfaction in reverting to the fact that his ancestral identification with the annals of Ohio dates back to the early pioneer epoch, while also tracing further into the remote past, when the American colonies had not yet thrown off the yoke of the English crown.

Mr. Williams, who is one of the representative business men of the city of Van Wert, where he holds official preferment as the general manager and assistant treasurer of the Van Wert Natural Gas company, was born in Trumbull county, this state, on the 24th of



Very Truly Yours
Nelson L. Williams



December, 1836, being the son of Hector and Mary (Marvin) Williams, the former of whom was born in Waterbury, Conn., February 4, 1798, a son of Daniel Williams, who likewise was a native of the Nutmeg state, being a clock manufacturer by trade and tracing his lineage back to stanch old English stock.

Daniel Williams, the grandfather of our subject, Nelson L. Williams, was one of that immortal trio—Daniel Williams, John Paulding and William Van Wert—whose incorruptibility and true patriotism, in refusing to be bribed by the unfortunate English major, Andre, whom, it will be remembered, by every reader of American history, they had captured, and whose capture led to the detection of the traitor, Benedict Arnold—Maj. Andre being hanged, as a spy, while, in honor of the captors the three counties of Ohio—Williams, Paulding, and Van Wert—were named.

Daniel Williams immigrated to Ohio in a very early day, becoming a pioneer of the Western Reserve. He located in Trumbull county and there engaged in the work of reclaiming and cultivating a farm in the primitive wilderness, also finding a considerable demand for his services in the line of his trade. He had been loyal to the colonies and to the cause of independence, and served with distinction in the Continental army, in which service his health became seriously and permanently impaired through privation and exposure. His children were three in number, the two elder being daughters, each of whom lived to attain maturity, while the third child was Hector, the father of our subject. Hector Williams was but a child when his parents took up their abode in the sylvan wilds of the Western Reserve, and in Trumbull county he grew to man's estate, receiving his education in the primitive schools of that place and period, the accessories and advantages being perforce very meager in extent. In the year 1840 he removed to Mercer county, Pa., where he purchased a large tract of land and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1844, when he sold his large landed estate and returned to Trumbull county, Ohio, and was there actively concerned in business for ten years, after which he retired to Sharon, Mercer county, Pa., where he passed the residue of his days, his death occurring in 1862. His wife, née Mary Marvin, was a native of the old Keystone state, where she was born August 31, 1802, being the daughter of Lester and Mary Marvin, who were among the earliest pioneers. By her union to Mr. Williams she became the mother of seven children, concerning whom we offer a brief record, as follows: Perry L., born February 18, 1821, died in October, 1888; Laura is the widow of James Kennedy and resides at Sharon, Pa.; Lester L., born May 3, 1826; Riley D., born October 8, 1828, died in November, 1864; Matilda, born November 18, 1831, died in 1882; Alfred, born January 31, 1834; and Nelson L., the immediate subject of this review. The parents were devout Presbyterians, and in politics the father supported the democratic party until the inception of the republican party, when he identified himſelf therewith and ever afteward maintained his allegiance, being an earnest worker in its cause. He was a man of marked individuality, broad information and utmost integrity.

Nelson L. Williams was but four years of age at the time his parents returned from Ohio to Pennsylvania, and in the pioneer schools of that state and Ohio he received his educational discipline, continuing his studies until 1852, when he engaged himself as an assistant in a rolling mill at Sharon, Pa., retaining his connection with this line of industry until 1857, when he betook himself to Footeville, Wis., and there remained one year as a clerk in a mercantile establishment. His next change was to return to the parental home at Sharon, Pa., and for a year he assisted his father in his agricultural operations, after which he was for four years employed in a clerical capacity in a hardware establishment at Mercer, Pa., beginning at the bottom of the ladder, but by fidelity and close attention to business gaining the position of chief clerk ere two years had elapsed. Having thoroughly familiarized himself with the details of this line of mercantile enterprise, he engaged in the hardware business in the same town, in 1864, associating himself for this purpose with J. P. Reed, who withdrew at the close of a year, his successor being W. O. Leslie, a brother-in-law of our subject. In 1865 the firm transferred their base of operations to Sharon, Pa., and there Mr. Williams retired from the firm, in 1870, and associated himself in the boot and shoe trade with his brother Alfred, this partnership continuing until 1874, when he sold his interest in the business and went to Sioux City, Iowa, where he continued in the same line of business one year, and then, in 1875, returned to Sharon, and was there concerned in the shoe business two years, after which he removed to Oil City, Pa., where he associated in the operation of an oil refinery one year, and then engaged in the oil and gas business in Bradford, Pa., until 1881, when the firm with which he was associated sold out and engaged in the production and sale of natural gas, locating at Wellsville, Allegany county, New York, and piping the gas into the towns of Bolivar, Allentown, Richburg and Wellsville—and indeed all over the field of Allegany county, owning over 100 miles of pipe line and drilling over 120 wells for oil and gas. In 1885 Mr. Williams disposed of his stock in this corporation, and in August, 1888, came to Van Wert, Ohio, where he became a stockholder in and assumed the management of the business of this company, and made an effort to develop the oil and gas interests of this section, but failing to obtain a sufficient supply of gas in Van Wert county, succeeded in interesting eastern capital, which was brought to bear upon the Mercer county (Ohio) gas fields. Within the same year this company piped its gas into Van Wert and surrounding towns. Mr. Williams and his eastern associates are also interested in the gas and oil fields of Fairfield county, Ohio, which supply Sugar Grove, Circleville, Chillicothe and other neighboring towns with fuel gas. They are at the present time (November, 1895,) engaged in putting a plant into the city of Circleville. N. L. Williams also owns good oil property at Saint Mary's, Ohio, and holds a number of other valuable leases of similar character, all in profitable working order.

The marriage of our subject was consummated, at Sharon, Pa., September 18, 1862, when he was united to Miss Lucretia Leslie, who was at the time a resident of that city, though a native of Brookfield, Trumbull county, Ohio, where she was born on the 24th of November, 1837, being the daughter of Robert and Eliza (Boyd) Leslie. To this felicitous union have been born two children: Bertha L., deceased wife of Fred N. Chambers, of Oil City, Pa., and Harold L., who is associated with his father in business. Mrs. Bertha Lin Chambers died December 26, 1895, at her home in Oil City, Pa., after an illness of twenty-four days, her disease having been typhoid fever. All who had the pleasure of her acquaintance knew her as a most lovable woman. When in health she was a perfect picture of beautiful womanhood. She was accomplished in person, mind and heart, pleasant and cheerful in manner, and possessed of a large circle of warm and admiring friends. She was in all respects a most admirable lady, one of whose presence in their midst any community would be justly proud, and whose sense of loss at her death would be, as it was at her home, correspondingly great. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are Presbyterians in their religious faith, and in politics our subject is a stalwart republican. He is a man of fine physique and attractive personality and holds high rank in the respect and esteem of the people of Van Wert county. In his fraternal relations Mr. Williams is prominently identified with the Masonic order, in which he has advanced to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite, being also a member in good standing of Van Wert lodge, chapter, council, and also of Ivanhoe commandery, Knights Templar, being a charter member of the last named body.

Harold L. Williams, son of our honored subject, was born in Sharon, Pa., July 16, 1868, and was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania and New York, supplementing this discipline by attending Oberlin college for two terms. He began his business career in Van Wert, being associated with his father, with whom he remained one year, or until the natural gas company was fully organized, when he went to Minnesota, where he remained a year and a half, being there associated with his father-in-law, D. Stevenson, in the insurance business. He then returned to Van Wert and has since been identified with the management of the Van Wert Natural Gas company, which has a capital stock of $300,000, of which two-thirds are paid in. Harold L. Williams was married, at Rochester, Minn., December 11, 1889, to Miss Frances H. Stevenson, daughter of D. and Helen (Sanborn) Stevenson. The offspring of this union is one child, Leslie Sanborn, who was born November 4, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are members of the Presbyterian church, and in his fraternal associations Mr. Williams is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of the Maccabees, while in politics he exercises his franchise in the support of the men and measures of the republican party. Both he and wife are active in social affairs and enjoy a distinctive popularity in Van Wert.

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ALLEN BERTRAM GILLILAND, M. D., a young and rising physician of Van Wert, Ohio, was born December 20, 1864, a son of Thaddeus Stevens and Ruhannah (Baker) Gilliland, of whom a memoir in full will be found on page 364, of this volume. To the same parents were also born a daughter, Adda, who was married to I. H. Lynch, of Greenville, Ohio, and who died at San Diego, Cal., January 2, 1896; also a son, a younger brother of our subject, now living in Sidney, Ohio, and named Llewellen Gordon Gilliland.

A. B. Gilliland laid the foundation of his literary education in the high school of Van Wert, and then, at the age of seventeen years, entered Wooster (Ohio) college, which he attended three years; he next attended Cornell university, at Ithaca, N. Y., from which noted institution of learning he graduated in 1887, receiving the degree of Ph. B., and at once began his professional studies in the medical department of the university of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, receiving his diploma as M. D., in May, 1890 For practice he at first located in Englewood, Ill., where he passed a novitiate of two years and then settled in Van Wert, where, having brought with him a profound knowledge of the science of medicine, the result of arduous study and two years of practical experience, he has been constantly employed ever since.

Dr. Gilliland was united in the bonds of wedlock, in May, 1894, with Miss Anna M. Alter, who was born December 9, 1866, near Saint Paul, Minn., a daughter of Joseph Alter, and this congenial marriage of the doctor and his wife has been blessed with one son—Thaddeus Stevens, born February 22, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Gilliland are conscientious members of the Presbyterian church, and their social standing is most excellent.

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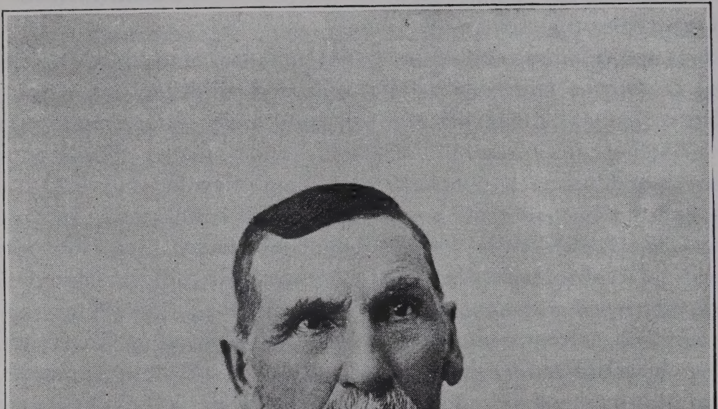
JOHN MEDAUGH, a practical and prosperous farmer of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was born in this county March 2, 1842, and is descended from a very old colonial family of Pennsylvanians, of Holland-Dutch extraction, his great-great-grandfather, Dered Medaugh, having been the founder of the American family, and his great-grandfather, Ephraim, having been the first American born of the name of Medaugh. Ephraim probably had his nativity in Westmoreland county, Pa., and there married Lydia Hattery; later he became a pioneer of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and here both he and wife passed the remainder of their days. Richard Medaugh, son of Ephriam and also a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., married Charity Anders, and they also came to Ohio with the pioneers of Tuscarawas county, and here Richard built and operated the first grist-mill in the county; it was run by water, and its patrons came on horseback for many miles from all directions. Richard and wife were members of the Methodist church, and in that faith both died.

The son of Richard and Charity Medaugh, the second in the family named Ephraim, and the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., May 25, 1814, and was fourteen years of age when brought by his parents to Tuscarawas county, Ohio. He here married Jane Slater, daughter of Samuel and Barbara (Robinson) Slater, formerly of the Keystone state, the result of this union being Sarah A., Elmira, Mary, John, Andrew, Charity and William, all now deceased excepting Sarah A., Andrew and our subject. After a residence of three years in Tuscarawas county, Mr. and Mrs. Medaugh came to Van Wert county in 1837, and here the father hewed from the forest what is now a fine farm of 180 acres, making an excellent home.

In 1864 death took from him his first wife, and his second marriage took place in 1865, to Miss Christina Snyder, daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Dauge) Snyder, but from this union there is no offspring. In politics Mr. Medaugh is a republican, and he and family have long been identified with the radical branch of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Beside his wide celebrity as a farmer, Mr. Medaugh is widely known throughout Van Wert and adjacent counties as an auctioneer, a calling he has followed over forty years.

John Medaugh, whose name stands at the head of this sketch, received a good common-school education, and also assisted on the home farm until he responded to his country's call in August, 1862, when he enlisted in company A., Ninety-ninth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and served in the campaigns of Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, skirmishing for three months with the rebel, Braxton Bragg, and enduring much heavy marching and fighting until severely injured in his hip and back by an accident, in consequence of which he was honorably discharged, on account of disability, in March, 1863. Becoming convalescent, he enlisted, in October, 1864, in the western army, and gallantly served until the close of the war, receiving his final discharge in the fall of 1865. In 1890 he was granted a pension for his valiant services of $6 per month. The marriage of Mr. Medaugh was celebrated November 19, 1868, with Miss Emily Carter, daughter of Ardalus and Hannah (Julick) Carter, of Virginia, the union being blessed by the birth of the following children: Norman R., Hanna A., William M., Nima L.



G. W. ZEIGLER.

and John G.—all of whom have been highly educated.

With the exception of two years, passed at Rockford, Ohio, in hotel keeping and the grocery business, Mr. Medaugh has followed farming as a life pursuit. His farm, which is a model in itself, contains twenty-five acres, and his modern two-story brick mansion is probably as handsome a dwelling as there is in the county. In politics Mr. Medaugh is a stanch republican, and has been township trustee for four years. A member of the United Brethren church, he has long been a class leader. His son, Norman R., is a graduate of Middlepoint Normal college, and is married to Annie M. Ballenger; Hannah A., daughter of subject, is the wife of Charles Walters, and William M., another son, is married to Rosa A. Brown.

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GEORGE W. ZIEGLER, a highly respected citizen and a retired manufacturer of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 28, 1828. Jacob and Catherine (Stonehill) Ziegler, his parents, were respectively natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, but were married in Stark county, Ohio. Farming was the occupation of the father until he was most untimely killed by an accidental fall from the court house at Bucyrus, Ohio, in 1829. To Jacob and Catherine Ziegler were born seven children: viz: Harriet, Josiah, Amzia, Henrietta, Jeremiah, George W., and Mary A. After the lamented death of her first husband, Mrs. Ziegler, who was still a young and attractive woman, accepted for her second spouse Daniel Ball, by whom she had four children, viz: Nicholas, Benjamin, Harry and Harrison. The mother of our subject made her home in Bucyrus, Ohio, until her death, in 1838.

Upon the death of his mother, George W. Ziegler went forth in this world to seek a livelihood as best he could, and, young as he was, found employment as a farm laborer until 1841, when he began to learn cabinet making, which trade he followed until 1848, when he came to Van Wert city and followed carpentering until he entered the stave factory of Warren & Wells as superintendent, there he remained three years, and then accepted the position of foreman of the Eagle stave works, buying $1,800 worth of stock in 1867, and remaining with the concern seven years; he then bought a farm of 130 acres in Pleasant township, cultivated it for five years, and then virtually retired from business, although he occasionally accommodated a friend by taking a contract for carpenter work, until stricken with paralysis in April, 1889, since which time he has of course entirely withdrawn his attention from all business.

The first marriage of Mr. Ziegler was celebrated in Van Wert in 1854, when he led to the altar Miss Caroline Strothers, who became the mother of two children—Alice, now deceased, and Burt, a railroad man. Mrs. Caroline Ziegler died in 1868, and in 1872 Mr. Ziegler chose for his second wife a Miss Sarah Slade, and to this union two children also were born—Leonia, deceased, and Earnest. In 1880 death again bereaved Mr. Ziegler of his fond mate, since when he has kept house alone. In religion Mr. Ziegler is a Methodist, and in politics he is a republican. His life has been one of activity and usefulness, and he is greatly esteemed by the community for his integrity and past industry.

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OWEN MORRIS, deceased, was among the well known farmers and stock growers of York township, Van Wert county, and was one whose influence was not only felt in the community in which he resided, but throughout the southern part of Allen county and the northern part of Mercer county. He was one of the model farmers of. his day and kept well abreast of the times, and one who readily indorsed all public or benevolent enterprises.

He was born in Wales in 1831, where he was reared to eighteen years of age, when, feeling the necessity of bettering his condition financially he emigrated to America, and here started out almost empty-handed in life. He located in Jackson county, Ohio, where he subsequently purchased land and became a tiller of the soil. Here, in the year 1855, on July 31st, he was married to Miss Margaret Jones, who was also a native of Wales, but who had come to America in her childhood with her parents. She was a lady well educated, was one experienced in household duties, and well fitted to be his helpmate. To this congenial union were born four daughters and seven sons, namely: Thomas, who died in infancy; John A., a practicing physician of Wells county, Ind.; Margaret; Thomas Edwin; Mary; Ebenezer, married to Mattie Jones; Anna, wife of Robert Thomas; David C.; Edward Newton, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; and Frederick O., still living.

In 1861, Mr. Morris sold his property in Jackson county and moved westward, locating on eighty acres of land in York township, Van Wert county, this piece of land being an appreciated gift by the father of Mrs. Morris. At the time of locating here it was yet in its natural state, but Mr. Morris immediately set about to improve it and make a home thereon. He and wife here experienced many of the hardships of the early pioneer, yet both, being young and in good health, soon mastered the situation and were enabled to enjoy a home equal to any of the neighbors of their community. Not long after locating in Van Wert county, Mr. Morris, being one of the patriotic sons of his adopted land, enlisted in company C, Forty-seventh regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and did active service until honorably discharged, May 29, 1865, at Camp Dennison. He was with Sherman on and during the Atlanta campaign until near the close, when he was compelled to go to the rear on account of sickness. Afterward, he returned to his home in Van Wert county and followed the life of an agriculturist during the rest of his days, dying January 21, 1891, having been a devout member of the Calvinistic church, to which his wife and children also belong. He had increased his farm by the purchase of sixty acres, so that he left his family a good home, well improved, where his widow now lives. Mrs. Morris is a lady highly respected in her community and is an active worker in the church and Sabbath-school. She is surrounded by her children, whom she has raised and educated, and who are a credit to the community in which they live. David C. Morris was born in 1870, March 6. He attended the country school until the age of eighteen years, and also attended the normal schools at Middlepoint, Ada, and Angola, where he learned book-keeping. He also taught school for three or four terms. In 1895 he began in the general merchandise business in Venedocia, with Robert Morris, and met with success. He is a strong republican in politics, and is gaining in popularity as a tradesman and politician day by day.

WILLIAM T. WISHER, of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was the youngest soldier in the Civil war, as was stated in the National Tribune, Washington, D. C., at the time. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 16, 1848, and was attending school when he enlisted, at Bremen, in his native county, under Capt. Nicodemus Hufford, in company H, Sixty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, and was enrolled September 7, 1861, at Zanesville, to serve for three years or during the war, and faithfully performed his duty until honorably discharged in the field, near City Point, Va., November 1, 1864. He then re-enlisted in the same organization, for a similar term, was granted a furlough home, and January 1, 1865—the "cold New Year day"—rejoined his regiment, after an absence of only thirty days. It will be seen that our subject was but a little over thirteen years of age when he enlisted, and but seventeen after his long service of over four years at the close of hostilities, and thus gained the proud distinction of being the "youngest soldier in the war."

James Wisher, grandfather of our subject, was a bladksmith by trade, was of German descent, resided near Bremen, Ohio, and lived to the advanced age of ninety years, dying in Fairfield county. His son, James G., the father ot our subject, was probably born in the county named, was a carpenter by trade, and married, in Fairfield county, Miss Sarah Evans, of Welsh descent. Later he bought a small farm near Bremen, and there his children were born and named as follows: Maria, William T., Amanda and Samuel. In 1869 the family moved to Allen county and settled near Elida, and here the father died about the age of seventy years, in April, 1895, a member of the United Brethren church, in which he had been a class leader, and a republican in politics.

After his return from the war, Mr. Wisher moved with his father to Allen county in 1869, and there married, May 25, 1873, Miss Sarah A. Brenneman, who was born November 10, 1849, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Ogden) Brenneman. Jacob Brenneman was born in Virginia, became the father of eight children by his first wife, and by his marriage to his second wife, Miss Ogden, had born to him eight others, in the following order: Catherine, David, Jacob, Rebecca, Sarah, Frank, Noah and Christian. Mr. Brenneman settled in Allen county, Ohio, Marion township, about 1853, became a prominent farmer, owning 160 acres of land, and more of his biography may be learned from the sketch of David Brenneman, on another page. In 1875 our subject, Mr. Wisher, came to Jackson township, Van Wert county, purchased forty acres of land in the wilderness, which he has converted into a beautiful farm and has largely increased. To his marriage have been born nine children, named as follows: Fannie, James, Charles, William, Dasie, Jennie, David, Elsie and Mary. Mr. Wisher is a member of the G. A. R., Melrose post, No. 632, Paulding county, Ohio, and in politics is a republican. Mrs. Wisher is a member of the Christian Union church, and no family in the county stand higher in the esteem of their neighbors. The youthful military career of Mr. Wisher in itself is enough to place him a head and shoulders above his fellow-patriots.

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EDWARD W. WOLCOTT, attorney at law of Van Wert, Ohio, is a native of the state and was born in Granville, Licking county, April 20, 1871, and is a son of William P. and Amanda (Kear) Wolcott, the former of whom was also a native of Licking county, Ohio, born February 29, 1836, and was a son of ———— and Ann (Winchell) Wolcott. Mrs. Ann Wolcott was a sister of the Mr. Winchell who founded the Ann Arbor university and was a native of Connecticut, as was her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott settled in Licking county, Ohio, in an early day, resided on a farm, and both passed away in 1875, the parents of the following children: Ruth, William P., Lucy, Horace, Oliver and Orleana.

William P. Wolcott, father of our subject, was reared on the home farm and also learned the trade of tanning, and was educated in the common schools and at Dennison university. He followed tanning in Licking county until 1874, when he moved to Petersburg, Ill., where for six months he was book-keeper for a large corporation. Being then thrown out of his permanent position, he went temporarily to work in a sand-bank, which caved in and dislocated the back of Mr. Wolcott and paralyzed his lower limbs for life. He remained in Petersburg until 1875, when he came to Van Wert, a helpless cripple, unable to assist himself in the slightest act physically. In June of this year, Dr. Stemen, of Fort Wayne, Ind., performed on him an operation wonderful in the history of surgery, through which he restored to Mr. Wolcott the use of his limbs to a considerable extent, and also invigorated his mental faculties to such a degree that, in 1878, he was able to permit his name, by request, to go before the republican county convention as a candidate for county recorder, to which position he was elected the ensuing fall, and re-elected for three successive terms, served in all, nine years. He then engaged in the insurance and real estate business and as agent for the American Express company, in partnership with his son, our subject, under the firm name of W. P. Wolcott & Son, and was thus engaged until his death, March 14, 1892, a devout member of the Presbyterian church and an honored Freemason. Mr. Wolcott had been married in September, 1867, in Van Wert, to Miss Amanda Kear, sister to Wiley M. Kear, whose biography appears on another page. Mrs. Wolcott was born in Van Wert, March 12, 1839, and became the mother of four children, viz: Two infants, that died unnamed; Harry K., an attorney at Norfolk, Va., and Edward W., whose name opens this biographical notice.

Edward W. Wolcott was reared in the town of Van Wert and was educated in the city schools. In May, 1889, he entered the insurance business with his father, with whom he remained until the latter's death, when he began the study of the law and was admitted te the bar in June, 1894, when he relinquished his insurance business entirely and devoted himself to his profession. The marriage of Mr. Wolcott occurred in Van Wert September 14, 1893, to Miss Ada Mounts, a native of this city, born in 1874, and a daughter of E. F. Mounts, and by this union has been born one child—James M. Mr. Wolcott is a republican in politics, a Knight of Pythias, a member of the I. O. R. M., and his wife and he are truly faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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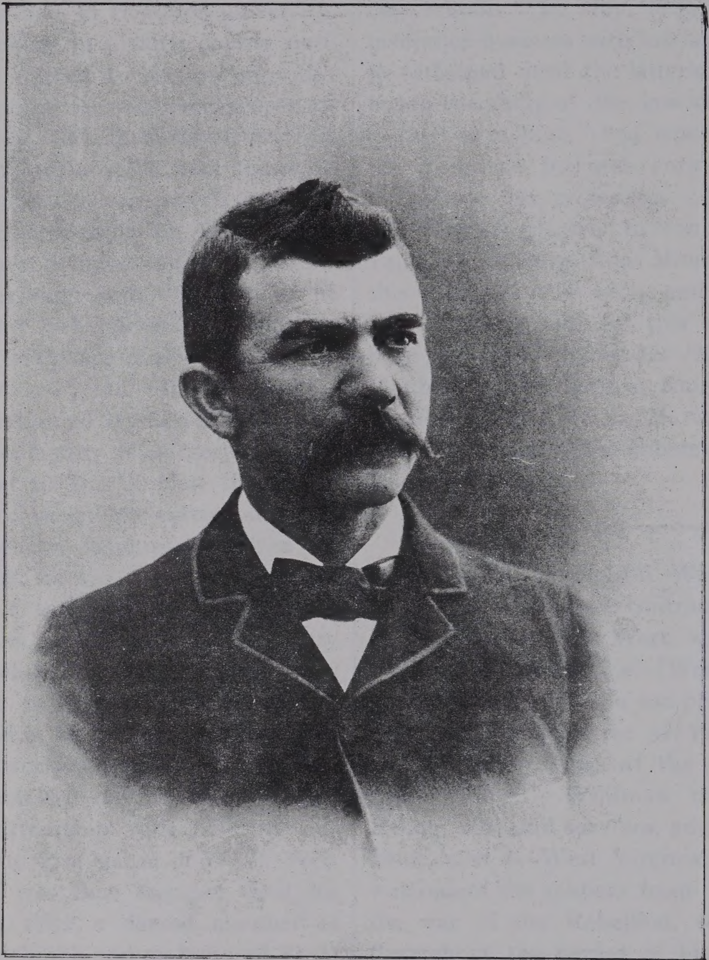
JAMES WILLIAM WHITMAN, a successful farmer, contractor and builder, living in Van Wert, was born in Nicholas county, Va. (West Va.), September 27, 1855. He is a son of Holly J. Whitman, who was a native of Virginia, and who died in March, 1894, at the age of seventy-two. Holly J. Whitman married Mary E. Ewing, who still survives, and lives on the old home farm in West Virginia. Mr. Whitman was one of the soldiers from West Virginia in the war of the Rebellion, serving faithfully throughout the period of his enlistment, always ready to perform any duty, no matter how arduous or dangerous, and won the esteem and praise of all his fellow-soldiers and officers under whom he served.

James William Whitman removed from West Virginia to Ohio in 1877, locating in Logan county, where he remained one year,



J. W. WHITMAN.

FLORA H. WHITMAN.

going thence to Champaign county, having taught school five terms in West Virginia and one term in Logan county, Ohio. There he remained until 1885, when he removed to Union township, Van Wert county, where he purchased a farm in the midst of the woods. Upon this farm he lived for several years, engaged in clearing, improving and building up his home. It did not take long for Mr. Whitman to become well known and popular throughout his township and the entire county of Van Wert. For four and a half hears during his residence there he was clerk of the township; for seven and a half years he was a member of the school board, and in 1895 he received the nomination by acclamation for county clerk; but in the election, which went republican by an average majority of ninety-five he was defeated by the slender majority of twenty votes, Mr. Whitman being an uncompromising democrat. With the exception of the first year of Mr. Whitman's residence in Van Wert county, which was devoted exclusively to farming, he has been engaged also in contracting and building, and many of the best and most substantial farm dwellings, and barns, and seventeen of the best school houses in Van Wert county, were erected by him. In the fall of 1895, he removed to the city of Van Wert, where he has since lived.

Mr. Whitman was married in Champaign county, Ohio, to Miss Flora A. Atha February 20, 1879. She was born in Logan county, Ohio, February 16, 1861, and is a daughter of Mr. Thomas Atha, who married Miss Sabina Hearvey, who died in November, 1895. He is living in Van Wert. Mr. Whitman, by his marriage to Miss Atha, has three children, viz: Jennie, born April 12, 1886; Ethel May, born June 23, 1892, and Ilo Bell, born November 6, 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Whitman are among Van Wert city's best people. He is yet in the prime of his life and powers, and doubtless has many years of usefulness and happiness before him. He owns seventy acres of land in section No. 20, Union township. Fraternally he is a member of I. O. R. M., Hiawatha Tribe, No. 116. Mr. Whitman has rented his farm and is now devoting his time to contracting and building.

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GEORGE WOLFE, late a prominent farmer of Jennings township, Van Wert county, Ohio, was a son of George and Hannah (McKage) Wolfe, and was born in Licking county, August 20, 1831. The father, George, was born in Pennsylvania, and was a son of George, a native of Germany, who married a Miss Owl, and to this union were born the following children: Jacob, George (the father of our subject), Peter, David, Susan, Hannah and John. The father of this family and grandfather of our subject, was a farmer, and ended his days in the Keystone state.

George Wolfe, father of the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, was reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools of his native state; at the age of thirty-two years he left his Pennsylvania home, having worked eleven years, after reaching his majority, in the interest of his father; he came to the Buckeye state direct, and entered a quarter section of government land in Licking county, to which he later added by purchase 100 acres. He married Hannah McKage, a native of Morgan county, Ohio, to which union were born six children, viz: John, of Licking county, Ohio; Davie, of Monticello, Kans.; George, our subject; Joshua, deceased; Elizabeth, widow of James Smith, of Licking county, Ohio, and Annie, deceased wife of S. J. Lambton, and now residing on the old homestead. The father of this family was a gallant soldier in the war of 1812; he was a democrat in politics and held several local offices; was a sincere member of the Methodist church and died in that faith. His wife was also a member of this church.

George Wolfe, the subject proper of this sketch, was, like his forefathers, reared to the pursuit of agriculture on his father's farm. He was educated in Licking county, and in 1857 moved to Putnam county, bought, cleared up and improved a farm to some extent, and in 1859 returned to Licking county, where he resided four years and then came to Van Wert county, where he died January 22, 1896. In June, 1857, he married Miss Mary Jane Williams daughter of Edward and Sophia (Keith) Williams. This lady was born in Madison county December 14, 1835, and was brought to Van Wert by her parents in 1837. She has borne her husband the following children: Joseph, of Mercer county; Lewis, of Jennings township, Van Wert county; Emma, who died at the age of seventeen years; Hannah and Edward, the former of whom died at the age of sixteen and the latter at the age of twenty-six years; John, a graduate of the medical college in Columbus; Marion, on the home place, and Ira, at home, aged seventeen years.

The farm of the late Mr. Wolfe comprises 180 acres, and is one of the handsomest and best cultivated in the township, he having been recognized as one of the most skillful agriculturists of Van Wert county. In politics he was active as a democrat, but never indulged in aspiration to public office, being content with doing his full duty to the party at the polls. He was not a member of any religious organization, but was a free and liberal contributor to the support of all, as well as to all enterprises designed to benefit township and county. He was universally esteemed for his manly and straightforward course of life, and for his unflinching integrity, and well deserved the enviable position he held in the hearts of his fellow-citizens. His wife's brother Marion, was a brave Union soldier in the late war, but is now deceased.

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W. G. WRIGHT, an experienced farmer of Ridge township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, is a native of Virginia, and was born May 3, 1827. His parents, William S. and Rhoda R. Wright, had a family of eight children, who were named as follows; Lucinda, a resident of Missouri, and a widow of John Hensel; Winfield Scott and John H., deceased; Priscilla, wife of Elisha Johnson, of Clinton county, Ohio; William Greenberry, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, who resides in Missouri; James L., a physician, residing in the Argentine Republic, and Anthony G., of Highland county, Ohio. The parents of these children came to Ohio in 1835 and settled in Highland county, where the father followed farming. He had served in the war of 1812, and died in tranquility in the land which he had fought to preserve, in the eighty-eighth year, his life-partner having died in her eighty-fifth—both members of the Baptist church.

William Greenberry Wright passed the earliest part of his life on his father's farm in Highland county, Ohio, he having been about eight years of age when his parents came to this state. He was married, January 2, 1850. to Miss Louisa Manker, to which marriage were born the following children: Wesley T., who resides in Delphos, Ohio, and who is an active member of the republican party; V. H., a farmer of Van Wert county; Luella Belle, deceased; Eugenie, wife of Oliver Poland, mail agent on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, with his residence near Delphos; Novada E., wife of Dr. William Roush, of Spencerville, Ohio; Lena, and two who died in infancy without being named. The mother of this family was also called to her final rest October 4, 1871.

February 10, 1863, W. G. Wright, our subject, enlisted for three years in the Thirteenth Ohio cavalry. He was wounded in the side by a rifle-ball at Petersburg, Va., and shortly thereafter was wounded in the knee; he was then detailed as recruiting officer at Cincinnati, his regiment having suffered severe losses, and was finally discharged at Amelia C. H., Va., by reason of the close of the war. On returning home he re-engaged in farming, and June 13, 1872, married Miss Martha R. Judkins, daughter of Franklin and Caroline A. Judkins, early settlers of Highland county, Ohio, who died, respectively, in 1863 and March 10, 1885. To this second marriage of Mr. Wright have been born the following-named children: Birdie Delle, Loutellis, Mabel Rosaline, Cletus Orlin, Lillie A., Rhoda D., and Goldie—the last named meeting a sad death by being drowned in a cistern. Beside the children here named, there were four who died unchristened.

In 1882 Mr. Wright came to Van Wert county and purchased a farm of 100 acres on the Ridge road, about three and one-half miles east of the city of Van Wert, and this farm is one of the best improved in the township. In politics Mr. Wright is a democrat, and in 1893 was elected trustee of his township, in which there have been graded sixteen miles of gravel roads under his management. It may here be recorded that Mr. Wright is a man of note as a deer hunter, and many trophies of his skill and prowess, and marksmanship adorn his dwelling. The apiary has also claimed his attention for more than forty-five years, and a card attached to the gable end of his dwelling house bears the inscription, "Hunters' Home—Home of the Bee." Mr. Wright is a Mason in good standing and Mrs. Wrignt is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and socially the family mingle with the best of Ridge township's citizens.

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WILLIAM WRIGHT, one of the most substantial farmers of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, descends from an old colonial family, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, March 25, 1840, was reared a farmer, and attained his education in the district schools during the winter seasons, when he could best be spared from farm labor.

Samuel Wright, father of William, our subject, was of Irish descent; was born in Alleghany county, Md., near Fosterburg, in 1800, and married, in his native state, Margaret Hoffman, of German extraction. After the birth of four children Mr. Wright, about 1830, brought his family to Ohio and located in the woods of Tuscarawas county, where he bought 200 acres of land, the greater part of which he cleared up and transformed into a fertile farm. There were born to himself and wife a family of twelve children, of whom eleven lived to adult age, as follows: Elizabeth, Georgie, Mary, Harriet, Valentine and Rachael (twins), John and Henry (also twins), Margaret, William and Elisha. Mr. Wright died on his farm at the age of fifty-nine years, a member of the Lutheran church, of which he had been a deacon for many years and of which his wife was also a devout member. In politics he was first a whig, afterwards became a republican, and gave two of his sons to the defense of the Union—Valentine and Elisha—both of whom were in company D, Fifty-second Ohio infantry—Valentine serving three years and Elisha being killed after one year's service, in a railroad accident between Nashville and Chattanooga.

William Wright, our subject, first married, in Tuscarawas county, Susannah Belch, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Alfred) Belch, and to this union were born three children—Flora, Edwin and George. Directly after this union was consummated, Mr. Wright, in 1864, moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and bought eighty acres of partially cleared land in Sugar Creed township; after clearing up the remainder of the tract he sold out and in 1872 came to his present farm of eighty acres in Washington township, Van Wert county, this tract at the time being also but partially cleared, but by dilligence and skillful labor he has made of it one of the best homesteads in the township. Here, April 1, 1884, he was bereaved by the death of his wife, and July 2, 1885, he selected, for his second helpmate, Mrs. Marinda Lehman, widow of Frederick Lehman and daughter of Louis and Nancy (Binkley) Corderman. This lady was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 27, 1851, and has blessed Mr. Wright with one son—Henry Otis—who was born February 17, 1886. Louis Corderman was a farmer of Fairfield county and also a wagon-maker, and both the Cordermans and Binkleys were of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction. Mr. Corderman came to Van Wert county in 1853 and settled on 160 acres in Washington township, where he died, about 1859, at the age of fifty-one years. Of his three children—Mary, John and Marinda—Mary married John Long, who was killed in the Civil war, John sought his own fortune, and Marinda became the second wife of Mr. Wright. After the death of Mr. Corderman his widow finished the clearing up of the farm to the extent of eighty acres, made a good home, and died about 1889, aged seventy-eight years, a devout member of the United Brethren church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright are consistent and pious members of the Methodist church, in which he has been a class leader thirty years and for a long time a trustee. He has always been liberal in his contributions in aid of religion and also toward all projects designed for the public good. In politics he is a republican, and bears a high character as an upright man, a true Christian and a public-spirited citizen of true worth.

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JOHN WYANDT, a prominent farmer of Harrison township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier of the late Civil war, was born in Stark county, Ohio, January 30, 1837. His grandfather, Henry Wyandt, was a native of Maryland, was married there, had a family of eleven children, early came to Ohio, settled where Wilmont now stands in Stark county, and died on his farm at the age of seventy-six years. Simon Wyandt, son of Henry and father of John, our subject, was born in Maryland, May 25, 1812, came to Ohio with his father and married Elizabeth Dull, daughter of John and Hannah (Lenhart) Dull. John Dull came from Pennsylvania and settled on a farm adjoining that of the Wyandt family, in Ohio, and here he and his wife died of cholera in 1832. In 1839 Simon Wyandt brought his wife and family to Van Wert county and entered eighty acres in the woods of Harrison township, made a good farm and reared a family of eight children, viz: Henry, John, Hannah, Jacob, Catherine (died at sixteen), George W., David (died at nine), and Franklin, who died when three years old. Of these children, three sons served in the Union army during the late Civil war—Henry, John and Jacob. The death of Simon Wyandt took place at the comparatively early age of forty-seven years.

John Wyandt, as intimated above, was brought to Van Wert county, when but two years of age, and was here reared to manhood, receiving his education at the log school-house in district No. 1, a school-house, indeed, in which his children were subsequently educated. The marriage of Mr. Wyandt took December 5, 1861, to Harriet Gunsett, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Smith) Gunsett, born August 2, 1839. After his marriage, John Wyandt bought forty acres of land in Harrison township, which is still his homestead. Between then and now, however, Mr. Wyandt has had a varied experience. September 21, 1864, he enlisted at Lima, Ohio, in company F, Forty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, for one year, or during the war, and faithfully served until honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., June 14, 1865, the war having ended. During this short term of service, however, he did much active duty, taking part at Spring Hill, Columbia, Franklin, Nashville and Lexington, Tenn., and in many skirmishes, and was on the Hood campaign under the lead of the gallant general, "Pap" Thomas. When he entered the army he left at home his wife and three small children, the youngest two being twins and but three months old. What more can be said of patriotism? And in the wilderness of Van Wert the faithful wife struggled along alone with her young family. What compliment can be paid to her? The little family of Mr. Wyandt has, however, been increased, but, sad to relate, decreased, but it is proper that a record of the birth of his children should be given in regular order, that is to say: Jacob, Wellington, Simon and Catherine (twins), Henry, and John and a twin brother, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Wyandt are members of the Evangelical church, in which Mr. Wyandt is an elder and for a long time was a deacon. He has taken a great interest in matters educational, and for twenty-four years has been a school director. In politics he is a republican, and fraternizes with Capper post, No. 236, G. A. R., in which he has filled the office of vice-commander. He has always been an industrious man and has doubled his acreage since he first settled on it; he has won the respect of all who have known him, and the United States government in 1890 had sufficient confidence in him to appoint him census enumerator for Harrison township.

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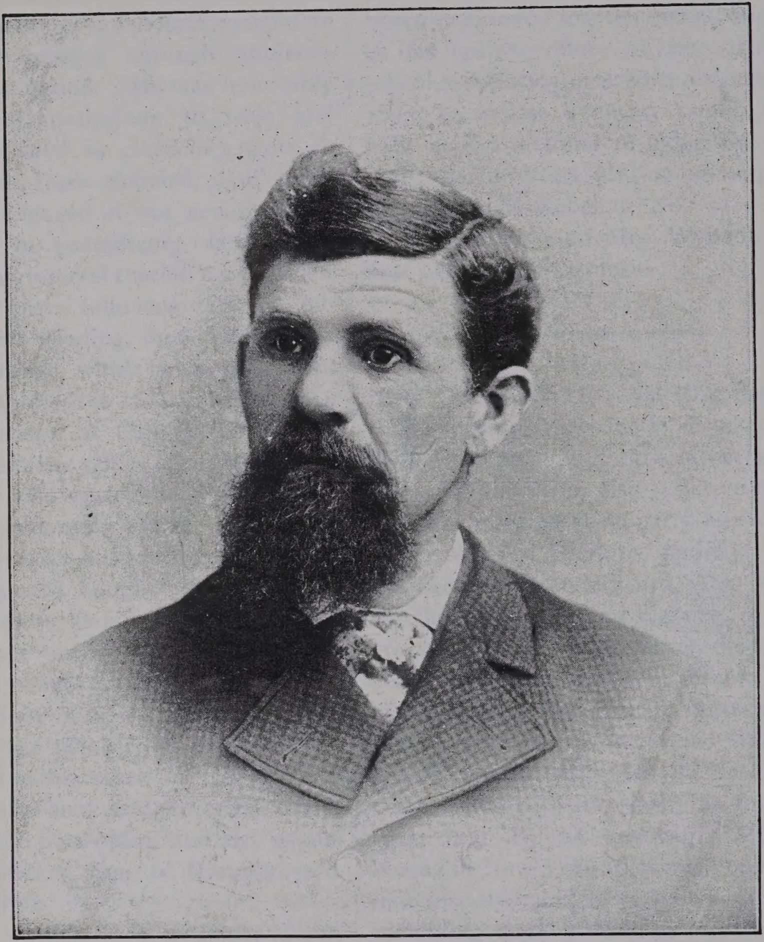
JACOB WYANDT, a well known business man of Van Wert city, Ohio, was born Augnst 3, 1842, in the county of Van Wert, township of Harrison, a son of Simon and Elizabeth (Dull) Wyandt. Simon Wyandt was a native of Somerset county, Pa., born May 25, 1815, a son of Henry Wyandt, who was born in Maryland, in which State Christian Wyandt, the progenitor of the family, made settlement on coming to America in 1760, later taking part in the war of the Revolution. Simon Wyandt was reared in Stark county, Ohio, and there married, November 5, 1834, Elizabeth Dull, who was born in Cumberland, county, Pa., June 4, 1813, a daughter of John Dull. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Wyandt resided in Stark county until 1839, when they came to Van Wert county and bought land in Harrison township, where Simon died January 4, 1859. His widow now lives in Convoy, Van Wert county, and still owns the farm of eighty acres. She bore her husband eight children, viz: Henry, deceased; John, of Harrison township; Hannah, wife of J. Gunsett, of Ohio City; Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Catherine, deceased; George W., of Blackford county, Ind.; David S., deceased; and Franklin, deceased. Mrs. Wyandt is a member of the Lutheran church; in politics her husband was a republican.

Jacob Wyandt was reared on the old homestead in Harrison township, remained there until twenty-one years of age, and then enlisted, July 9, 1863, in company K, Eighty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and was on detached duty for thirteen months as clerk for the assistant judge advocate of the department comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, the documents of all courts martial in this department passing through subject's hands during this period. He was honorably discharged at Cincinnati, June 30, 1865, and on his return engaged as clerk in a store in Convoy. He was there married, and there made his home, engaged in the general mercantile business in partnersnip with James Pettit, but sold his interest therein a year later, and for the two years following dealt in oil-barrels, staves and heading; then entered the drug trade in Convoy, which he conducted for eight years, and sold out in 1880. He had been appointed post-master at Convoy, Ohio, May 25, 1869, and held the office until September 15, 1885; during this period he also kept the post-office book and news stand. At the expiration of his term as post-master he moved to Van Wert city and bought one-quarter interest in the Bulletin, and was co-editor with J. W. Sommersett until 1886, when he sold his interest and bought a one-half interest in the Van Wert Book & News company, J. M. C. Marble being his partner; at the end of a year he disposed of his stock in this concern and established the book and periodical stand in the lobby of the post-office, and also assists the wholesale grocery firm of Humphreys & Hughes as bill clerk.

Mr. Wyandt was joined in wedlock, March 26, 1867, in Tully township, Van Wert county, with Miss Sarah E. North, a native of Washington county, Pa., born May 11, 1846, a daughter of Joseph and Rachael (Dahlhausen) North, and to this union have been born four children, viz: Anna Laura Belle, wife of W. S. Little, a machinist of Chicago; Edwin P., with his father; a deceased infant, and Minnie May. Mr. and Mrs. Wyandt reside in their pleasant home on Lynn street, which he owns, and both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Wyandt is a republican and was a member of the school-board in Convoy for ten years and its clerk; he has been secretary of the county Sunday-school association ever since its organization in 1883; he is also a notary public, and fraternally he is a member of lodge No. 251, I. O. O. F., of Van Wert, Marion encampment, No. 61, and Pearl Rebekah No. 53. The social standing of Mr. and Mrs. Wyandt is with the best of Van Wert county.

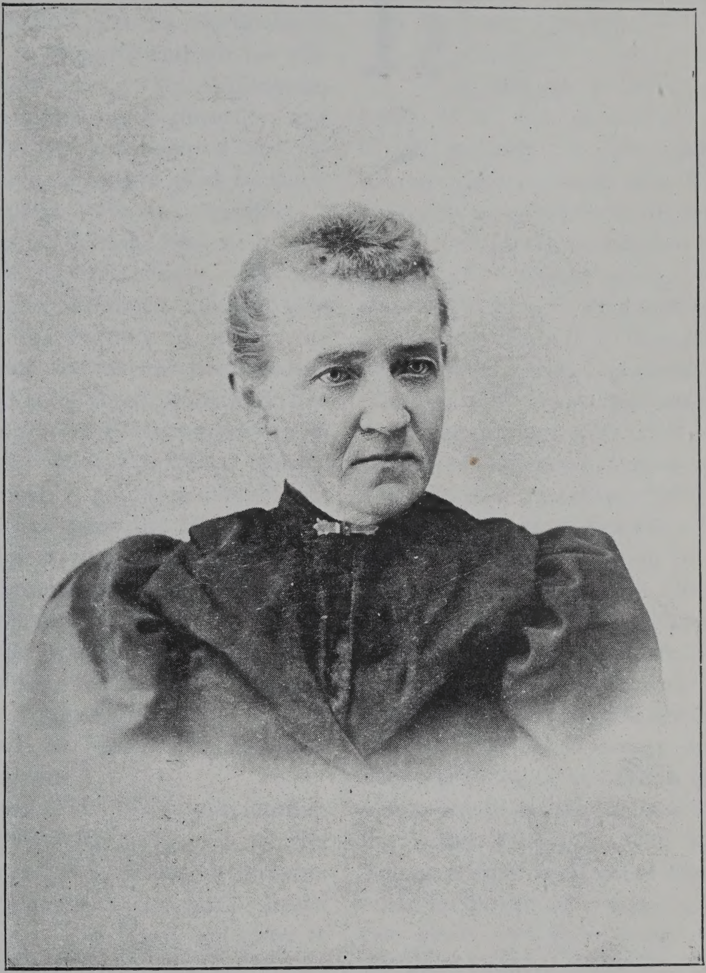
* * *

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, deceased, was born in New Castle, England, September 27, 1843. His father was Edward Williamson, also a native of England, who was married at an early age and was the father of seven children, namely: Joseph, of our sketch; John Edward, Jr.; Mary, Jane, Matthew, Opodias and Harriet; of these, five are still living. The father died when sixty years old. His eldest son, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, was given a fair schooling, and then learned the stone-cutter's trade. At the age of twenty-three (1867) he decided to leave the parental roof and seek his fortune in the great land to the westward, America. He landed in New York in fair circumstances and immediately went to work at his trade. After remaining there a while he went to Pittsburg, Pa., where he continued at his trade; later on he moved to Mansfield, Ohio, and there he met and married Anna Profit, February 6, 1870. After marriage he worked at his trade in the following mentioned places: Cleveland and Sandusky, Ohio; Pontiac, Mich., and then at Sandusky, Ohio, again. He then moved to Toledo, Ohio, afterward to Fort Wayne, Ind.,



JOHN WILLIAMSON,

DECEASED.



*MRS. ANNA WILLIAMSON,*

and then to Van Wert, Ohio. After remaining here some time he moved his family to Marysville, Ohio, and finally back to Van Wert, where he remained and worked at his trade until death called him away October 4, 1881. Although he moved from place to place as a rolling stone, yet he accumulated quite a good deal of property and left his wife in very good circumstances. Mr. Williamson was a good Christian of much liberality, and of considerable ability, was honored and respected by all, and was much liked by those with whom he walked. He was the father of three children, viz: Victoria, who died while the parents were living in Sandusky, at the age of seven months and five days; Edward, who was born in Sandusky on May 16, 1874, and when grown to manhood learned the molder's trade and followed it for three years, and then accepted a position in the Harris laundry in Van Wert; here he worked until he learned the business thoroughly, and then bought out Mr. Harris, and now owns the laundry himself. He has a finely equipped establishment with the latest improved machinery, and enjoys a very large patronage not only in Van Wert, but in many of the neighboring towns. He gives employmeut to quite a number of persons. Fred, the youngest son, was born in Sandusky on March 18, 1877, and is now with his brother in the laundry.

Mrs. Williamson, the wife and mother, was born in New York April 26, 1847. Her father, Jacob Profit, was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1827, and was a weaver by trade. In 1847 he left the fatherland and came to America, and worked at his trade in New York a while. He had married Maggie Bark in 1842, in Germany, and after leaving New York lived in Mansfield, Ohio. Their children were five in number and named as follows: Peter, who died in 1877; Jacob; Phiiip, who died when quite young, and Anna (Mrs. Williamson) now lives in Van Wert, and is comforted by her two sons, who are young men of exemplary habits.

* * *

HENRY YOUNG, a pioneer farmer of Tully township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a son of John and Sarah (Coffman) Young, and was born in Little York, Pa., December 18, 1818. John Young, the father, was also born in Little York, his grandfather coming from Germany. John moved first to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1826-7, and located in the wilderness; thence, in 1836, he moved to Holmes county, then to Ashland county and then to Richland, whence he came to Tully township, Van Wert county, and from here went to Kansas, where he died at the age of eighty-eight years, the father of seven children, viz: Henry, John (died an infant), Catherine, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel and Leah. John and wife were members of the Albright Methodist church; in politics was a Jacksonian democrat and a strong Union man; he fought in the war of 1812, and in the Civil war had three sons—all in Ohio regiments.

Henry Young was reared to the onerous duties of farm life and was educated in the common schools. December 27, 1843, he was married, in Holmes county, to Ellen Hornet, daughter of Noah and Sarah Hornet, to which union were born four children, viz: Peter, Mary, Sarah and Hubbard. After his marriage, Mr. Young resided in Holmes county until 1848, when he moved to Ashland county, remained two years, and then moved to near Shelby, Richland county, where Mrs. Young died, July 21, 1851. Mr. Young then went to Crestline, Crawford county, and for four years was employed at carpenter work. Here he married Diana Hershey, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Hershey. Jacob Hershey and family came from Lancaster county, Pa., his children being four in number, named William W., Samuel, Harriet and Diana. Mr. Hershey eventually came to Van Wert county and passed his waning days at the home of our subject, dying at the age of seventy-five years, a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Young, who was an excellent carpenter and mechanic and learned his trade when thirty years of age, continued to work in the car shops at Crestline for the P., Ft. W. & C. R. R. company for about eight years (having first worked at bridge building a year and a half for the same company), and in 1864 came to Van Wert and bought forty acres of his present farm in the wild woods, and in the same spring bought twenty-six acres adjoining on the south, and all this land he has earned by hard labor, succeeded in clearing, and in making a pleasant home and a profitable farm.

The nine children born to Henry Young by his second marriage were named William, Frances, Henry, Jacob, John, Samuel, Alexander, Nettie and Turey. His eldest son by his first marriage, Peter, served as a private in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, for a short time, and was in the battle of Shiloh; he was then seized with typhus fever, and died in hospital at Memphis, Tenn., November 28, 1862. The marriages among his remaining children took place as follows: Mary was married to David Lowper, who became the father of two children and died, and she then married Thomas Hawkins, a farmer of Harrison township; Sarah was married to Alfred Baer, and had four children; Hubbard, a carpenter, married Eliza Current who has borne one child; Frances, now deceased, was married to Jacob Mosel, a farmer of Tully township; Jacob married Ollie Lockheart, and is now in Lima, Ohio, a mechanic in the D. & M. shops, with no children. Samuel Young, one of the sons by the second marriage, graduated from the normal school, taught school in Van Wert county nine years, was index clerk in the recorder's office at Van Wert, was deputy sheriff under Peter Shoemaker, read law with Lewis & Blachley at Van Wert, and is now at Lima, Ohio, still pursuing the study of law. Mrs. Henry Young was called to the better land February 27, 1895, dying in the faith of the Baptist church, in which Mr. Young is a deacon. In politics Mr. Young is a democrat; he is a member of the grange, in which he has served as chaplain, and has been a school director six years, taking a deep interest in educational matters; he is an entirely self-made man from a business point of view, is upright in all his transactions, and has won the highest esteem of the citizens of the township.

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MRS. MARY M. YOUNG, widow of John C. Young, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, January 4, 1842. She is a daughter of Jonah M. and Sarah (Stokesberry) Matthew, both natives of Culpeper county, Va., and respectively of Welsh and English ancestry. Both came with their parents to Ohio about 1812. The parents of each pre-empted land from the government in Clinton county, and as soon as their families were comfortably settled in their new homes, the male head of each volunteered for service in the war with England then going on, but before they had seen much service peace was declared, and they returned to their homes. Jonah Matthew died in 1865, at the age of seventy-two, and his wife died in 1890 at the age of eighty-eight years. Both were members of the Christian church and were the best of people, kind-hearted neighbors, and loving parents.

Mrs. Young resided in Clinton county until 1891, when she removed to Van Wert county, and there made her home with her brother, Eli Matthew, a prominent farmer of Pleasant township, until February, 1895. She then removed to the city of Van Wert, having built for herself a pleasant house with modern conveniences in Oak Grove, a suburb of the city. Mrs. Young is a faithful member of and regular attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, has for thirty years been a Sunday-school teacher, and is also a member of the Daughters of Rebekah. In every way she is a most estimable woman, and enjoys the highest respect of all her neighbors and friends.

John C. Young, deceased husband of Mrs. Mary M. Young, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1832. He was a son of John Young and Hannah (Newcomb) Young, natives respectively of Virginia and Maryland. John Young moved to Clinton county with his parents about 1812, they settling on land which Mr. Young had pre-empted from the government. He was by occupation a farmer, and followed that honorable calling until his death, which occurred in 1862. Hannah Newcomb, his wife, was a daughter of William Newcomb, a pioneer Baptist minister and school-teacher. She and Mr. Newcomb were married about 1823, and she died in 1881, a woman of high character and noble deeds.

John C. Young remained on the farm with his parents until the breaking out of the war, when, in September, 1861, he enlisted in company B, Fortieth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry. This regiment entered almost immediately into active service, and participated in some of the hardest-fought and most important battles of the war. Among these battles were that of Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Vicksburg, the battle of Gettysburg, the battle of Chickamauga, of Lookout Mountain, and Chattanooga. It was also in the campaign of Nashville, and took part in the last battle of Nashville. In 1862 Mr. Young was sent home on furlough on account of an attack of typhoid pneumonia, and at the end of five weeks he had so far recovered as to be able to return to his regiment, and he served then the rest of his term of enlistment, which was for three years. He was honorably discharged in September, 1864, and then returned to his home. A brother of Mr. Young was a victim of the horrors of Andersonville, dying a short time after his release from the effects of privations experienced during his imprisonment there.

After Mr. Young wrs discharged from the army he suffered another severe illness, having contracted heart disease and lung disease while in the army. He was married October 17, 1867, to Miss Mary M. Matthew, and immediately afterward gave up the active management of the farm, and with his wife located in Centerville, near his farm, where he lived until his death, which occurred December 26, 1879. Mr. Young was a member of the order of Odd Fellows, and in religion he was a Methodist. In politics he was a democrat until the war came on, and then perceiving that too many members of that party were pursuing a course inimical to the success of the government in the suppression of the Rebellion, he became a republican, remaining a republican the rest of his life. But whether a democrat or republican, Mr. Young was always equally patriotic, and always labored for the good of his country. At his death he left his widow in comfortable circumstances, and a memory dear to all his relatives and friends. There were no children born to Mr. and Mrs. Young.

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WILLIAM H. ZIMMERMAN, a retired farmer and merchant of Convoy, Van Wert county, Ohio, and an ex-soldier, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, August 26, 1839, a son of Israel and Margaret (Smith) Zimmerman. The father, Israel, was a son of Henry, of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Columbiana county. Israel had born to him four children, who were named William H., James S., Philip M. and Ramsey L., all of whom were born in Columbiana county, Ohio, excepting Ramsey L., who is a native of Van Wert county, in Pleasant township of which county the father settled in about 1852, having entered forty-eight and one-half acres in the wild woods some years previously, and to which he subsequently added forty-eight and one-half acres by purchase, but died two years after his arrival at about forty-one years of age.

William H. Zimmerman was reared on the farm above alluded to from his fourteenth year until he enlisted, at Van Wert, December 9, 1861, in company K, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, to serve three years or during the war, but was honorably discharged, July 1, 1862, at Columbus, Ohio, on account of wounds received at the battle of Shiloh, otherwise known as Pittsburg Landing, which took place in April. In this desperate struggle he was struck by a rifle-ball in the left elbow, the effects of which are still an annoyance to him. January 15, 1865, he married Catherine Weisman, daughter of Joel and Sarah (Troup) Weisman, the former of whom came from Perry county, Ohio, and was an old settler of Van Wert county. He was the father of seven children, who were named Noah, Catherine, Elizabeth (died at thirteen years of age), Benjamin F., William A., Lydia M. and P. M. Noah Weisman, brother of Mrs. Zimmerman, served in the same company, during the Civil war, with her husband, and about the same length of time.

After marriage Mr. Zimmerman lived on the home farm two years and then bought forty acres in Harrison township, but later sold and bought two farms in Tully township, consisting, respectively, of fifty-eight and forty acres, which he brought into a high state of cultivation and resided upon until his removal, in March, 1870, to Convoy. Here, for three and one-half years he was engaged in the saw-mill business, then in the grocery trade, and then in tile manufacturing. He also ran the elevator in company with A. B. Penny, and since the last manifestation of his business energy has devoted his attention to the care of his farm and minor enterprises. Mr. Zimmerman is quite a hunter, and in his recreations in this particular has visited on several occasions the northern parts of Wisconsin and Michigan, and has in his possession the head and antlers of a splendid buck as an evidence of his skill and prowess. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman are Presbyterians in their religious belief. Fraternally he is a member of Convoy lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has held all the offices, including that of noble grand. In politics he is a democrat, and has been town treasurer, township treasurer, councilman, township trustee and justice of the peace. In 1889 he bought his present pleasant home in Convoy, where he has since been residing in the enjoyment of the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens. The successful career of Mr. Zimmerman furnishes a bright example for the emulation of the younger members of the community who have yet to make their fortunes through their own industry.

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JACOB S. ZOOK, a prominent and heavy contractor and builder of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in Wayne county, in the same state, April 5, 1838, a son of Daniel and Nancy (Steel) Zook, the former of whom was born in Cumberland county, Pa., but who came with his parents to Wayne county when but eighteen years of age. Nancy Steel was also a native of Pennsylvania, and was a mere child when brought to

Ohio; her parents being among the first families to locate in Wayne county. Daniel and Nancy grew to man and womanhood near Wooster, Wayne county, and were married there in 1834. Daniel, after marriage, immediately engaged in farming in Wayne county, and there remained until 1841, when he moved his little family to Crawford county, farmed there a year, and then moved to the west of Bucyrus, Crawford county, where he made his home until 1851; he then moved to Wyandot county, where he had entered forty acres of wild land, and there cleared up the the farm on which he died in 1854. To Daniel and Nancy Zook were born six children, in the following order: Mary A., deceased; Jacob S., our subject; Amanda E., wife of D. Peterson, of Ada, Ohio; John W. and William N., deceased, and Dennis C., a railroad man of Valparaiso, Ind. In 1856, Mrs. Nancy Zook was married to Goodwin Hall, who is now also deceased, and in 1888 she herself died, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Jacob S. Zook was about six years of age when taken to Crawford county, and about thirteen years old when taken to Wyandot county, where he made his home until 1856, when, at the age of about seventeen, he went to Oceola, Crawford county, where he served an apprenticeship of three years at the carpenter's trade with John Dome. The next four years he worked in partnership with Mr. Dome, and then went to Nevada, Ohio, and began contracting on his own account, following his vocation there until 1873, when he came to Van Wert, as affording a wider scope for the exercise of his now fully ripened genius and perfected skill. He at first here formed a partnership with E. W. Wilson, which connection was maintained for four years, at the expiration of which time Mr. Zook continued in business on his sole account. Mr. Zook has erected, in Van Wert, the Hotel Marsh, the Methodist Episcopal church, the City building, the North (Second ward) school-house, several large business blocks and a number of the better class of dwellings, and also built in 1885 the machine shop and round house for Ohio division of the C., J. & M. railroad. He owns his own fine residence on South Washington street, and at the rear end of his lot has a building devoted to the manufacture of screen doors, window frames and the lighter work pertaining to carpentry. He also owns 120 acres of land in Pleasant township, Van Wert county, and Mrs. Zook is the owner of eighty acres in Ingham county, Mich. He is also a stockholder in the Van Wert National bank, and is a member of its board of directors.

The marriage of Mr. Zook took place in Oceola, Crawford county, Ohio, January 12, 1862, to Miss Amanda E. Barrick, who was born in Crawford county, July 20, 1839, a daughter of John and Jane Barrick, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Zook is a republican, and as such has served in the city council two years. Fraternally he is a knight templar Mason. As a business man he is unexcelled, and his social standing is among the best citizens of Van Wert. As Mr. and Mrs. Zook have no children of their own, they have recently taken Frank Bennett, who was born in Vermont in October, 1886.

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ZACHARIAH STEWART, a practical and progressive farmer of Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Fairfield county, August 15, 1840. His father, also named Zachariah, was born in Ireland, and came to America while still a young man. He located first in Fairfield county, Ohio, and there married a lady of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry, and later came to Van Wert county and settled on the land in Washington township now occupied by his son Joseph, and here died at the age of about sixty years.

Zachariah Stewart, whose name opens this sketch, was but a small boy when brought to Van Wert county by his father. Reared on a pioneer farm he had but few opportunities for schooling, but by self-exertion attained sufficient knowledge for the prosecution of the ordinary business of life. In 1862, at Lima, Ohio, he enlisted in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years or during the war, but his actual service comprised but eighteen months—nine months under his enlistment, being them honorably discharged on account of sickness; later on he was drafted, and after another experience of nine months of army life, was again discharged for the same cause. He took part, however, in the siege of Nashville, was in many skirmishes and did a great deal of hard marching. He was confined in hospital at Louisville, Ky., with chronic diarrhœa, and was also stricken with measles during his service, and came very near death, and was so badly disabled by disease in doing his duty to his country that he has been granted a pension of $10 per month by the government. Mr. Stewart is now the owner of a good farm of forty acres, which he has cleared up from the woods of Washington township, from which he is deriving a fair income and on which he makes his home. He is an upright, hard-working man and is respected by all who know him, and in politics he is a democrat.

A. J. Stewart, a brother of Zachariah, our subject, also enlisted in company H, Fifteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, for three years, then veteranized, and served until the close of the war—taking part in many battles and doing the full duty of a soldier. He is now a prominent citizen of Jackson township, Van Wert county, and at one time served as infirmary director.

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SIMEON A. JACKSON is a native of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, and was born on the farm now owned and occupied by him, February 8, 1843. His parents, Ferdinand and Charity (Mortimore) Jackson, were natives respectively of Madison county, Ohio, and North Carolina. By his first marriage Ferdinand Jackson became the father of four children, viz: John M., a resident of York township; Sarah, who died in childhood; Thomas, who died in infancy, Simeon A., and James, a resident of Van Wert county. The father died in the spring of 1849, and Mrs. Jackson was again married and became the mother of the following children: Robert and Jacob, twins; William, deceased; David, who resides in Van Wert county. The mother died April 4, 1891. Ferdinand Jackson, although a farmer, worked at chair-making in the winter time.

Simeon A. Jackson, our subject, spent his youth on the home farm, and at the age of ninteen years enlisted in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, the date of his enlistment being Augnst 6, 1862, and the term of his enlistment being three years. He was in the battles of Stone River, Chickamuaga, and eleven other of the hard-fought engagements; after being mustered out at the close of the war he returned to his home, and November 11, 1867, was united in wedlock with Rebecca Hayes, a daughter of Jackson and Eliza (Hichner) Hayes, residents of Mercer county, Ohio—the former a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and the latter of New Jersey. To Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were born the following children: Laban, a resident of Mercer county; Orlando, who grew to manhood, but is now deceased; Sheldon, who was a soldier in company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and died while in service from disease; Morton, who died in early manhood; Mrs. Jackson; Melissa, the deceased wife of William Krugh; Ella, deceased wife of Augustus Frisingter; Orelso, who died when twelve years of age. The mother of these children died when Mrs. Jackson was but eight years of age, and the father next married the widow Green, who bore him one daughter, May, the wife of Lincoln Scott, of Celina, Ohio. Mrs. Jackson's father died in May, 1879. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were named—Willis, at home; Sarah, wife of Charles Brown, of Mercer county; Minnie, school-teacher; Oscar, Eliza, Otis, and Foster. Mr. Jackson owns a neat homestead of forty acres, and also another tract of thirty-three acres in York township. Mrs. Jrckson is a pious member of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Jackson is a stalwart republican. He and family are highly respected by their neighbors and Mr. Jackson is looked upon as one of the most public-spirited citizens of York township.

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WILEY M. KEAR, an extensive real estate dealer and money broker of Van Wert, Ohio, was born in that village April 22, 1851, and is a son of Thomas Reed and Catherine (Frisinger) Kear.

Thomas Reed Kear was born in Maryland April 26, 1806, and during his early youthful days was a sailor on the ocean. Some time prior to the attainment of his majority he removed to Licking county, Ohio, to which county his parents had preceded him, and there he lived on a farm near Jacksontown, in the meantime learning the carpenter trade. He afterward moved to Champaign county, Ohio. Here, April 29, 1829, he married Catherine Frisinger, who was born in Virginia April 12, 1812, and by whom he had ten children, as follows: Mary M., wife of Jackson Pence, and now living in Willshire township; John J., of Van Wert county; Amelia C., deceased; Lydia A., of Petersburg, Ill.; Amanda A., of Van Wert; Benjamin F., who died in Oklahoma; Sarah E., who died in Buchanan county, Iowa; Robert T., who died in Van Wert; Wiley M., the subject of this sketch, and Elsie A., deceased.

Removing to Van Wert county in 1835, Mr. Kear settled in Willshire township, where he was employed mainly as a cabinet-maker and as a carpenter until 1843, when he removed to Van Wert, which place at that time contained only eleven families. As a democrat Mr. Kear served as a deputy under the first sheriff of Van Wert county, was afterward himself elected sheriff, and served as public crier for many years. His death occurred May 11, 1864, his widow dying in Van Wert November 1, 1895, at the age of eighty-three years, six months and nineteen days. She was converted at a camp meeting in Urbana, Ohio, in 1830, united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a member of the first Methodist class in Van Wert county, which met in the house of Richard Pring, in Willshire township, Mr. Pring having been the organizer and leader of the class and being an exhorter of no mean ability. She joined this class in 1836. Her sisters, of whom she had several, lived most of their lives in Champaign county, Ohio, and many of their descendants now reside in that county. Her brothers were among the early settlers of Van Wert and Mercer counties, Ohio, and were named William, Jacob, John, Peter and Noah Frisinger.

Peter Frisinger, the father of Mrs. Kear, died during the war of 1812, while fighting the battles of his country, and was buried at Norfolk, Va. His wife was a Miss Worley, and several of her nephews and nieces lived near Eaton, Preble county, Ohio.

Thomas Reed Kear had two brothers, John Reed and William Reed, the former of whom died while a young man, in Champaign county, and the latter of whom was last heard from as living in Syracuse, Nebr. He also had three sisters,—Mary Ann, who married Richard Pring, and removed to Polk county, Iowa; Eleanor, who married John Pring, a brother of Richard, and removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., and Amelia R., who married Frederick Baylor, and removed to Wayne county, Iowa.

Following are the names of some of the descendants of these three sisters: Harriet R. Deyve, of Princeton, Mo.; Mary J. Deyve, of Ravanna, Mo.; Margaret Eby and Fanny Fry, of Great Bend, Kan.; Thomas Pring, of Allerton, Wayne county, Iowa; Jerry Pring, of Adams, Adair county, Iowa; Amelia Whittaker, of Oakley, Kan.; Margaret McCleary, of Dexter, Iowa; Jane Adams, Ethel (Pring) Stewart, and George W. Pring, all three of Adair county, Iowa; Emma Trummel, of Nebraska; Mary Woodrow, of Rock Falls, Iowa; Nellie Whittaker, of Oakley, Kan.; James Pring, of Cedarville, Ind., and Maggie Cornell, of Kirksville, Missouri.

Thomas Reed Kear was a son of John Cears, who married Eleanor Reed, in or near Baltimore. She had three brothers, viz: William, John and Thomas, all of who lived in Baltimore or the vicinity. John Cears was a ship-builder and a sailor, and somewhat late in life removed to Licking county, Ohio. Of his two sisters, Nancy married a Mr. Pussely, and lived at Zanesville, Ohio, and Mary married a Mr. Basiel or Bassil, and lived in Licking county. The father of John Cears came from England prior to the Revolutionary war, and established a large ship-building yard in Maryland, which he conducted profitably until the breaking out of that war, when all his property was confiscated.

Wiley M. Kear, after the death of his father, worked in a stave factory for two years, and then removed to Plymouth, Ind., where he worked on a farm during the summer season and attended school during the winter, working for his board. Returning to Van Wert he was for three years engaged in a stave factory eight months in the year and attended school four months. For some time afterward he was engaged in various kinds of farm work, and having attained his majority he went to Brandon, Iowa, and there was engaged in farm labor until 1873. Returning to Van Wert he worked for some years in a saw-mill, at general teaming and school teaching in winters, at the same time laying out the plat of Kear's addition to Van Wert, selling lots, and building a home for his mother. In 1879 he accepted a position as deputy recorder of Van Wert county, under his brother-in-law, W. P. Wolcott, and while in this position began loaning money, thus laying the foundation of his present extensive and profitable business, and in 1883, at the expiration of his term as deputy recorder, he opened his present office, at the corner of Main and Washington streets, Van Wert.

Mr. Kear was married June 17, 1879, at Brandon, Iowa, to Miss Malinda Romig, who was born in Wisconsin, October 14, 1853, and to this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Carleton R.; Helen L.; Georgiana M.; Roy Donald; Paul Winfred; Harry Alexander; and Thomas W., deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kear are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Kear is an Odd Fellow, and a republican, and bears a fine reputation as a successful and honorable business man. Mrs. Kear removed with her parents from Wisconsin to Brandon, Iowa, and resided there until her marriage. Her father, Isaac Romig, was a merchant at that place. He was born in Lehigh county, Pa., March 26, 1814, and married Mrs. Elizabeth Young, who was born in Northumberland county, Pa., August 8, 1823, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Richey) Williamson, the marriage taking place March 13, 1842. To this marriage there have been born seven children, as follows: Henry H., who died at Memphis, Tenn., May 21, 1864, from the effects of a musket-ball wound in the hand; Harriet D., wife of H. S. Van Buren, of Brandon, Iowa; Mary Ann, wife of Henry Fouts, of Brandon, Iowa; James M., who married Sarah L. Newcomb, and lives at Independence, Iowa; Benjamin, who died when a child; Malinda, wife of the subject of this sketch; Clara Marilie, wife of A. T. McDonald, of Independence, Iowa. All seven of the above-named children were born in the state of Wisconsin.

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E. H. SHORB, fish and game commissioner of the state of Ohio, was born in Canton, Ohio, June 3, 1837. He is a son of John Shorb, who was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1796. John Shorb was brought by his parents to Ohio in 1802, they settling in Stark county. In Canton, Ohio, Mr. Shorb was a man of considerable prominence. He was a miller, a banker, and for some years was mayor of the city of Canton. This was in an early day. During the war of 1812–15 he was a patriot, enlisting in that war and serving his country faithfully during his term of service. In this, however, he was but following in the footsteps of his father, who was a patriot soldier in the Revolutionary war. He married Miss Margaret Stegger, who was a native of Uniontown, Pa., and who died in Canton, Ohio, in 1875. Her father, like her husband's father, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

E. H. Shorb, the subject of this sketch, was married at Sturgis, Mich., in August, 1877, to Miss Nettie C. Purdy, who was born in Van Wert, Ohio, in 1859. To this marriage there have been born two children, viz: Elizabeth and Katharyn. Mrs. Shorb is a daughter of George and Sarah (Cecil) Purdy, the former of whom died in Van Wert county in 1864. The latter is a native of Harrison county, Ohio, and is now living in Van Wert. Mr. Shorb came to Van Wert in 1876. He has worked in a field and is now working in a field of great usefulness, very wide and very valuable—that of the propagation of fish and the protection of both game and fish. It was doubtless on account of his predilection for and skill in these lines that he was appointed by Gov. William McKinley, in April, 1894, to the position of state fish and game commissioner, and was re-appointed in May, 1895, for five years. During this period he will have ample time to raise the office to a plane of prominence and usefulness that it has so far not attained. Mr. Shorb was the first person in Ohio to successfully raise the Mongolian and the ring-necked pheasant.

It would probably be less difficult to assign a reason for the failure of Mr. Shorb's predecessors in this line than for his success. For the pheasant is a native of southern Europe, having been most anciently found on the banks of the river Phasis, which flows from the southern slopes of the Caucasus mountains westerly into the Black sea, near the ancient city of Phasis. The Greek form of this name, Phasianos, is the origin of the English word, pheasant. Hence it appears that this bird was named after the river on whose banks it was first found. The mean annual temperature of its ancient home is considerably higher than that of northern Ohio, or, indeed, of Ohio, that of the latter being not far from fifty-one degrees, while that of the ancient province of Colchis, the present province of Imerethia, is about fifty-eight degrees. To overcome this difference in temperature must have been the result of great care and attention to the pheasant on the part of Mr. Shorb.

Mr. Shorb has made many personal friends since he has made his residence in Van Wert, where he has his home on North Washington street, and his social manners and scientific attainments have won for him the esteem of the community in general.

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JOSEPH J. MOORE, car inspector for the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad company, in Van Wert, was born December 30, 1855, and is a son of W. S. G. and Amanda M. (Butler) Moore, a full history of both of whom appears on page 559 of this volume.

Joseph J. Moore spent his boyhood days at home, assisting his father on the farm and in the brick-yard, attending school as opportunity offered. When his parents removed to Van Wert county in 1864 he removed with them, and has been a resident of the county ever since. At the age of twenty he left home and went to work as a section hand on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad, and was thus employed four years. He was then appointed a night policeman of Van Wert, and served in that capacity three years, giving satisfaction to all persons interested. Resigning this place in 1887, he accepted a position with the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw railroad company as car inspector, in that company's Van Wert yards, and this position he has held ever since, a period of nine years, giving entire satisfaction to the company that employs him.

Mr. Moore was married, November 17, 1878, to Mrs. Louisa J. Keller, née Guinn, whose parents were David and Mary (Van Senter) Guinn, natives respectively of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but, at the time of this marriage, old residents of Van Wert, the father being a prominent farmer of Pleasant township. Mr. Guinn, though himself unable to go to the war, sent two of his sons, who rendered faithful service to their country in its hour of need. Both Mr. and Mrs. Guinn are now deceased.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, of which order he has passed all the chairs, and is now representative-elect of the Abenaka tribe, No. 77, of Van Wert, to the grand council of Ohio. He is also a member of Van Wert lodge, No. 130, K. of P., in which lodge he has held all the chairs but one, and he is also a member of the Odd Fellow lodge, No. 251, of Van Wert. In religious belief both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he is a republican. Mrs. Moore is a member of the Order of Pocahontas and has filled all the offices. They live in a modern home of their own on South Walnut street, with their one child, George W., aged fifteen, surrounded by many warm and kind-hearted friends.

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JOHN STRIPE, a substantial farmer, was born in Hoaglin township, Van Wert county, Ohio, August 14, 1846, and Hoaglin township is still his home. His descent will be found in detail in the biography of his younger brother, G. W. Stripe, which will be found below, and the two sketches, in conjunction, make a complete family history. John Stripe acquired a sound education in the first frame school-house erected in the township, was reared to the vocation of farming. He first married, August 4, 1870, Harriet Clem, daughter of Isaac and Rebecca

(Crobill) Clem, the father being then a farmer of Champaign county, Ohio, but now deceased. To this marriage of Mr. Stripe were born four children, who were named, in order of birth, as follows: Minnie A., Eleanor, Oma and Perry. The mother of these died February 11, 1880, and the second marriage of Mr. Stripe took place April 20, 1882, to Miss Mattie C. Burgess, daughter of Lloyd and Mary (Robinson) Burgess. The father of this lady was born in Springfield, Ohio, October 15, 1827, and the mother in Xenia, Ohio, March 7, 1828, and were married in Xenia, June 27, 1845. Until the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Burgess was employed in the saddlery trade, and since the close has been engaged in carriage trimming. He and wife have both been active members of the Methodist church, and now reside in Warsaw, Ind., where Mr. Burgess votes with the republicans. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess have been born the following children: Emily (deceased), James A., Mattie C., Frank H., William G. (deceased), Emma J. (deceased), Fanny, Allie, Hattie J., Sallie, and Bertie (deceased). To the second marriage of Mr. Stripe the following children have been born: M. Herbert and M. Albert (twins), Delbert L., Carl V., Mamie (deceased) and George. Mr. Stripe has an excellently well improved home farm of eighty-two acres, every rod of which shows the skill and care of the experienced agriculturist; he also owns ten acres in Ridge township, and a farm of twenty-one acres, composed of a portion of his father's old homestead, around which, in his youthful days, roamed numberless wolves and other wild beasts; and game, such as bear, deer and turkey, was as plentiful as could be desired even by an amateur huntsman, but he has seen all this changed to be occupied by the domestic poultry and cattle of the thrifty farmer, and the fruitful fields which have supplanted the wild woods. Mr. Stripe is a stanch prohibitionist in his political affiliations, has had the nomination of his party for county treasurer, and is also a member of grange No. 400. He and wife are consistent members of the Methodist church, and their social relations most agreeable, being highly respected, as they are, by the community.

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PERRY CLARK CONN, deceased, formerly a prominent and exceedingly popular business man of Van Wert, was born in Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, in 1844. He was a son of Andrew and Margaret (Patterson) Conn.

Andrew Conn was born in Cecil county, Md., March 19, 1803, and in 1812 was taken by his parents to Pennsylvania. In 1827 he removed to Mansfield, Ohio, having just previously married Miss Margaret Patterson. Mr. Conn resided in Mansfield for nineteen years and was twice elected treasurer of Richland county. While there he was prominently engaged in the banking business, being at the head of the firm of Conn, Sherman & Co., Hon. John Sherman being a member of the firm. Retiring from the banking business he soon afterward, in 1856, removed to Van Wert, where he resided the rest of his life, his death occurring at the residence of his son, John A. Conn, June 23, 1879, after an illness of about eighteen months. Mr. Conn was a member of and a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church, and was frequently honored by the members of his church by being selected as delegate to district and general synods. During the Civil war he was a strong patriot, and while the war was going on was elected treasurer of Van Wert county. As a public servant, he was always faithful to his charge; as a private citizen, he was public spirited; as a neighbor, he was kind and accommodating, and as a friend, he was devoted and true.

Rev. A. V. Stockton, of the First Presbyterian church, officiated at the funeral. John A. Conn, one of his sons, has long been a prominent business man of Van Wert, and stands high as a financier. For years he was cashier of the First National bank of that city, but he is now practically retired, though he is conducting a grocery store in the interest of his sons.

Perry C. Conn removed to Van Wert at the same time that his father came from Mansfield, in 1856, and for some years was engaged in various kinds of business. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He then established himself as a grocer in Van Wert, and for some years he was associated with R. Slade, under the firm name of Slade & Conn, but subsequently purchased his partner's interest and conducted the grocery trade alone until his death, which occurred on Tuesday, November 19, 1888, at the age of forty-four, and should therefore have been in the prime of his strength and usefulness when his days were cut short by the fell destroyer. His disease was consumption, which disease has for the most part so far baffled the skill of the most learned physician.

In 1872 he was elected recorder of Van Wert county, and so faithfully and well did he perform his duties, that he was re-elected in 1875. At the close of his second term it was generally and cheerfully admitted that the records of his office were a credit to his worth as a public official, and to his character as a private citizen. In later years he was engaged in several business enterprises, but, on account of declining health, his hopes could not be fully realized. He was a universal favorite among men, and at the time of his death it was written of him that he had never made an enemy in the world. He was one of the best known and most popular men in the county, standing high in every relation. His integrity of character was entirely above suspicion, and his word was everywhere taken as gospel truth, without the slightest shadow of question. If a good name is better than great riches, he was indeed a wealthy man. To his widow and his children, and likewise to his other relatives and friends, this must continue to be a constant source of pleasure.

Mr. Conn was married in Van Wert, Ohio, July 3, 1867, to Miss Sophronia Saltzgaber, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Mr. Darnell. Mrs. Conn was born in Shelby county, Ohio, March 22, 1848, and is a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Vanhorn) Saltzgaber. Samuel Saltzgaber was born in Lebanon county, Pa., January 12, 1800, and was of Dutch parentage. His father was John Saltzgaber and his mother Margaret Eiseminger. Samuel was educated in a Dutch school and in 1834 moved to Richland county, Ohio, residing in this state the greater part of his life. He was married twice—first to Catherine Stover, September 28, 1820, by whom he had five children; and, second, to Jane Vanhorn, May 29, 1834. By his second marriage he became the father of seven children. Mr. Saltzgaber was best known as a hotel keeper, having been engaged in this business from 1840 to 1870, at Monroeville, Ind., in Shelby, Ohio, and in Van Wert. For many years he was a whig, but during the latter part of his life he has been a republican. He is a member of the Christian church, and has always been a temperate man and now, at the extreme age of over ninety-six years, resides in Van Wert with his son, the Hon. G. H. Saltzgaber, a prominent attorney at law.

Jane Vanhorn, the second wife of Mr. Saltzgaber, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, February 2, 1806. Her father was Jesse Vanhorn, and her mother, Sidney Miller, both hardy pioneers of the olden time, who braved the dangers and hardships of the frontier life when it was frequently a struggle with wild beasts, and, as some have written, with still wilder men. Mrs. Saltzgaber was a member of the Christian church, and always taught her children those precepts and principles necessary to a correct life and equally necessary to the perpetuation of the institutions of their country.

Perry C. Conn by his marriage to Miss Saltzgaber became the father of four children, viz: Harry L.; Rowena, wife of John S. Guthrie; Walter L., and Carl P. All of these children are living. Harry L. Conn is now court stenographer of Van Wert county. He is an expert in his art, and noted for his accuracy. All the lawyers have implicit confidence in his work. He is bright, active and intelligent, is a graduate of Van Wert high school, and is in every respect a credit to his native city. Mrs. Conn is still living and is one of the most highly respected ladies of Van Wert.

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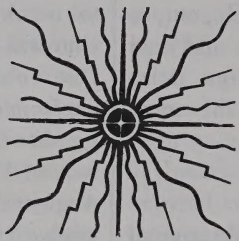
SIMEON A. JACKSON is a native of York township, Van Wert county, Ohio, born on a farm now owned and occupied by him, February 8, 1843. His parents, Ferdinand and Charity (Mortimore) Jackson, were natives, respectively, of Madison county, Ohio, and North Carolina. By his first marriage Ferdinand Jackson became the father of five children, viz: John M., a resident of York township; Sarah, who died in childhood; Thomas, who died in infancy, Simeon A., and James, a resident of Van Wert county. The father died in the spring of 1849, and Mrs. Jackson was again married and became the mother of the following children, viz: William, deceased, David, who resides in Van Wert county. The mother died April 4, 1891. Ferdinand Jackson, although a farmer, worked at chair-making in the winter time.

Simeon A., our subject, spent his youth on the home farm, and at the age of nineteen years enlisted in company A, Ninety-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, the date of his enlistment being August 6, 1862, and the term of his enlistment being three years. He was in the battles of Stone River, Chickamuaga, and eleven other of the hard-fought engagements; after being mustered out at the close of the war he returned to his home, and November 11, 1867, was united in wedlock with Rebecca Hayes, a daughter of Jackson and Eliza (Hichner) Hayes, residents of Mercer county, Ohio—the former a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and the latter of New Jersey. To Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were born the following children: Laban, a resident of Mercer county; Orlando, who grew to manhood, but is now deceased; Sheldon, who was a soldier in company A, Forty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and died while in service from disease; Morgan, who died in early manhood; Mrs. Jackson; Melissa, the deceased wife of William Krugh; Ella, deceased wife of Augustus Frisinger; Orelso, who died when twelve years of age. The mother of these children died when Mrs. Jackson was but eight years of age, and the father married the widow Green, who bore him one daughter, Mary, the wife of Lincoln Scott, of Celina, Ohio. Mrs. Jackson's father died in May, 1879. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were named—Willis, at home; Sarah, wife of Charles Brown, of Mercer county; Minnie, school-teacher; Oscar; Elza, Otis, and Foster. Mr. Jackson owns a neat homestead of forty acres, and also another tract of thirty-three acres in York township. Mrs. Jackson is a pious member of the Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Jackson is a stalwart republican. He and family are highly respected by their neighbors, and Mr. Jackson is looked upon as one of the most public-spirited citizens of York township, Van Wert county.



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